History of Steelhead and Rainbow Trout in Ventura County: Newsprint Accounts from 1870 to 1955 Volume I

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Draft of First Edition

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Preface

"Men are more apt to be mistaken in their generalizations
than their particular observations"
- Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527)

Many popular and scientific articles refer to the historic presence of a robust run of steelhead trout in Ventura County. The reference most frequently cited is by Robert Titus, who did not investigate historical records in our area before 1930. We were surprised to discover that no one has methodically studied the history of steelhead in Ventura County before 1930, after extensive human impacts on the fish had begun.

This steelhead history began as a summer project in 2007, in an attempt to find out what kind of information was available. What we discovered is that there is more historic information on steelhead in Ventura County than could be collected in a few months. This first volume is intended to show the nature and quality of information we have been finding. The information has been presented in a format that is unbiased and should be acceptable to all interested parties. The information should be useful to assist recovery planning for steelhead.

Copies of all of the source materials will be made available for review in United's office in Santa Paula.

United Water Conservation District

[Titus et al. 2006] Robert G. Titus, Don C. Erman and William M. Snider; *History and Status of Steelhead in California Coastal Drainages South of San Francisco Bay*; California Department of Fish and Game; draft manuscript as of October 27, 2006.

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Introduction

California has always been prized for her abundance of land, natural resources and a climate unlike any in the Midwest or East Coast. "No section in this sun-kissed land is in advance of Ventura County in natural resources, in beauty and grandeur of scenery, in the products of the soil, in salubrity of climate, in the abundance and quality of water, or in healthfulness." (*The Ojai*, April 6, 1892) Ventura County and her cities were no different than any other in California as they strived to attract first, new citizens, and second, tourists. Books, pamphlets and newspaper accounts were written extolling the virtues of her lands. In the late 1800s and early 1900s outdoor pursuits were recognized as being healthy; so hunting, fishing, horseback riding and camping were taken up with vigor.

Early newspaper accounts of stream fishing in Ventura County could run from one line to a whole article. Keeping in mind the positive image city papers wished to impart, it was extremely rare in the early years to see anything negative or derogatory. What follows are articles we found pertaining to trout fishing and its attendant culture in the streams and rivers of Ventura County. We are reserving the right to not print an article in its entirety to conserve space, but the reader is welcome to view it at the local libraries, online, or in our archives. We acknowledge that some words and sentences may seem grammatically incorrect or misspelled to the current reader, but kept them as written to preserve the historical flavor of the times.

To further enrich the reader's experience, we are including the annual trout catch of local fisherman and newspaper columnist, Henry Sparks. Mr. Sparks' large family moved to Ventura County in 1874 when he was three years old, and he remained in the county until his death in 1972. He was a keen fisherman and kept a log of each day he fished from 1892 to 1914. Until 1903, he began fishing the first week in April and then shifted to May 1st when the law changed again. As the reader will see, the delay in the fishing season did not seem to diminish the number he caught in a season. Additionally, there are rainfall totals for each year, which may have partially impacted the fishing season.

Also, included in this chronology are the Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes from 1890 to 1900 in which the Fish Commissioner is mentioned and ordinances passed for protection of the fish. We are still conducting a search for the Fish Commissioner's reports mentioned in the minutes.

This chronology is by no means complete as we have additional newspapers and other resources to search.

1 8 7 0

Rainfall – 10.00 Inches

Santa Barbara Press – February 5, 1870

SOUND AND WISE – The communication below contains sound and wise counsel. It is timely, and deserves attention, and ought to prompt *vigorous action*:

Editor Press: So much has already been said and written about the prospects of rain and the probability of a drought the present season, that further conjectures or predictions would perhaps seem superfluous. Yet an *old fogy*, who has seen the *elephant*, begs leave to offer the following suggestions, more particularly to the people of the First Township of this county:

Day by day we see men gathering in knots, discussing the prospects of rain, and predicting great suffering as the natural consequence of a drought, and preparing to seek more favored localities. Let such first acquaint themselves with the resources of their own township, which is perhaps almost as well watered and capable of sustaining its present population as any other district of equal extent in the State.

The San Buenaventura River actually did, during the last drought, with a much less volume of water than it now affords, serve to irrigate over three hundred acres of ground, from which a larger yield was obtained than any year before or since that time. With its present volume of water, if taken in hand immediately and economically used, is capable of irrigating at least double that amount of land, say 600 acres, which is about the amount lying on said river within three miles of town.

The Santa Clara River, which traverses a valley over sixty miles in length, although it sinks in some places and is difficult to divert in many places, on account of the sand, is yet capable of supplying water to irrigate thousands of acres, we think we may safely say three thousand acres, without going more than 20 miles from town.

The Colonia Rancho also affords at least as much more moist land, some of which has already been planted, which we are confident will raise anything desired without a drop of rain, the water being only two to six feet below the surface and at this time in excellent condition for cultivation.

To sum up, then, we have over six thousand acres of available land capable of producing as much as an equal extent of land in any other portion of the State, without rain, and allowing ten acres to each family, capable of sustaining six hundred families, which is about the number we have in the township at present, and from which you will discover our resources are fully equal to the emergency. All that is necessary to do is to have the Supervisors appoint three good reliable water commissioners, as the law provides, for the township, to see that the water is equally distributed, then form yourselves into companies and divert the water at every available point. It is true that the above describes

lands in the hands of comparatively few; but 15 or 20 acres of ground is as much as one person can cultivate well by irrigation, and those owning land will certainly be willing to rent on reasonable terms, unless they intend to cultivate it themselves, in which case it will require about the same number of hands. And to such let me suggest that it will be ten fold more to your advantage to distribute your lands in small quantities among those less favorably situated, than to withhold them, hoping thereby to secure exorbitant prices for what you yourselves can raise. By so doing you will only drive many persons away, thereby depreciating the values of all real estate; whereas, by the first proposition you will enable every one to remain and prove beyond a doubt that we have one of the most desirable localities in the State for permanent settlement.

The above has been written looking at the worst possible feature of our situation, premising that we have no more rain this year, which is very unlikely; yet as a general thing when the rain holds off as of late as this, we may reasonably look for but little, and consequent high prices for all kinds of produce. Therefore, we say to every one who contemplates leaving (or remaining) look around and secure a small piece of land that you can irrigate. If the rain comes you will lose nothing thereby. If it does not, you have not a day to spare. The old proverb, in our case is changed to; *make hay while the water runs*. Old Fogy. San Buenaventura, Jan. 17th 1870.

1 8 7 1

Rainfall – 9.00 Inches

March 20, 1871 – Santa Barbara Press

SANTA CLARA VALLEY – Ed. Press: – Thinking a few brief and unpoetical items from this part of the county, might not be entirely devoid of interest to many of your readers, I take pleasure in sending you a few, although items worthy of mention at the present time are like the visits of angels, "few and far between."

The rains which we have had lately though not heavy, have covered the hills and valleys with the richest verdue, which is refreshing to look upon, since we have been so long accustomed to their barren and denuded appearance. They have also wrought a wonderful change in the faces of our farmers, and business men, the dampness of the air causing their facial muscles to contract in such a manner as to draw up theirs faces several inches, contrasting strongly—but pleasantly—with their former unnatural length.

The prospect for a crop this season is good, especially near the coast, as these lands are damper, and will require less rain than the land further inland.

Considerable interest is manifested in the workings of the Water Company, which has been incorporated in this valley recently, bearing the name of the "Santa Clara Water and Irrigation Company," for the purpose of turning some of the water of the Santa Clara River from its channel, carrying it through the valley east of the river. The object is to supply a portion of the valley with fresh water, for domestic, milling, and irrigating purposes. Capital stocks $50,000 in 10,000 shares at $5 each. Trustees: P. Maddox, W.L. Swinney, L. Sutton, M.G. Swinney, and J.W. Allen.

The work has been prosecuted with vigor for the past month, and in two weeks more will be completed. When finished, it will be some fifteen miles in length, twelve feet wide, and from eighteen inches to four feet in depth, which will carry enough water to irrigate an immense scope of country. It also embraces several excellent mill sites.

The efforts of this Company deserve the praise of all persons who desire the interests of the county promoted. For it will be of more advantage to this part of the county than anything which has taken place in the past or is likely to in the future. What the ditches of Los Angeles have done for that valley, this one will accomplish for this valley. It will encourage the farmers to proceed, secure in the prospect of raising what they plant; will revive trade, and inevitably make this one of the finest valleys of the State. Respectfully, A.K. Jones, Santa Clara Valley.

1 8 7 2

Rainfall – 12.00 Inches

April 6, 1872 – Ventura Signal

RETURN OF THE HUNTERS – The ladies and gentlemen, who left here last week on a hunting and fishing excursion, at the head of the Santa Paula, returned Tuesday night well satisfied with the trip. They report some marvelous fish stories, and as each one verifies what the other avers, they must be received as true—that is, as veritable as fish stories generally are. One is that ten-pound trout are numerous up there, and that many of that size were hauled into camp. Ben Williams says he hooked one that was a monster in size. Knowing the impossibility of hauling it ashore with a small line, in true fisherman fashion, he played it in the water until he supposed his fishship was completely drowned. He then carefully hauled in the slack of his line, and just as he was landing the immense fish, it returned to life, snapped the tackle and went on its way rejoicing. Ben is certain that fish weighed less than a ton—and so are we. In hunting, the party was not so successful. Game was rather scarce, and grizzlies were too wary to risk themselves within gunshot of their camp. They only killed one moose, and that was a civilized fellow belonging to a neighboring ranchero. It was scarcely large enough for a barbecue, so they broiled it in detail, and lived high on his juicy meat. The party are all greatly benefited by the trip, and only regret that they could not find time for a longer sojourn in the mountains.

1 8 7 3

Rainfall – 12.00 Inches

April 12, 1873 – Ventura Signal

PISCICULTURE IN CALIFORNIA – Advantages of Our Climate – Experience of the California Acclimatizing Society. About three years ago the California Acclimatizing Society was organized by a few gentlemen, lovers of the gun and rod, it is true, but who had for the object a higher motive than that merely of sport. They were drawn together for the purpose of propagating fish and fowl in our streams and forests, which, while it afforded the sportsman pleasure, was calculated to furnish a staple article of delicious food at a low price, (and)…it has now reached a period in its history when it can boast of having accomplished a great deal of benefit, and has demonstrated the superiority of our climate in the field of pisciculture.

It has received ova from the East in large quantities and at considerable cost, which have been hatched in their extensive and well appointed hatching pens at Point San Pedro most successfully. A few days ago the Society received an additional consignment of 22,000 in good order. In less than a year they hope to have 2,000,000 young trout scattered through the streams and rivers of the state.

(Society's methods versus the East Coast and the rapidity they are able to hatch and raise the fry to maturity.) … It is also thought that they will attain a greater size (and) another advantage is that all imported stock can be hatched in the fall and winter, such as brook trout, salmon trout, white fish; in the spring months our native fish and brook and salmon trout, and in the summer months lake trout and salmon. The society expects in a short time to have not only fully accomplished the object for which it was organized but to make the business of pisciculture on this coast lucrative.

May 10, 1873 – Ventura Signal

PERSONAL – Henry Spear left on Wednesday for a few days' hunting and fishing on the Sespe. Orders for trout, turtle, terrapin, bear (all kinds), deer, lions, mountain sheep, rabbits and things, may be left at the butcher shop of Detroy Brothers, on Main Street.

-- Henry Spear, of Spear Hall, will accept our thanks for a large mess of mountain trout. To an invalid of eight weeks, nothing could have been more opportune.—May your Waltonian excursions always be equally happy and successful.

--On Saturday last our fellow townsmen, J.A. Corey and C.C. Wing, bade adieu to mackerel and molasses, harness leather and saddles, and in company with two or three others, took a trip to Wilcox's hot springs, in the Matiliha canon, returning Monday. They report Mr. Robert Lyon comfortably quartered in his new house, from which he expects to reach the springs as soon as his men get the road cleared—only a two or three day job. Kenneth Grant, of the firm of Grant & Bickford, has swung his hammock under

the boughs of a live-oak, and idly swings all day in utter forgetfulness of furnace and wagon tires, gathering health and strength in the balmy air of that delightful place. The party caught some sixty fine trout in the Ventura River, in an hour's fishing.

May 31, 1873 - Ventura Signal

LETTERS – Mr. Winston P. Noble of Indianapolis, Ind., who is something of a Nimrod, writes: "As I contemplate visiting your coast on a hunting expedition, I would like to know what kind of game you have." The California quail, a beautiful bird, a little smaller than the eastern partridge; the mountain quail, a brilliantly marked bird, about half as large as a grouse, ducks (the canvas-back teel and mallard), geese and snipe. Deer, Californian lions, a very large specie of lynx, we learn; wild-cats, mountain sheep, black and Cinnamon bear, and further up in the mountains, grizzly bear and antelope. Rabbits and hares are too plentiful, and squirrels (which here live in the ground) are so numerous as to have a price set upon their heads as a nuisance. We have no wild turkeys. The mountain streams abound in trout, affording rare sport for the fisherman, either with fly or still bate. Come on up and Ari Hopper, the bear hunter of the Sespe, will introduce you to a grizzly, on short notice.

June 14, 1873 – Ventura Signal

MISCELLANEOUS – A few days since, a car load of little fish of different kinds were sent over the Central Pacific railroad to the California fish association, which proposes distributing them in the small streams in the upper valleys of the state.

June 28, 1873 – Ventura Signal

A FREAK OF NATURE – What a Land Slide has Done. Some distance up the San Buenaventura river, on the Saxby and Gilbert ranch, there is a beautiful little lake in the mountains probably 500 feet above the sea, which has been recently formed by the sliding down of an immense backbone of earth and rocks, entirely closing the place of egress of the water which in the winter comes pouring down the barancas and mountain sides. The lake affords a plentiful supply of fresh water for any number of cattle and sheep, and is clear and cool. The trees are now almost lost sight of in water, their dead tops only being visible above the surface.

July 12, 1873 – Ventura Signal

THE OJAI – (Article describing the area for the Eastern readers.) …The road to the Ojai leads up the San Buenaventura river, which is a beautiful stream almost clear, with rock and sand bottom and full of trout and small fish…

September 6, 1873 – Ventura Signal

VENTURA COUNTY – [Correspondence Carson (Nevada) *Appeal*.] San Buenaventura, Cal., August 15, 1873. (Nearly full front page article about the area.) …Yesterday I rode

up into the mountain and had a look at the Hayward Company's oil works. Instead of sinking a well they run a tunnel into the mountain side—mine for crude petroleum as one does for quartz or coal. All along the Sulphur mountain range, which runs from Santa Barbara to Los Angeles, the ravines and hill sides give out an ooze of asphaltum and petroleum. The trout caught in the brooks, which feed the Santa Clara, the Santa Ines and the San Buenaventura, taste of this oil. The Hayward company's works are at Wheeler's cañon and are situated about seventeen miles from here. The water of this ravine empties into the Santa Clara river—when there is any water there to empty into anything…

September 20, 1873 – Ventura Signal

ADVERTISEMENT – San Buenaventura Hot Springs. I have just completed and furnished in good style a commodious Hotel Building at the Hot Springs in the Matiliha Canyon, Sixteen miles north of San Buenaventura, (Ventura County, Cal.) Where Invalids who may require treatment at the springs may have all their wants provided for. A first-class cook will prepare the meals, and an attendant will be provided for each bath house. Hot and cold baths may be had in sulphur, magnesia or iron springs. No pains will be spared to make the invalid comfortable while he remains. He will have good beds, wholesome food, good water, pure mountain air, a good library with the latest periodicals, and grand scenery. The streams in the vicinity abound with the finest trout. These springs, though but recently discovered, have, on account of their remarkable cures, become justly famous. The accommodations will be increased as they are needed, so all may come. Easy stages make tri-weekly trips to and from the springs. For further information address R.M. Brown, San Buenaventura, Cal.

October 25, 1873 – Ventura Signal

PISCI CULTURE – Our friend F.A. Sprague of the Sespe, has been experimenting recently in the fish culture, and thus far with good success. He, in the first place built a small dam with a screen, across a little creek coming from springs, which rise on his ranch, and this formed a very nice little clear fresh lake. He put in forty or fifty small trout about the 1st of September, and now they are quite large.

He thinks when the spawning season arrives, that his little family of forty or fifty, will soon be increased to as many hundred; and that he can make, by increasing the size of his lake, a successful and profitable business of trout raising. Those which were mere minnows when put in the lake, are now a foot long.

Mr. S. deserves the thanks of the community for demonstrating that fish can be grown in this country with so little trouble and expense.

November 1, 1873 – Ventura Signal

THE OJAI. THE SANITARIUM OF THE WORLD. THE REASONS WHY – …8. It is accessible, which can be said of but few localities of such an altitude on the coast. The way up is an easy ascent along the mountain side or up the San Antonio creek, a beautiful

clear stream abounding in trout and shaded with sycamore, from the very tops of which hang the wild grape vines in rich profusion making he whole drive a perfect bower of beauty.

1 8 7 4

Rainfall – 14.00 Inches

March 7, 1874 – Ventura Signal

VENTURA COUNTY. DESCRIPTION OF ITS FEATURES AND RESOURCES – For the benefit of many eastern friends who write us inquiring letters we have prepared the following condensed statement:

GENERAL APEARANCE OF VENTURA COUNTY.

Ventura county formerly a part of Santa Barbara county, is bounded on the south and west by the ocean, on the north by Santa Barbara county, on the east by San Luis Obispo, Kern and Los Angeles counties, and is largely composed of mountain or grazing land; much of which, however, is fine wheat land.

The principal river is the Santa Clara, which rises in the Soledad Pass and forms a grand and wide valley as it flows toward the sea in the south westerly direction. This valley has much the appearance of Illinois or Iowa prairie, leaving out the high mountains and foot hills which rise up on either side. The Sespe, the Santa Paula and Piru are all small streams, with considerable arable land in their valleys, which empty into the Santa Clara from the north side. Up the coast from the mouth of the Santa Clara is that of the San Buenaventura, which rises about thirty miles north of the coast, passing through the Matilija canon, making a rapid descent all the way. The water is pure and good, and abounds in trout. (The rest of the article describes the soil, timber, grasses, grain, climate, etc.)

This article also appeared May 22, 1875 under the title "INFORMATION FOR IMMIGRANTS."

May 2, 1874 – Ventura Signal

LOCAL BREVITIES – Judge Fernald of Santa Barbara, spent a few days on the Ojai during the week, trout-fishing, etc.

June 6, 1874 – Ventura Signal

THE "PRESS" PARTY – Under date of May 18, we find the following letters in the Santa Barbara *Press*, from Col. Hodge, of the *Press* party:

"…A ride of five miles from Nordhoff through one the wildest, weirdest, and most romantic mountain scenes, brought us to the wonderful hot springs, owned by R.M. Brown. These are seventeen miles distant from San Buenaventura, and five from Nordhoff, and are twenty-two in number, ranging in temperature from 60 degree to 134

degree. They are situated in the valley of canon of the "Matilija," on the Matilija creek, which is well stocked with mountain trout…

July 11, 1874 – Ventura Signal

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE – A Trip to the Country—Santa Paula, The Sespe. On Friday last the Sespe was our destination; to spread the American eagle on the following day our object.

…Bearing to the right, I soon found myself passing Dr. Isbells and Jo Bath's places, on the way to the celebrated Moore ranch. This, next to the Briggs' ranch, is the best in the county is well watered by the Sespe, which is truly a river, has an abundance of live oak and sycamore timber; is rarely subject to fogs and is all splendid wheat land; is far enough from the sea to escape the rough sea winds; is near enough to escape heavy frosts in winter; has a soil peculiarly adapted to grapes, English walnuts, orange, lemons, etc. Among those who have done much to develop the productiveness of the soil of this section, Mr. F.A. Sprague is prominent. He has on his little ranch, grape vines two years old, one of the finest varieties, the Black Hamburg, Flaming, Tokay, etc., which now hang full of half-grown fruit. He has an English walnut tree, the seed of which was planted one year ago last winter, which is now five feet six inches high and will grow to eight or nine feet during the season. Mr. Sprague's house is situated in a beautiful sycamore grove and is surrounded by water. On the one side is the Sespe and the other a rivulet from a large spring above. Mr. S. has dammed this little stream and has thus made a lake covering five or six acres which he has stocked with mountain trout. From this start he will soon be able to supply the country with fresh fish.

Night overtook me at Sprague's and I turned in. The sun rose here on the next morning, the 98th anniversary of our nation's Independence, as he did in 1776, and has done every 4th of July since, from a clear horizon, and threatened so give us one hundred degrees or so of heat; but before he could do so, the delicious breeze from the old Pacific kissed the hill tops and the valley and made the day for our celebration just what it should be…

1875

Rainfall – 13.00 Inches

June 5, 1875 – Ventura Signal

BREVITIES – Perhaps no man has done more to show to new-comers and to demonstrate to eastern people what our soil and climate will do than has our friend J.M. Egbert. He has worked harder on his little tract than has any other man in the county. He has struggled against the current at times and has expended his earnings in beautifying his grounds. He proposes to open them to the public. In view of all that Mr. Egbert has done for the good of this glorious county and the people in it by his labor, it is no more than just to him to give him at his opening a warm reception. He deserves encouragement and material aid. Everybody should go with all the children leaving the dogs at home. Admission free. Refreshments in abundance. Music free for those who desire to dance. No intoxicating drinks will be sold.

July 10, 1875 – Ventura Signal

VENTURA TO A NEW YORKER – The following letter, from the pen of Wm. Egbert, we take from the Ithaca *Journal*: Ventura, Cal., June 6. Editors Journal: From this far off place, this lively city by the broad, blue quite Pacific, we send you a kindly greeting.

…To come right down to the point, this is the garden spot of the world. …I have been here some ten days, stopping with J.M. Egbert, and just rolled in strawberries, and still alive and able to walk up to the rack and take my rations every time. He has the finest garden in the state of its kind, not excepting Woodward's in San Francisco. Of course Woodward has more chicken fixings, such as sea lions, aquariums, alligators, and a few other curiosities; but he can't show strawberries as large as goose eggs, lemons like pumpkins, and swarms of humming birds…

…Large game is quite plenty in the mountains, such as grizzly and other bears, deers, lions, panthers and wild cats. …Trout are plenty in all the mountain streams and the disciples of Isaac Walton can enjoy themselves to the heart's content…

August 14, 1875 – Ventura Signal

ALAMO MOUNTAIN AND ITS SURROUNDING—THE BOILING SPRINGS—THE MINERAL BATHS OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR – (From *The Bakersfield*, Southern California.)

(Descriptions of trip from Fort Tejon to Ventura County.) …Two miles further on the hot waters empty into the Sespe, the waters of which for the first time in many years have dried up. About forty miles below it empties into the Santa Clara river on the Coast side. We expected to find some mountain trout in this stream, and were much disappointed. The bed of the stream is lined with boulders, some of them of immense size. The stream

is often impassable for horses, and the indications are that for much of the year a large body of water must flow toward the sea…

LETTER FROM CIENEGA – Editor Signal: The other day, in company with a friend, I walked into a patch of green corn and my attention was directed by the incessant crying of a bird which seemed a few paces to the right. I proceeded to the spot and there observed on the ground a large snake with a blackbird grasped in its mouth. …This snake I found to totally different from any I have formerly seen. It had a velvety black and white appearance from the head back about ten inches when it assumed a most beautiful hue resembling the color found on the inside of an abalone or conch shell and was all of seven feet long. It is my opinion that the beautiful pink color of the snake was assumed being one of the means used to fascinate the bird as it gradually faded into a black and white spotted snake. Yesterday I went on a fishing excursion and those people who complain that Ventura has no fishing streams should have been with me for about three hours. Our mountain streams abound in fish as fine as were ever caught in Lake Tahoe. I caught fourteen trout, one of which measured seventeen inches and seven of them weighed eight pounds. There are plenty left, some larger than any I caught… Signed S.P.G. (S.P. Guiberson)

October 23, 1875 – Ventura Signal

LOCAL BREVITIES – Ed. Hare, County Surveyor, with John Barry, Ramon Ayala, Lou. Bedell, Frank Martin, Charley Townsend, Frank Hyde, Capt. Robinson and "the Governor" as assistants, were out subdividing the Robinson and Fawcett interest in the Santa Ana Ranch. They came in to vote Wednesday, and reported the capture of a trout measuring 25 inches in length, in the Arroyo los Coyotes. They corralled the monster in a pool, and despatched him with rocks. This is the largest trout ever captured in this part of the country. The boys returned to their labors Wednesday afternoon, and will finish up in about ten days.

November 27, 1875 – Ventura Free Press

Mountain trout are so plentiful in the San Buenaventura River that the water ditches leading from that stream are full of them. The reservoir on the hill back of town is full of these beautiful fish.

1 8 7 6

Rainfall – 20.00 Inches

January 29, 1876 – Ventura Signal

NEIGHBORING NEWS, SESPE – F.A. Sprague's fish pond broke the dam and his trout took passage down the Sespe. They are probably now rusticating up near the Hot Springs awaiting a visit from those two mountaineers, H. and G., who will go after them shortly. (Editor's note: H. is probably Ari Hopper, and G. is S.P. Guiberson.)

March 18, 1876 – Ventura Signal

LOCAL BREVITIES – The fishing season has begun and the dull times enable many men and boys to engage in the easy employment of hanging to the end of a fishing line.

May 20, 1876 – Ventura Signal

THE MATILIJA HOT SPRINGS – Editor Signal: We miss the genial smile and voice of many of our friends from the social circle, who have deserted our city by the sea, for a few weeks recreation at the Matilija hot springs, where at the present time they are enjoying themselves catching trout and picking blackberries which are now ripe at the springs; and Mr. Editor, if you have not visited those springs since the new road was completed do not say you have had the nicest drive until you do. No improvement has ever been inaugurated in Ventura county of more importance to the welfare of our community, or that will add so much to the attractions of this already over-favored land, as will the construction of this good carriage road up the Matilija canon to the beautiful valley of Captain Gardner's hot springs. The unusually high water of the last winter so washed the road at the various crossings of the river as to render it impassable for vehicles, but Capt. Gardner, with a large force of men, has been engaged for the last six weeks in constructing a first class carriage drive up the canon and the progress he has made is truly wonderful; the huge boulders that came in his road he shattered with giant powder and filled the deep cuts and chasms with fragments. He has so widened and smoothed the grades that it is neither tiresome or dangerous to drive with speed all the way from the Ojai to the hot springs…Signed R.L.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS, SESPE ITEMS – On Monday morning, while T.W. More was crossing the Sespe with one of his men, they ran into a school of trout and succeeded in capturing by hand one of which weighed 2 ½ pounds. Great trout fisheries will doubtless be some time established on the Sespe.

June 3, 1876 – Ventura Signal

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS – Matilija Hot Springs, Ventura County, Cal. 16 miles north of San Buenaventura, in Matilija Canyon. Metcalf & Hastings, Props. A commodious hotel and cosy cottages have just been erected, where invalids, tourists, and

pleasure seekers may have all their wants provided for. Good cooks, and all the delicacies of the season. Wholesome food, good beds, good water, pure mountain air, and the grandest of scenery, with fine trout-fishing in the immediate vicinity. HOT AND COLD BATHS in Sulphur, Magnesia, or Iron Springs. The waters of these springs have been pronounced by competent judges superior to any other found on the coast, embracing numerous varieties, and ranging in temperature from almost ice cold to 150 deg. Fahr. To the weak, nervous, and debilitated, and to those afflicted with rheumatism, paralysis, neuralgia, scrofullous complaints, intemperate habits, and chronic or inflammatory diseases of almost every description, these waters have and ever will prove a great blessing. Daily stages run to Nordhoff and Ventura from the Hot Springs, $2.50 the round trip. Plenty of horse feed always on hand at the Hot Springs stables.

June 10, 1876 – Ventura Free Press

Mountain trout were in the market the first of the week. They were caught in the river above Eggert's gardens. (Editor's note: The correct name is Egbert's Gardens. An advertisement for the gardens place the entrance at the west end of Main Street in Ventura. The book, Ventura County, Garden of the World, lists the gardens at the west end of Park Row. Mr. Egbert was judged insane on July 12, 1879 and sent to the asylum in Napa.)

June 10, 1876 – Ventura Signal

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS, SANTA PAULA ITEMS – Quite a large crowd left Santa Paula Thursday for a fishing excursion on the Sespe.

June 24, 1876 – Ventura Signal

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS, SESPE ITEMS – Trout bite for a good angler. Fishing parties are numerous.

July 8, 1876 – Ventura Signal

HISTORY OF VENTURA COUNTY – Compiled by W.D. Hobson. Preface. The following history of Ventura county has been written in compliance with the request of the President of the United States, U.S. Grant, for the first centennial celebration of American independence on July 4th A.D. 1876. In the short time since the author was appointed, by the committee of arrangements for the celebration, it has been found impossible to compile as concise a relation of the many interesting events connected with the early settlement of the county by the Spanish as could be desired. The source from which it was expected a full account could be obtained, the records of the old Catholic Mission, have been found to be very imperfect; the greater portion having been destroyed or lost during the decline of the Mission after the emancipation of the Indians by the Mexican government.

(The history spans from aboriginal times to the present and takes up nearly the entire front page of the newspaper. It tells of the advent of the Americans, progress of the settlement, development of the oil interest, the seasons, county and town organization, etc. The author said that he arrived in the Ventura County area about twenty years previous to writing this history.)

…The principal streams of water in the county are the Santa Clara, which rises in Los Angeles county, flows in an easterly direction from 80 to 90 miles, and empties into the ocean about three miles southeast of San Buenaventura; and the San Buenaventura, which rises in the northern part of the county flows in a southerly direction of about 25 miles and empties into the ocean immediately west of the town of San Buenaventura. These streams with their tributaries water the greater portion of the county. Artesian water is obtained over a large portion of the county at a depth of from 90 to 250 feet; some of the wells, of 7-inch bore, affording sufficient water for milling purposes. Fish are not abundant in the streams of this county, although many trout are to be found in the mountainous districts…

July 29, 1876 – Ventura Signal

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS, SANTA PAULA ITEMS – We understand that the two young gents who lately went out hunting and fishing from your city were seen chasing a lot of Eguanas in the sage brush on the Sespe, and had succeeded in capturing quite a number of which they called mountain trout, and would doubtless have eaten them down had not a Sespe naturalist told them they were nothing more than lizards.

1877

Rainfall – 4.00 Inches

April 14, 1877 – Ventura Signal

SANTA PAULA ITEMS – Two of our sports recently caught 183 trout in Santa Paula creek in a few hours.

May 26, 1877 – Ventura Signal
June 9, 1877 – Ventura Free Press

Messrs. Guiberson and Marple and some others in Santa Paula have a big trouting in view. They propose, on the wager of a supper, to catch more trout than any two others who will go at the same time. The trout to be caught in the Santa Paula and Sespe creeks.

July 7, 1877 – Ventura Free Press
July 14, 1877 – Ventura Signal

ARTESIAN FISH and VENTURA COUNTY FISH STORY – At a meeting of the academy of sciences, held at Sacramento, specimens of fish, supposed to be trout, were received from T.R. Bard, of Ventura county, with a letter of explanation, which represented that the fish had been thrown up from an artesian well, 141 feet deep, bored in the sand hills near Hueneme. The well, which is near 300 feet from the high water mark, was bored in 1871, and every year since has thrown out immense quantities of freshly spawned fish in April and May. The first fish this year were observed in March. …These fish are of various sizes, the largest about an inch in length. The nearest stream where fish are found is Santa Paula creek, twenty-seven miles from the well, but it empties into the Santa Clara River, distant seven miles, at a point twenty miles distant. Fish cannot live in the Santa Clara on account of the ever shifting sand in its channel.

1 8 7 8

Rainfall – 20.00 Inches

February 9, 1878 – Ventura Signal

SESPE ITEMS – Good trout fishing is reported on the Sespe, some parties catching as many as one hundred in a few hours. (Reported by S.P. Guiberson)

February 23, 1878 – Ventura Free Press

The Fish Commissioner of this State will in a week or two have some young trout from New Hampshire and fresh-water salmon from Maine, for distribution. …The fish are to be devoted to stocking public waters only. …This fish (salmon) is probably too large to thrive in our small streams, but some one ought to secure some of the trout.

April 6, 1878 – Ventura Signal

LOCAL BREVITIES – A number of parties who were greatly benefited by a stay at the Hot Springs and on the Ojai, propose to again camp out and thus enjoy the full benefits of mountain air, hunting and fishing.

April 13, 1878 – Ventura Signal

THE NEW GAME LAW – The *Pacific Life* prints the following as the changes made in the law for the preservation of game at the recent session of the Legislature:

…Section 633. Every person who takes, catches or kills any speckled trout, salmon, or brook trout, or any variety of trout, between the first day of November and the first day of April of the following year shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

June 15, 1878 – Ventura Signal

-- Mr. Robt. Ferguson and two companions caught 38½ dozen trout in Ventura river one day last week. Mr. Ferguson used the old country fly and caught 186. They passed through with their fish on Sunday.

October 12, 1878 – Ventura Free Press

NOTES FROM SANTA PAULA – There are three distinct varieties of trout inhabiting the streams of our county. First we find the common speckled mountain trout, which are far more numerous than the other two. The second is the “silver” mountain trout, naturally about twice as large as the former species, the head smaller, body large, and belly a silvery white extending half way up the side, flesh exceedingly delicate. The fins of this fish are not so large as those of the former variety. These usually are found in schools and in the deep holes along the streams. The third species is the largest, seldom

found in the mountain streams, but mostly in the scienegas and along the Santa Clara River, where the water cress abounds. These fish grow to weight from one to three pounds—flesh salmon color, with a beautiful violet strip along each side, with a large tail and body wide and flat. They are never caught with a fly hook, but take bait something like a perch, and not much of a game fish. The flesh is exceedingly choice, with flavor superior to that of either of the former variety. The speckled mountain trout are the real game fish of our streams and afford great sport to the angler. Your correspondent caught one of the last named species not long since which measured twenty two inches and weighed one and a quarter pounds.

October 19, 1878 – Ventura Free Press

Sportsmen must remember that the closed season for trout commenced on Tuesday last, and that no one is allowed to catch or even have them in possession until the first of April next.

1 8 7 9

Rainfall – 8.50 Inches

May 31, 1879 – Ventura Signal

LOCAL BREVITIES – Rev. Dr. Bowers of Santa Barbara engaged in exploring the Piru and Sespe creeks and their tributaries in Ventura county. His explorations relate especially to the ethnology of this region but also include zoology and geology. Mr. Bowers is assisted by Dr. S.P. Guiberson ("Old Jeff") and will probably spend most of the Summer in working up Ventura county. The portion of the mountain regions they are now exploring is almost, or quite, a *larra-incognita* inhabits by grizzly bears, mountain sheep, California lions, rattlesnakes and other friendly animals.

"OLD JEFF" – NOT JEFF HOWARD – Editor Signal.—As it has come to pass that "Old Jeff" *primus* has transcended the impanel of the Ventura calaboose, and has fled to the classic cliff beyond the bare and sun-burnt summit of "Topo Topo," and breathes again the exhilarating freshness of pure mountain air; hand having just returned from a scientific scouting expedition up the Piru, therefore, Old Jess *secundus* begs space in your valuable paper to chronicle a few events that occurred during a tour of six days in the granite cliff and the wilds of "devils potrero" with a scientist. On Monday morning, the 19th, in company with the Rev. Dr. Stephen Bowers, his wife, body DeMoss, and Dave, the doctor's deer dog, all of Santa Barbara, together with my better half, Idell, Winnie, and my naked dog Scott, we lit out, each family with a comfortable rig and outfit for a trip up the Piru and by half-past five a trip we arrived at Mr. Reasoner's ranch, situated about eight miles up the Piru, from the valley on Indian Mound creek opposite the mouth of San Felliciano creek. Dr. Bowers had brought along a spacious wall tent which was erected into a convenient sleeping apartment, and our women folks were soon fussing around a sparkling camp fire cooking supper. Mr. O.P. Reasoner kindly contributed to our supper of a nice mess of venison and a card of choice honey. This gentleman has an apiary of over one hundred stands, his location being a most favorable place for bee feed, and a capital stock range. He is confident of a fair honey crop this season and of a quality superior to that made in the valley.

Next morning, bright and early, we folded our spacious tent, gathered up the camp equipage, and were off for the mouth of the Fish creek, a stream about six miles further up the Piru, which place we reached in a couple of hour's drive, and struck camp some four hundred yards further up the creek in a grove of live oak tress on the bank of this delightful mountain stream, where there is an abundance of wood and water, feed and shade. After dinner, Professor Bowers, suggested that we take our guns and fishing tackle, and try our luck in a hunt and fish up the stream we were camped on that afternoon. Farther traveling some two miles up the creek, we discovered the "footprints in the sand" of a grizzly which had recently passed that way, and followed the trail up the creek as far as Devil's Gate, at which point we left the main stream and took the trail leading to Devil's Potrero, but the bear went on up the creek. I might here remark that Devil's Gate on Fish creek, is no small nor insignificant gate either. I have passed

through his gate on the Sweetwater, in the Rocky Mountains, and several other smaller gates of Old Nick's, and am free to confess that his Fish creek gate is second to none. This mountain stream has cut its way through solid conglomerate sandstone, forming a perpendicular wall on either side of upwards of five hundred feet, and is wider at the bottom than at the top. The gate is about one hundred yards through. These old bleak walls of solid rock present a grant and imposing view. The waters of this little stream go rushing through this mighty chasm, leaping over fragments of broken rocks, which partially obstruct its passage, here and there forming beautiful miniature waterfalls, and again resting in crystal pools, where the silvery speckled trout sport in the soft evening twilight, that pervades the place the live long day, and dart away when approached beneath the rocks and in crevices that surround those pools; which far above our heads, from projecting rocks and fissures in this stupendous wall, hangs draped in Nature's beautiful verdure, the fern and mountain ivy, festooning the mossy walls with living beauty—one of God's own galleries of matchless sublimity.

From this soul-enchanting place, we began to ascend the trail leading up the mountain, and had not gone far before we noticed fresher track of a grizzly than we were anxious to follow, however, he just descended, and there is far more comfort in following the fresh back track of a grizzly than to trail in the other direction. This bear was none other than "Old Club Foot," as it made that peculiar impression of one heel in the sand caused by being lacerated in a trap many years ago. It is said that this monster has killed one man, and disfigured the face of another…

…After wandering through old Nick's rocks which is completely fenced in by high, craggy peaks and is doubtless 'leased for the season to a half dozen or so of grizzlys, we returned down the mountain, passed through Satan's Gate, and began trying our luck at fishing with fair success. The trout abound in this stream are the common speckled mountain variety as we neither caught nor saw any of the salmon of silvery variety which are occasionally caught from the Sespe and other mountain streams. Having caught a nice mess of these fish we returned to camp late in the evening, tired and foot sore.

(The rest of the article was about their encounters with grizzly bears.)

<u>July 5, 1879 – Ventura Signal</u>

SANTA PAULA ITEMS – Several of our citizens have gone down to Point Magou on a fishing excursion.

<u>August 16, 1879 – Ventura Free Press</u>

The Ventura Free Press ran an article from *The Sacramento Bee* regarding Fish Commissioner Redding's observation of brook trout at Soda Springs Station and their ability to swim up a flume.

1 8 8 0

Rainfall – 18.20 Inches

June 26, 1880 – Santa Barbara Independent

CAMPIN' – Many of our citizens are out camping, which is both an agreeable and health change for the summer season in our part of the State. No country could be better suited to this outdoor eating and sleeping. The ground being perfectly dry, the most delicate constitutions enjoy the change without danger from colds or exposure. Most of the parties follow up the mountain brooks to some suitable spot among the scattering trees and pitch their tents open their cans put out the camp chairs and rude furniture, and enjoy the pioneer life.

1 8 8 1

Rainfall – 10.00 Inches

January 1, 1881 – Ventura Free Press

FISH HATCHING – An extract taken from *The Sacramento Bee* written by Fish Commissioner B.F. Redding is about the various discoveries and methods used over the years for fertilizing, hatching and rearing fish, in particular salmon and shad. Mr. Redding said that the various discoveries "have made it possible an unlimited supply of food to be obtained from waters that cover three-fourths of the surface of the earth."

December 31, 1881 – Ventura Free Press

FISH FOR ALL – A letter from Fish Commissioner Redding was sent to the San Jose Sportsman's Club and reprinted in the newspaper. The Fish Commissioner has ordered "a large quantity of Eastern trout eggs, land-locked salmon and white fish from the East…and will be ready for distribution the last of February or the first of March. …The Fish Commissioners are always very glad to assist in filling the streams in any county where there are sportsmen's clubs, who are giving some attention to the enforcement of the game laws, and who are doing what is equally important, creating public opinion in favor of preserving fish and game in the State." The editor of the Press inserted the comment, "Now, cannot the Ventura Sportsman's Club take steps to secure some of these fish for our two streams? What do you say, Mr. Secretary Granger? The price of transportation is the only expense in the matter."

1 8 8 2

Rainfall – 8.50 Inches

January 4, 1882 – Ventura Free Press

The Ventura Rod and Gun Club bit at our suggestion like a hungry trout at a fly. Secretary Granger talked the matter up among the members, and the Club will secure from the Fish Commissioners enough young trout and white fish to thoroughly stock the head waters of our streams. It might be well to try a few land-locked salmon, though the rivers are probably too small for them. After procuring the fish, the next duty of the Club will be to see that they are protected during the close season.

April 29, 1882 – Ventura Signal

Trout are ripe, but whoever is caught seining them had better have his life insured.

May 6, 1882 – Los Angeles Times

Robt. Ferguson, the Izaak Walton of Ventura, says the *Signal* has made a remarkable score the past month. He has handled over 241 trout per day; catching them all with hook and line.

May 27, 1882 – Ventura Signal

Fully a thousand trout have been taken from the Ventura river each Sunday for the past four or five weeks. There is a moral here—it shows that for a small stream the Ventura river is an excellent trout stream—also that we have some good fishermen hereabouts—it also gives an excellent theme to our ministers on the evil of Sabbath breaking as set up in the fourth commandment.

June 1, 1882 – Los Angeles Times

COAST NOTES – Trout are plentiful in Ventura river. The Ventura *Signal* says that fully a thousand pounds have been taken from the river each Sunday for the past four or five weeks.

June 10, 1882 – Santa Barbara Independent

GUN CLUB – A meeting will be held this Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, in the reading room of the Occidental Hotel, for the purpose of organizing a Gun Club, whose object will be the enforcement of the game laws in this county. A temporary meeting convened last Saturday, when a committee was appointed to draft rules and regulations to be reported at the meeting on the 10th inst. All interested in this matter, and there should be many, are cordially invited to be present.

June 17, 1882 – Santa Barbara Independent

SIGNALITOS – From the *Ventura Signal.* If the fish in the Ventura River could be protected for two years we would have the best trout stream in California.

Messrs. Eastin, Snodgrass, Ben, Williams and Orr aver that they caught 943 trout on their recent trip to the Matilija. They tell this story and stick to it. They may all develop into first class Aesops after one or two more fishing excursions.

NOTICE – The Rod and Gun Club will meet at the Occidental Reading Rooms on Wednesday, June 21st, at 3 p.m.

Business of importance will be transacted, and the friends of the club are respectfully invited to be present.

1 8 8 3

Rainfall – 11.70 inches

January 13, 1883 – Ventura Signal

CARP FOR SALE – Advertisement – I have now on hand and for sale a lot of German carp, the great table fish, for stocking carp ponds, at my residence on the Colonia. E.K. Benchley.

April 28, 1883 – Ventura Signal

THE "SAGE" ON SALMON – Editor Signal: Trout-fishing is pronounced splendid sport by the many anglers who go stumbling over the rocks up and down Matilija, but when you have to land 50 trout to get five pounds of little fish, it is too much work to be an unalloyed pleasure. …Three years ago Mr. Jeil caught three salmon near the Matilija Hot Springs, but the largest of them only weighed four pounds, and fish of that size are often seen in the deep holes of the river hereabouts. Mr. Arnold Carver caught a very nice salmon which measured 22 inches in length and weight eight pounds and ten ounces. …Mr. Rose reports seeing six of these large fish in some deep waters on the old Grant place. We expect salmon will soon be plenty at Matilija. R.L.

May 11, 1883 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA LETTER – Odd Sorts – Trout fishing is our principal sport nowadays. A party of gentlemen took a fish thirty-six inches long from the Ventura river one day last week. Fish of this size are rare, but are becoming more common every year. The one in question looked like a clean-run salmon—if it is possible to imagine that salmon could be caught in a stream the size of the Ventura. Sol. Sheridan.

May 12, 1883 – Ventura Signal

CALIFORNIA TROUT – The Several Varieties—Its Structure and Habits—One Weak Point. Report New York Fish Commission. There are several varieties which go by the name of the California trout. The differences between them are radical, and arise, probably, from the influences of locality, rather than from natural variation. The differences appear principally in external markings. (The article is lengthy and is concerned about hatching California-type trout in New York.)

May 27, 1883 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA LETTER – San Buenaventura, May 23, 1883. I did not come to time last week, and so your readers were spared one infliction, but I will try to atone for the default. You see, I went up Sespe Cañon on a trout fishing excursion, and so "failed to connect," in a measure. I would have written you, even from there, had it not rained like blue blazes, causing the river to rise, and shutting our party who were on the wrong side

of the creek, into a kind of cul de sac, from which there was no exit, save by boat. Now, as the Sespe river is not navigable, save at high water, by anything larger than a trout or a pair of gum boots, and as none of us were good enough swimmers to cross a raging mountain torrent—to say nothing of ferrying over our grub and wagon—we were forced to stay in camp, like rats in a trap, until the water subsided. You, Mr. Editor, as a good Christian, will say that this was a just punishment visited upon us for starting upon such an expedition on Sunday—and perhaps you are right—but I assure you, although our blankets were dripping with water, and our clothes hung upon us limp and clinging, and flapped damply against our bodies as we walked about like animated clothes-lines, and although our diet was a mixture of soggy bacon and mushy crackers—yet we sat wet and shivering over our fire of smoldering oak logs and fairly crowed inwardly as we watched—and felt—the rich blessing which was descending upon the country, literally bucketfuls. (The rest of the article promotes the agriculture and oil industry of the county.) Sol. Sheridan

June 2, 1883 – Los Angeles Times

FINNY FUN – San Buenaventura, May 31, 1883. Last week was certainly one which I will ever remember. On Sunday, Smith and myself—his real name is Jenkins, but that is neither her nor there—started for the wilds of the Sespe to do dire damage to the countless mountain trout there assembled—but the trout we got were far from countless. We reached our camp in the shadow of derrick of the "Kentuck" oil well about 7:30 p.m., and after a luscious super of bacon and crackers, turned into our virtuous couch.

We were stirring early on Monday morning. Not that we wanted to see the sun come in resplendent glory over the verdure-clad mountains, or any such romantic nonsense. Far from it. A bed on the ground is not the softest in the world, at any time, but when the natural hardness is aggravated by the utterly familiar boulder that will insert itself into one's back, no matter how one may turn and twist, and be accused of stealing the covers in order to avoid it, I put it to you, as a man, if you would not get out of that just as soon as the first faint streak of dawn gave you the ghost of an excuse. Our fire was soon started, the coffee-pot sang merrily on its bed of coals, and just as we sat down to breakfast, splash into my ear came a big drop of rain, then on my hand, then into my ear again, then a young river raced down the back of my neck, and we are in the midst of a lively shower. Nothing daunted, Smith gets from some mysterious recess in our wagon an old umbrella, and under its friendly shelter we discuss our sloppy bacon, mushy bread and sensibly weakening coffee—and a tiny rivulet meanders down each of my boot-legs as I realize that my heel is a veritable desert island. No fishing to-day, that is certain, for the Sespe creek, rushing by on our right hand, is grinding away at its banks of gravel and madly lashing itself with foam as it rushes higher and higher over its bed of boulders to the seas. However, Smith is not discouraged. Just give him worms and an umbrella and he would fish in the midst of a Mississippi cyclone. Thus equipped, he starts out, and I, not wishing to fish, nor yet to stay in camp minus the umbrella, go with him—to hold the umbrella. So successfully do I perform my part that ere long Smith, who has seated himself upon a wet rock, finds that, instead of drying the rock by contact, as he had fondly hoped, contact, in this instance, has but converted a damp boulder into a miniature

polar sea—for all the contact in the world won't offset the drippings of an umbrella so slanted that said drippings may be directed down the back of one's neck in one fell stream. Smith gives up at last.

Tuesday and Wednesday, though, are big days for us. Myriad are the bites we get, countless the squirming worms we impale, and numerous the spotted beauties which come to our basket. There is only one drawback to the sport, and that is the cleaning of the fish. Henceforth my life will be devoted to one great effort—the invention of a species of trout already (cleaned). (Not legible.)…decent sport to feel the "chug-chug" of your rod as the hook is seized by an 8-inch trout and to see the reel spin round like lightning as the line goes out; but to sit on a slippery rock, in a painfully cramped position, with the cold air from the water permeating your very bones, and scrape, scrape away for half an hour to clean four ounces of trout and make it eatable, is quite another matter—especially if you have fallen into the creek once or twice during the day and are cold and wet and out of humor in consequence. On Wednesday night, though, we cleaned our catch—150—in rare good humor, eat heartily of them for supper, roll awhile upon our backs in peaceful enjoyment of our pipes, and then turn in, and overhead the bright moon and a few pale stars keep twinkling watch in clear heavens. Sol. Sheridan.

1 8 8 4

Rainfall – 35.74 inches

February 16, 1884 – Ventura Signal

The river is fairly swarming with young trout, thousands being seen in the mill flume every day. Golly, wont it be fun when the season opens!

March 29, 1884 – Ventura Signal

LOCAL BREVITIES – A number of young trout were picked up on the beach Sunday.

April 5, 1884 – Ventura Signal

LOCAL BREVITIES – Trout fishing is not good. The fish are not hungry, and consequently only take the hook—never strike it—under protest.

April 12, 1884 – Ventura Signal

LOCAL BREVITIES – Trout fishing so far this season cannot be called a very eminent success. There is too much water to the fish.

May 31, 1884 – Ventura Signal

LOCAL BREVITIES – Newby and Sheldon brought home 312 trout from the Matilija on Thursday last. Two days catch.

FROM SANTA PAULA – Enormous trout have come up from the ocean into the Santa Paula creek, this spring. Fish twelve to sixteen inches long are being lifted out of the stream every day, and the boys report plenty more of the same kind in sight. By George, what monsters there must be in the Sespe!

1 8 8 5

Rainfall – 10.23 Inches

March 19, 1885 – Ventura Democrat

LOCAL BREVITIES – A trio of nimrods of the Ojai who have been indulging for some time past in the very unsportsmanlike occupation of hooking the speckled trout and bagging the graceful quail in the close season came to a grief a few days ago. Complaints were made from time to time to the Rod and Gun club here that the parties in question were violating the game law in the most reckless and unconcerned manner and were daily out with the guns and poles hunting and fishing with a sort of we-don't-care-continental air that for cheek and assurance was decidedly refreshing. Acting upon information thus given Constable Jeff Hampton lit out for the sporting ground one fine morning and caught the gentlemen with evidences of guilt in their hands in the shape of five trout and a dozen quail. They were brought before Judge Bledsoe's court and his honor fined them $50 each which they promptly paid.

This example should serve as a warning to all others who are disposed to set games laws of the State at defiance. And in dealing out justice to offenders there should be no distinction of parties or nor more leniency or forbearance shown to home citizens than to strangers. Treat all alike and arrest and fine all who are caught violating the law. It is the only way in which the game of the country can be protected and preserved.

March 21, 1885 – Ventura Free Press

JUSTICE COURT – People vs. Martin Sharp. Violating fish law. Defendant discharged for want of evidence and constable required to pay cost.

March 21, 1885 – Ventura Signal

TROUT VS. SPIRLING – Editor Signal: -- The fishing in Ventura county is world-renowned, and the climate is so famous that on smoky London, gorgeous Paris, fair Vienna, and sober Berlin, the poor invalid gasping for pure air, with grim death staring him in the face, years and longs to taste the delicious Ventura fish, believing that even a taste will prolong his or her life for weeks, if not months. Such is the fame of our fish that thousands of sick mortals from all parts of the globe cross the salt ponds annually and flock to the sanitarium of the world, the Italy of America, the famous Ojai valley…(editorial continues about the wonders of the area and criticizes a few members of the Ventura Rod and Gun Club who led non-citizen tourists to an area to fish for spirling. The tourists were arrested for violating the fish law and paid a penalty. But, as the editor points out, the fish the tourists caught were not trout and the members of the club should have known better.) …The fame of our fair county is gone, the Matili-ha-ha is doomed to desolation and despair… (Signed) Duplex

LOCAL BREVITIES – On the 13th three young men putting up at the Nordhoff hotels were arrested for violating the game and fish laws by Constable Hampton. One had shot a quail and the other two had been trouting in the Matilija. They pleaded guilty before Justice Bledsoe, and paid the fines in each case--$50. Information had been filed against two other young men at Nordhoff, but one, an invalid, died before service of the papers, and the matter was of course dropped.

The liars are anxiously awaiting the opening of the trout season, April first.

April 3, 1885 – Ventura Free Press

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE – Operation of the Game Law. March 19th a party of six—four men and two ladies, (the men were consumptives. The ladies, one a wife, the other a sister of the invalids) went to the Matilija canon for a change of air and to get some mountain trout for the varying appetite. Two men did the fishing. They got fish enough for a lunch, cooked and ate them—so nice and fresh from the stream. They were cheered by their success and after sketching awhile, one of the men decided to catch more fish for another meal. A constable, Hampton, from Ventura county, comes up and arrests the party for violating he game laws, one man because he was caught in the act of fishing, another because he was hold the fish (a few small ones) and another man, though some distance from the fisherman, owned he had eaten some of the fish that had been caught. The fourth man was some distance away. The constable ordered the party to go with him to Ventura before Justice Bledsoe. The party refused because the invalids were so sick. The constable then took them to their hotel where they arrived about 5 p.m., and then he went to Ventura for warrants of arrest. Of course the invalids were more or less anxious and distressed about the result.

That night, Mr. Field, one of the party had a frightful pulmonary hemorrhage and in about an hour was dead. The next morning a team came from Ventura, and the constable with four warrants for the fishermen. The physician in charge of one of the invalids forbade his removal to Ventura for fear of a fatal result, but instead, sent the money for the fine. The warrant was not served on the dead man, so only two victims of the fishing party were taken to Ventura and fined fifty dollars each. Was all this right? A CITIZEN.

April 9, 1885 – Ventura Democrat

LOCAL BREVITIES – A meeting of the Ventura Rod and Gun club will be held in the club room to-day.

The nimrods of town have been plying the rod and line vigorously nearly every day since the 1st of the month and several fine catches have been made. Ed. Mitchell has landed the biggest trout, 16 inches long and a two pounder. Duke Briggs and Marshal Sheridan come in for the next best. The largest take was made by De Moss Bowers, Aleck Sheldon and Mike Riley, they bagged 205 of the speckled beauties. Ventura river and its tributaries are unquestionably the finest trout streams in the State.

April 23, 1885 – Ventura Democrat

John Kamp caught a trout in the Matilija the other day which weighed 3 ¼ pounds—a regular brook trout. Who can beat it?

1 8 8 6

Rainfall – 23.84 Inches

April 30, 1886 – Ventura Free Press

Charley Whitney was out fishing one day last week, and caught 135 trout, but forgot that editors of newspapers liked trout as well as some other people.

July 23, 1886 – Ventura Free Press

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY – It is said that it was so hot on the Sespe that the fish caught by the Stone-Hampton-Williams party spoiled before they could be pulled out of the water. The gentlemen might possibly have obviated this difficulty by salting their fish-worms.

July 31, 1886 – Ventura Free Press

SANTA PAULA ITEMS – The hunters under Capt. F.E. Davis, while on the Sespe, captured seven bucks, one fox, five rattlesnakes, and a little less than a ton of trout.

August 2, 1886 – Ventura Free Press

One of M.D. Alexander's boys caught a trout in the Santa Paula creek a few days since that weighed over three pounds, and measured 22 inches in length.

August 21, 1886 – Los Angeles Times

IN THE SADDLE – (Editor's note: This long article was written by Sol. Sheridan and recounts his journey with Coroner Leay to the Mutaw ranch to investigate the accidental shooting of Jeff Thompson.) …Another weary climb and another steep descent, and we are down into the valley of the upper Sespe, where in deep shadowing pools and broad flashing riffles monster trout are sleeping and splashing.

November 27, 1886 – Ventura Free Press

ADVERTISEMENT – For Sale, One-half Mile of Ever-Running Water, Abounding in Trout, together with 131 Acres of Land, Including rich bottom lands. Beautiful places. $5 a day can be made from the wood thereon. Price $3,500, Ten Miles out, on San Antonio Creek, Barnard, Blackstock & Shepherd.

1 8 8 7

Rainfall – 16.62 Inches

March, 1887 – Century Magazine

CAMPING OUT IN CALIFORNIA – (This article was written by John R. G. Hassard for *Century Magazine* and reprinted in *The Ojai* July 15, 1899, but is being placed in the correct chronological order for this report.)

We spent two weeks in this pleasant camp; and how short and delightful were the days! There was no worry about weather, for between May and November no rain ever falls in this region; and although the sea fogs sometimes reached us at night, the days were always bright, the heat was moderate, and we were high enough above the ocean level—1800 feet—to catch fresh breezes that were not felt in the valleys below us. A cold spring tumbled into the brook a few rods from our tents. In mid-stream was a shady island of smooth gravel, where the gentlemen spread their rugs in the afternoon, smoked and read novels; and there was a clean deep pool in which they bathed. Fishing was the principal sport, for the Matilija abounds with trout. Every morning before light two or three of our party crawled from their couches, took a slice of bread and a draught of milk at the willow tree which we called the pantry, and were ready at the first glimmer of dawn to whip the stream. Every evening after dinner they took their rods again and fished as long as they could see. Sometimes they made all-night excursions to the upper waters of the Matilija in the mountains, and followed them down to the camp. There was a flavor of adventure in these expeditions into the dark and lonely woods, with suppers of bacon and freshly caught trout, and the late lingering over the campfire coffee; but the fishing was quite as good near home. The Dolly Varden trout, which is caught in these California brooks, is named from the brilliant and varied colors of its sides and belly. Certainly it is gaily and coquettishly adorned; but it does not excel the exquisite speckled trout of our own water either in beauty or in flavor, nor will it rank very high as a game fish. No special art is required to take it; worms flies, grasshoppers, bits of bread or of meat,--it swallows them all with undiscriminating appetite. If it has any preference in the matter of diet, it is for the eyes of its own companions. When other bait ceased to allure, we used to put a trout's eye on the hook, and the sport revived. I think that with a few accidental exceptions we had trout at every meal as long as we remained in this camp…We spent a week on the road from our first camp to the mountain. Once we set up our tabernacle in a group of bay trees, and made out beds of fragrant branches. Again we halted in a copse by the Sespe River, where we caught trout of prodigious fatness, and refreshed our horses in a succulent pasture… (Article took up the entire front page and continued to the second page of the newspaper. It described the area, conditions and opportunities for camping, hunting and fishing.)

April 1, 1887 – Santa Barbara Independent

OUT IN THE CAMP – Goleta, March 31st. Taking advantage of a special invitation, a party of eight left Goleta yesterday morning en route for the camp of engineers in Tecolote Cañon.

Herr Prof. being seized with a piscatorial covetousness, had taken his departure after the early dawn, to prospect among the waters of the creek in the Cañon, to find the best places for hooking the finny tribe at some future time; he is a man with a conscience, and hath a regard for prohibitory laws so would not be caught taking or Cook-ing the little innocents while they were protected by the statute.

A brisk drive of an hour, brought us to our destination, in the same beautiful valley that had been our pleasant home, for a few weeks, three summers ago, but much nearer to the main road.

Our reception by everyone was most cordial, even the (not legible) shook hands with us, and in several ways, expressed their pleasure in entertaining strangers.

The camp presents quite a business appearance; dining-room, kitchen, bedrooms, offices and all out of doors for a parlor. We had been warned that "Railroad" was tabooed by a part of the Corps, and the ladies had determined to be quite considerate, but the gentlemen, though they generally claim that ladies inherit Mother Eve's curiosity, could not refrain from asking questions, which were kindly answered, though I supposed that similar questions and answers have been given not less than a hundred times, and a great deal of courtesy was shown in explaining portions of their works.

After 12 o'clock we were invited to the dining room, where an intelligent and capable Chinaman had prepared a meal that evidenced the hospitality of our hosts, and the skill of their cook. After dinner we had a pleasant walk to the beach, and after our return, were most enjoyably entertained by the same singers who assisted at the concert nearly two weeks ago. One thing about the camp that we noticed, was, the same woods that once echoed the cry of the "Owls," now resounded with the "cawing of the crows."

So agreeably had the time passed, that the afternoon was well on the wane ere we were aware of it, and we were forced to bid adieu to our friends, hoping that when the road should be completed, they will return to appreciate the result of their work. Mrs. Somerby.

July 15, 1887 – Los Angeles Times

NOTES FROM THE BAY – San Francisco, July 14.—[By the Associated Press]. At a meeting of the State Board of Fish Commissioners, …Commissioner Sherwood reported that 200,000 trout had been hatched in the hatchery in Nevada county, and one-half had been distributed.

C. Robinson, of San Diego, addressed the commission on the advisability of stocking a lake in the Cuyamaca Mountains. He desired the introduction either of Lake Tahoe or Feather River trout. As the southern portion of the State has received little or no attention as regards pisciculture, the commission decided to take the matter under advisement.

August 2, 1887 – Ventura Free Press

CALIFORNIA FISH – San Francisco, July 31.—Fish Commissioner J. Roulier who arrived in this city yesterday says: "We are now ready to distribute 250,000 fine trout to whomever wants them. If sent to individuals, they must pay all charges for transportation, but if intended for stocking lakes on public lands, the transportation will be paid. …The State appropriated $7,500 at the last session of the Legislature for hatching both trout and salmon…

August 11, 1887 – Ventura Free Press

STOCKING THE MATILIJA WITH TROUT – Excessive fishing has well nigh depleted the waters of the Matilija of the fine trout for which that stream has long been famous. The Hueneme Sportsman's Club has accepted the offer of the California Fish Commissioners and is making arrangements to place 50,000 young trout in that stream. What is the Ventura Rod and Gun Club doing?

Eastern tourists, and others who like to catch a great number of trout, should go to the Sespe, by way of the Ojai and over Topa Topa, from the top of which may be seen one of the finest views in the world. There is a good trail over the mountain, and the trip to the Sespe by this way is a very enjoyable one and trout so abundant that any one can catch two or three hundred in a couple of hours.

September 5, 1887 – Ventura Free Press

FISH AND GAME LAWS -- …Trout, April 1st to November 1st. Salmon, October 1st to August 31st. Fishing for salmon, shad, etc., between six o'clock Saturday evening and sundown of succeeding Sunday, prohibited. Fishing with explosives, or by pound weir, cage (undecipherable), or set net, prohibited.

October 6, 1887 – Ventura Free Press

LOCAL BREVITIES – 14,000 trout were received here yesterday by Mr. Murray, secretary of the Sportsman's Association of Ventura County, from Lake Tahoe. They are to be placed in the Matilija river.

October 10, 1887 – Ventura Free Press

LAKE TAHOE TROUT FOR THE MATILIJA – Editor Free Press: In your issue of Saturday, an article on the above subject contains some errors that should be corrected. I

am not aware of any such organization as the "Sportsmen's Association of Ventura County." You folks over the river have the Ventura Rod and Gun Club, and we have here the Hueneme Sportsmen's Club. …the later club…is due credit of stocking the stream with Tahoe trout, the Ventura club refused to contribute a cent towards the necessary expenses… We propose next to import Eastern brook trout to stock the San Antonio and other small streams of this county. Now we appeal to every…fisherman to spare the Tahoe trout we have placed in the Matilija, allow them to grow a year and then we shall have not only fine trout, but fine sport with these game fish. Should one of these fine fish be caught during the next season, at once return it to the stream. It is against the law to catch these trout of less size than eight inches in length. Lastly, my name is not Murray but simply T.H. Merry.

1 8 8 8

Rainfall – 17.80 inches

April 16, 1888 – Ventura Free Press

TO FISHERMEN AND SPORTSMEN – Editor Free Press: The Hueneme Sportsmen's Club desires to call the attention of trout fishermen to the fact that last September at a cost of nearly three hundred dollars, defrayed by the State and by the Club, it stocked the creek in the Matilija Canyon with 14,000 Lake Tahoe trout; these being by nature fresh water fish, will not go out to sea, but will remain in our streams, and if not molested this year will so grow and multiply…

To take these trout of less than eight inches and not return them to the water is by law a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than $50 nor more than $300, one half of which goes to the informer.

…We appeal to fishermen to return to the water with as little injury as possible any Tahoe trout they may catch this season, so that hereafter we may all realize the benefit of their introduction…Hueneme Sportsmen's Club.

April 20, 1888 – Santa Barbara Daily Independent

ADVERTISEMENT – Before you go a-fishing, call on J.C. Martin, where you will find the best stock of fishing tackle. No. 624 State street.

May 18, 1888 – Santa Paula Chronicle

– G.W.F. Johnson and a guest of the Union hotel, caught over three hundred mountain trout one day this week, in Santa Paula creek. The neighborhood of Santa Paula is a paradise for sportsmen, as the remarkable catch of the above gentlemen shows.

June 8, 1888 – Santa Paula Chronicle

– Quite a pleasant little fishing party went from the Hotel on Wednesday, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Urquhart and son and Mr. Virden, as evidence of their success, all the guests had trout for breakfast for Tuesday.

June 20, 1888 – Santa Paula Chronicle

– Mr. and Mrs. Haugh with their guests, Mr. and Mrs. Hawk, spent the day on Thursday picnicking and fishing in the Santa Paula canon.

1 8 8 9

Rainfall – 20.35 Inches

April 5, 1889 – Santa Paula Chronicle

– The season for fishing is at hand. Quite a number of fine strings of trout from Santa Paula creek have been brought in this week, and larger ones are being caught than last year. One was caught up the See-Saw that weighed a little more than a pound. Another one that we heard of was a bit little behind its fellow in weight and it is reported that the boys who caught them were so surprised and excited that one of them fell in the water in a dead faint and the other stood on his head.

April 7, 1889 – New York Times

THE DELIGHT OF ANGLERS – From an Article by Tarleton H. Bean in *Forest and Stream* – The fishes of the salmon family which are of especial interest to the angler include the salmon and the trout, numbering in all 26 forms whose relationships are shown very briefly in the accompanying synopsis or key. It should be stated that some of the trout are not recognized as full species by recent writers. The siscowet is usually regarded as a variety of the Great Lake trout. The Loch Leven is hard to distinguish from the brown, even by expert fishculturists, and all ichthyologists will probably admit the difficulty of separating them. Bouvier's trout, the Lake Tahoe trout, the Utah trout, and the Kansas trout are referred to as varieties of the red-throated (*Purpuralus*), perhaps with perfect justice. The species of charr (*Salvelinus*) present as great difficulties as the black-spotted forms, and we cannot say with confidence that even the New-England species are fully understood.

The Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus*) differ from *Salmo* chiefly in the greater number of rays in the anal fin; five species are known, all or which are black spotted in fresh water, becoming silvery at sea. They run up the streams of our west coast from Alaska to California, and are found also in Asia. The humpback extends north to Colville River and south to Oregon. Another species not yet identified is found in the vicinity of Point Barrow. The blueback ranges from the Yukon to the Columbia; the dog salmon from Putnam River, or Kuwuk, to California. The silver salmon has the same northern limit as the blueback, but extends south to San Francisco. The quinnat, king, or chouicha is found in the Yukon and south to the Ventura River, California.

(There were twenty-five descriptions of salmon and trout.)

7. Gairdner's Trout (*Salmo gairdnerii*) –Known also as steelhead, hardhead, salmon trout, ashui (Sitka). This species ranges from California to Southern Alaska, where it spawns in Spring. It spends much of the time at sea. In its adult state it resembles the Atlantic salmon in shape and general appearance. In the breeding season it has broad crimson bands along the sides. Specimens weighing 30 pounds have been taken. It grows to a much larger size than rainbow, with which it has sometimes been confused.

8. The Rainbow Trout (*Salmo irideus*)—The rainbow is sometimes called California brook trout. It is a native of streams west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and ranges southward nearly to the Mexican line. Its northern limit is uncertain, but it probably extends to Sitka, Alaska. This fish has been extensively introduced into the Eastern States, and is now well established in Europe. The maximum weight reached by the rainbow is about 6 pounds. It is not anadromous to any great extent in its original habitat.

9. The Brown Trout (*Salmo fario*)—Brook trout of Europe. Native in the rivers of the Maritime Alps, also in rivers and lakes of Northern and Central Europe. Non-migratory. Extensively introduced in the United States, where it is thriving and constantly gaining favor. It is said to reach 17 pounds in weight, and its game qualities are greatly praised.

10. The Loch Leven Trout (*Salmo Levensensis*)—The trout inhabits Loch Leven and other lakes of Southern Scotland and the North of England. It is non-migratory. Dr. Day considers it to be a verity of the brown trout. The species is an excellent one, growing to a weight of 10 pounds, and affording fine sport to anglers; it has been introduced into New York, New Hampshire, and other New-England States, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and elsewhere in the West. The black spots on the sides are encircled with a narrow pale blue border in life.

17. The Dolly Varden Trout (*Salvelinus malma*)—Known as bull trout, salmon trout, malma, and goletz. The species occurs in California and northward to the Colville River in Alaska; eastward to tributaries of the Saskatchewan. It increased in size northward, reaching a length of 2 feet and a weight of 6 to 8 pounds. At Kodiak it is extensively caught in the sea-run condition and salted under the name salmon trout. The Alaska natives make water-proof clothing of its skin. In general appearance this trout resembles the sea trout of Labrador; in fresh waters it is beautifully red spotted, but has not much reputation as a game fish.

25. The Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)—Generally called speckled trout or speckled beauty. This well-known species ranges naturally from Labrador to Georgia, east of the Alleghenies; also in the Great Lakes region. It has been widely distributed westward and across seas. It is recorded on good authority that specimens weighing 10 pounds occur in the Rangeley Lakes and Dr. Hoy has see one of 12 pounds; but such examples seem to be rare. The species has quite a reputation for sea going, as will appear from articles recently received by *Forest and Stream*, as well as from advices from England. The color variations in the brook trout are astonishing.

<u>April 19, 1889 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing tackle of all kinds at Edwin Virden’s.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Tackle at Say & Locke’s.

April 25, 1889 Ventura Free Press

PIRU CITY ITEMS – Last Thursday quite a party…went up the river and…met with glorious success and came out victorious with over two hundred fish.

May 13, 1889 – Ventura Free Press

Roy Sheldon reports catching 130 trout, assorted sizes, in the river one day not long since.

May 14, 1889 – Santa Barbara Daily Independent

PERSONAL MENTION – Jas. Hope and party returned last night from their fishing trip.

June 26, 1889 – Santa Barbara Daily Independent

Camping parties are now all the go. Several are out, and more will go during the week. Everybody who can should take an outing. The after work will be the better for the rest and sport.

1 8 9 0

Rainfall – 32.58 Inches

February 22, 1890 – Ventura Vidette

WANT SALMON – The Town Trustees have sent the following petition to the Board of Fish Commissioners:

To the Board of Fish Commissioners, Sissons, California—Gentlemen: We the undersigned members of the Board of Trustees of the city of San Buena Ventura do hereby petition you to stock the Ventura river with salmon.

It is our belief that the water of this river being supplied by mountain springs is well adapted to this specie of fish and that when planted and protected by games laws will prove a source of profit and benefit to the county.

We will use our efforts to make the undertaking a successful one and feel secure in guaranteeing the hearty cooperation of our citizens in the project….(Board's names).

April 16, 1890 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

J.L. Harrison appointed Fish Commissioner at a salary of $2.50 per day for each day actually engaged and necessary traveling expends., said appointment to run for the term of one year.

Ordinance No. 45, in regard to having wire screens over ditches and flumes in the county and creating a Fish Commissioner unanimously adopted by the Board and ordinance ordered printed in the Ventura Free Press for one week. Ordinance to take effect May 5, 1890.

Reported in Ventura Free Press, April 18, 1890.

June 6, 1890 – Santa Paula Chronicle

– Mr. G.W.F. Johnson accompanied by his wife, Mrs. E.G. Ord and Mr. Edwin Virden, spent the day Tuesday camping and fishing in Santa Paula cañon. About fifty trout were caught, Mr. Johnson always being a lucky fisherman.

June 13, 1890 – Santa Paula Chronicle

– (One column write-up about a trip to the Matilija Hot Springs.) …The fishing is good. There are lots of speckled trout in the creek and they are of good size, many of them will weigh a pound. Mr. Taylor caught near a dozen splendid specimens in a very short time. We will not tell the number we caught, nor their size, nor how we fell over a rock and tore our best pants.

June 27, 1890 – Santa Paula Chronicle

– Mr. F.A. Cerey was camping for a day or two up Santa Paula Creek and reports having caught 100 trout in one day. That certainly sounds like a good many fish, but then we have not doubt its all right.

November 21, 1890 – Ventura Free Press

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – Mr. Newby was also instructed to place himself in correspondence with the government fish commission relative to obtaining the salmon which were promised if the county would pass certain regulations in regard to screens, and appoint a fish commissioner. This was done by the county and this is supposed to be the time when the river should be stocked.

December 5, 1890 – Ventura Free Press

OUR CITY DADS – The Clerk was instructed to write to the Fish Commissioners at Washington, and make applications for salmon to stock the rivers. It appeared that Mr. Harrison, the county fish commissioner, was opposed to the introduction of salmon, and had not made the application as instructed at the last meeting; the Trustees therefore concluded to tend to the matter themselves.

1 8 9 1

Rainfall – 15.10 Inches

February 27, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

SPORTSMEN PARADISE – Speckled Trout Can Soon be Fished For. It is said that the Ventura river contains vast number of trout and during the open season are caught very plentifully. …The close season will be ended on the first of April and at that time sportsmen will begin to enjoy themselves on the banks of one of the prettiest streams in the state…

March 20, 1891 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – We will have our stock of Fishing Tackle in a few days. You can soon catch trout. Catch your goods at our store and be ready for them. Remember on any line of goods we keep, we will try and suit you, on prices. GIVE US A CALL. Ord & Haselton, Hobson's Block.

April 6, 1891 – Los Angeles Times

SPORTING NEWS – A great deal of interest has been taken in the results of the first days' trout fishing of the season. A good many local fishermen departed for the San Gabriel, Santa Paula and Sespe rivers last Tuesday evening in order to be on deck at the first break of day April 1.

Fred Corey of Wells-Fargo was exhibiting twenty-one speckled beauties Thursday, as the fruit of his skill in Santa Paula Creek.

The late rains cleared the creeks in the Sespe region, of all the oily matter, and the trout from there are entirely free from that petroleum tastes that some seasons affects them.

April 7, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

LOCAL BREVITIES – Emmet Crane and Will E. Queenel on April 1st, with hooks and lines, took out of the Santa Ana creek 250 trout.

OUR TROUT FISHING – As Fine Fish to be Captured in the Ventura River as Anywhere. To the Editor: -- An article recently published in a Los Angeles paper gave a list of the trout streams in Southern California, and as usual Ventura county was ignored.

…Ventura river is one of the largest and best stocked trout streams of Southern California. From the very head-waters of the Matilija Canyon to the high tide mark at the railroad bridge in the city of Ventura, a distance of over thirty miles, the river is literally alive with a variety of Salmo Irideus, better known as the Rainbow Trout.

The present season has opened with an almost unprecedented catch. A score of fishermen took from 100 to 200 trout apiece on April 1st… (Rest of the article is focused on how, what time, and where to catch trout.) Fisherman.

April 10, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

LOCAL BREVITIES – Harry Myers and three others caught 438 trout one day last week.

Trout fishing services along the river were very numerously attended.

CAUGHT THE SAME FISH – Geo. Richardson was telling about a trout about two feet long that had gotten away…on account of his line breaking, leaving the hook in fish's mouth. J.M. Kaiser…remarked that he had taken it (recognized hook) from the mouth of a fish he had caught that same day…which measured exactly fourteen inches.

April 17, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

SANTA PAULA SUNDRIES – A.C. Dietz, through his attorney, S.P. Guiberson, offers a reward of ten dollars for the detection and conviction of any person adjudged guilty of fishing in the Santa Paula Creek with the limits of the Ferndale Ranch.

April 24, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

CAUGHT 1,000 TROUT – The biggest number of trout caught by a single fisherman so far this season, is credited to Will Conner. For the past week he has been up at Matilija, and during that time has caught 1,000 trout. (Also appeared in May 1, 1891 edition.)

April 30, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

MILES OF TROUT STREAMS – Ventura County a Favored Spot for Fishermen. A.J.C. (Dr. A.J. Comstock) in *Forest and Stream* has the following about Ventura:

The trout season opened here on April 1st, and there are more fish in the streams about here than has been known for years. It is believed to be due to the enforcement,…of our screen law, whereby all irrigating and other ditches are screened by ¼ inch wire meshes before leaving the streams.

…The largest catch for the season that I have heard so far was made by myself and two other companions on April 1st, when we took out 475 trout, the largest weighing one pound, and measuring fourteen inches in length…

There are in this county alone, about 225 miles of trout streams all teeming with speckled beauties… I am to take an angling for ten days in the early part of May, far back into the mountains, a two day's trip out… (Also appeared in May 1, 1891 edition.)

May 1, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

A small party of fishermen will leave here Wednesday for the head waters of the Sespe to catch several thousand trout. The names of the party are Dr. A.J. Comstock, Duke Briggs and J. F. Newby.

May 6, 1891 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

Report of J.L. Harrison, Fish Commissioner of Ventura County received, recorded and ordered placed on file.

Resignation of J.L. Harrison, Fish Commissioner of Ventura County, received. On motion of Supervisor Davis seconded by Supervisor Arnold, it is ordered that said resignation be, and the same is hereby accepted, and the office of Fish Commissioner of Ventura County declared vacant.

In the matter of the appointment of a Fish Commissioner of Ventura County to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of J.L. Harrison.

On motion of Supervisor Foster seconded by Supervisor Davis it is ordered that E.H. Myers be, and he is hereby appointed Fish Commissioner for Ventura County, vice. J.L. Harrison resigned and Clerk directed to issue the usual certificate of appointment.

May 12, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

MATILIJA NEWS – Ward Blumberg and Arthur Van Curren devoted last Tuesday entirely to fishing, on estimating the catch, it was found by actual count that they had sacked the enormous sum of 753 trout, the largest days catch on record.

Jim Gevally sacked a fine specimen of the salmon trout Friday. Its weight was 5 ¼ pounds, and it measured 28 ¾ inches in length.

Guests at the Ojai Hot Springs report large salmon trout two and three feet long at Hanging Rock and other points close by.

May 13, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

MATILIJA NEWS – The party comprising, Dr. Comstock, Frank Newby, Duke Briggs, Mr. Cook and G. Camp which left on Wednesday…for the Sespe…found them again on their journey accompanied by Ward Bloomberg and James Larmer as guides. After four hours ride…they arrived six miles above Jeff Howard's old stand…

The guides returned the next morning to the Matilija and gave the following description of a few things with which they came in contact: "Small game of every description are so thick you are compelled to keep dodging continually to prevent being knocked off the saddle. Rattlers are so numerous you imagine you have a dozen or two in each boot; and

fish are in such large quantities as to make it utterly impossible to ford the river without trampling numberless of the finney tribe to death." (Also appeared in May 15, 1891 edition.)

May 25, 1891 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

In the matter of the passage of Ordinance No. 45.

Whereas the Clerk did not record the votes of the several members of the Board on the passage of Ordinance No. 45, and whereas the several members of said board on the passage of said Ordinance, each voted Aye, except D.T. Perkins who was absent. Therefore on motion of Supervisor Foster, seconded by Supervisor Arnold it is ordered that the Clerk of said Board either on the margin of the minute book the amendment of said minute entry of the passage of said Ordinance are in the minutes of said Board "That on the passage of said Ordinance No. 45, the respective members of said Board voted as follows: AW Brown Yes, BW Dudley Yes, FA Foster Yes, and CN Baker Yes" (D.T. Perkins being absent) of dated April 16, 1890. T Bev. Dudley Chairman of the Board Supervisors.

June 12, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

MATILIJA NEWS – Mr. Crane tried his luck angling Monday and succeeded in securing a fine, large specimen of the salmon trout.

June 15, 1891 – Los Angeles Times

CITY BRIEFS – John C. Wray, who since he retired from the Sheriff's office, has been holding down oil lands in the Sespe, arrived last evening on a flying business trip. He reports a big boom in the Sespe oil region, and thinks that in five years Southern California will control the oil markets of the country. Mr. Wray brought down a bucket of mountain trout, for the benefit of his friends.

June 19, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

FISH IN THE SANTA CLARA – Fish Commissioner E.H. Myers went out to the Santa Clara yesterday to ascertain if there were fish in that stream. He cast a fly in the river along the point of the mountain and in about an hour and half had thirty fine plump trout… Mr. Adair said it was the first time any one had caught fish with a hook below Santa Paula. This news will please our local fishermen.

LOCAL BREVITIES – E. H. Myers, the fish commissioner, returned Tuesday from inspecting five irrigating ditches along San Antonio creek, where he had ordered in some fish screen. He has ordered five to be put in on the Matilija, four at Nordhoff, two at Santa Paula, one at Fillmore, one at Piru and four along the Ventura river.

July 10, 1891 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

Report of E. H. Myers, Fish Commissioner, received and ordered placed on file.

July 21, 1891 – Los Angeles Times

REILLY'S FISH STORIES -- …Now Sheriff Reilly is the boss fish story teller on the Pacific Coast, and…not an old fisherman on any coast…can hold a candle to him.

"You fellows don't know what real trout fishing is," … "up in Ventura every creek is fuller of trout than all the other streams in the world, and at certain seasons of the year there is hardly enough in the streams for the trout to drink."…

July 23, 1891 – Los Angeles Times

ANOTHER TOUR AFOOT – June 21 – [Correspondence of *The Times*]. The correspondent of *The Times*, who is writing a number of interesting sketches under the head of "A Tour Afoot," is setting a "style," as it were, which would be well for many others to follow. There is no need of taking in the whole earth at one stride, like George Francis Train; but still it is a poor section of California, indeed, that will not afford a number of delightful spots worthy of an afternoon's jaunt.

One day last week the writer plucked up courage, tucked up his pants and started forth for the Matilija Cañon. It needed courage, too, to face the scorching glance of Old Sol on a clear July day with the thermometer on the wrong side of 90 degrees. The walk from Nordhoff to the mouth of the Matilija Cañon was hot and dusty. Occasional groups of large live oaks with their wide, luxuriant shade, made tempting allurements to rest, but no halt was made until the Ventura River was reached, then the fishing tackle was arranged and a few hours spent in tormenting the trout. The Ventura River is quite low this year, which indicates a dry season, but no matter, we can have rain to order by next year.

At noon a camp fire was built, and trout on toast made an excellent addition to our bill-of-fare. Just below the Ojai Hot Springs Hotel a branch stream called the North Fork flows into the main river. This cañon is even more rocky and rugged than the Matilija, and consequently less visited. It is impossible to explore this cañon in any manner for a number of miles except on foot. Further up the stream there is a small valley and two or three ranches. The mouth of the cañon is so abrupt and hidden by tall, silent sycamores and projecting cliffs that it is impossible to tell its exact location a few yards distant.

The Matilija is fast becoming famous for its wild, fascinating scenery and health mineral waters, but the first mile of the North Fork far surpasses the main cañon for wildness and rustic beauty. R.G.C.

July 31, 1891 – Ventura Free Press

NEW JERUSALEM NOTES – The men working at the head of the ditch have lots of fun catching fish in the dam with their hands when they get tangled up in the moss. Some are a foot long. Sam Johnson shot one in the water and the jar killed seven nice ones.

September 2, 1891 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

On motion of Supervisor Davis and seconded by Supervisor Willoughby the following resolution was adopted, to wit:

Resolved that (?) it is the sense of Board that the game laws relating to the protection of fish and game, and especially deer, be enforced in this County, and we urgently request all persons in possession of information or facts, of the violation of said laws, to lodge complaints of against the persons violating the laws, to the end that they may be prosecuted thereon.

November 19, 1891 – Los Angeles Times

STOCKING STREAMS WITH BROOK TROUT – Carson (Nev.,) Nov. 18 – Fish Commissioner Mills has gathered 800,000 eastern brook trout spawn in Nevada streams for the purpose of restoring our waters and assisting the California Fish Commission. Half of the catch goes to California. Deputy Fish Commissioner Byron Close and E.W. Hunt of California have already made six trips and will make a few more to bring the catch up to a million. When the eyes appear in the spawn transportation to California will take place. Commissioner Mills estimates the hatching of 98 per cent.

December 25, 1891 – New York Times

TROUT AND SALMON – From the *San Francisco Call,* Dec. 8 – The California Academy of Sciences was addressed last evening by Prof. David S. Jordan, President of Leland Stanford, Jr., University, on the trout and salmon of the Pacific Coast.

He first called the attention of the audience to the fact that the ancient Greeks and Latins knew nothing of these two fishes, and that the earliest mention of the trout was to be found in a poem written in the middle ages upon the River Moselle. Following the history of these two fishes he gave the derivation of the names applied to them, showing that for a long time they were thought to be one and the same fish in genus, but of different varieties.

In speaking of the trout he said: "The salmon, salmon trout and forelle are all three spotted with black; the charr, the finest in every way, lives in the coldest mountain lakes, and the thymallus, so named from the odor of thyme, better known as the grayling, is found in the big northern lakes.

There are usually no trout east of the neither Mississippi River, nor salmon trout either. Charr is called trout, but it has red spots, has smaller scales, and in many other details differs from the European trout. It is called the brook or speckled trout.

"Big trout, when found near the sea, were called salmon trout, but incorrectly so, as there is no such thing on the Atlantic coast.

"California has genuine trout, although not such as are found in Europe. Here is [showing a small trout to the audience] a fish called the Rocky Mountain trout, or the cutthroat tout, so named from a red splotch under its throat, which gives it the appearance of having had its throat cut. I think that name is the most proper, as it is distinctive.

"It is found in all the Western streams from Chihuahua up to Alaska, and even over to Kamchatka. Its scales are smaller and its mouth larger than the European trout, but I believe it to be the parent of all the varieties found. The difference, wherever it is found, will be discovered to be due to extraneous causes, and almost all the varieties are alike in their general formation."

The professor then called attention to the rainbow trout, so named by Mr. Gibbons of Alameda, and gave a general description of its noticeable points, after which he described a fish called the "steelhead'" so called by the salmon canners on account of the hardness of its bones, and stated that the believed it and the rainbow were one and the same, the steelhead found in the Columbia River being changed by having lived in the seas.

In concluding his remarks on trout, he said that all trout would run out to sea if they could easily do so, and that when they did they appeared to change in many ways, the principal of which was their increased size.

In regard to salmon, the speaker said: "When scientists went to look for salmon on the Pacific coast they found none, but found something far finer. In Europe salmon and trout differ only in the upper rows of teeth, the salmon shedding his as he grows older, while the trout always retains them.

"On the Pacific coast, however, there is always one certain and easily-noticed mark of difference between the two. In the trout the last lower fin has generally not over nine rays, sometimes ten, but in the salmon the rays range from thirteen to sixteen. In fact, the salmon in every way is built upon a more generous plan.

"Writers on the Pacific coast salmon have called attention to thirty-five different varieties, but later investigation has shown that they were all mixed up, and even the Southern Pacific reports are, so to speak, entirely at sea. Steller found in his researches five, which I believe is about correct, and game them names prefixed to salmon, which are generally used now among scientists. They are the king, dog, silver, blue-back, and humpback salmon. Of these the king salmon, or quinnat, as the Indians have named it, is the best fish all around, and is the one most used in the canneries."

Prof. Jordan gave a very detailed description of the cause of the salmon runs, and described the various changes to be seen in the fish when they commenced to run early in the Spring until November, the time of spawning, showing the fish at the start, perfect in form, and the gradual change in his form, due to not eating, tumbling over rocks in their climbing until at the spawning time it was seen a scraggy, alimy misshapen mass, not fit for anything at all, and dying ere it could get back to the sea. Incidentally he stated that they had been known to run up rivers until they were found in the streams in the Idaho mountains. He then explained that those which did not run so early were the fish desired by the canneries, as they were still plump, fat and full of oil.

1892

Rainfall – 11.98 Inches

Sparks' Catch – 677 Trout

March 3, 1892 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

In the matter of stocking Ventura County streams with Eastern Trout.

On motion of Supervisor Davis, seconded by Supervisor Arnold, it is ordered that Fish Comm., E.H. Myers procure Eastern Trout for the purpose of stocking streams of Ventura County. (Reported in the *Ventura Free Press*, March 4, 1892.)

March 11, 1892 – Ventura Free Press

STARVING THE TROUT – Said a fisherman, in speaking about stocking streams with fish: "The importation of carp has almost driven out trout in some localities and it was a great mistake in bringing them out. They literally eat up everything, even the grass and ducks. …A few years ago several million were brought out to California and I guess people are sorry now that they were brought out."

March 30, 1892 – The Ojai

THE VALLEY – It will be lawful to catch trout after April 1st.

April 1, 1892 – Ventura Free Press

BREVITIES – Today, the first of April, is the day when fishermen hie themselves away to the banks of the river. It is said that those who cannot get away the first day, the best sportsmen clean out the streams and in a few days there is nothing to catch.

April 6, 1892 – The Ojai

From the Ventura *Observer*. The fish law expired to-day, and the way the speckled beauties were transferred to baskets by fishermen has not been seen here in many a day. Ren. Cannon caught seventy-six this forenoon. Dr. Comstock caught two salmon trout that weighed about four and half pounds each. The banks of Ventura river were lined with fishermen for several miles, it is said.

April 6, 1892—Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

In the matter of the Fish Commissioner of Ventura County.

On motion of Supervisor Foster, seconded by Supervisor Willoughby, it is ordered that E.H. Myers, Fish Commissioner of Ventura County, be and he is hereby authorized to

remove certain obstructions to the passage of fish on North Fork of Matilija at an expense not to exceed $25.00

April 8, 1892 – Ventura Free Press

LOCAL BREVITIES – A number of fisherman since the first of the month have gone out and caught from 200 to 300 trout. Some people complain that these experts catch too many fish at any one time.

HELP THE FISH CLIMB – Fish Commissioner Myers has instruction from the Supervisors to go up to the north fork of the Matilija and blow out some bowlders lying in the stream, so that the trout can ascend to the headwaters. There are some fine trout in the stream. (Also appeared in *The Ojai*, April 13, 1892.)

April 12, 1892 – Los Angeles Times

The opening of the trout season this year was celebrated in San Gabriel Cañon…by the stocking of the stream with 25,000 Eastern Brook trout (*salmon fontinalis*.) …The Eastern trout are said to be harder to take than the California species. It is gratifying to know that the mountain streams of Southern California are receiving attention from the Fish Commission. There are many streams that might be stocked with excellent advantage, and there is no doubt that our enthusiastic anglers will derive the full benefit of all the fish that the Government chooses to cast into the water.

April 15, 1892 – Ventura Free Press

FILLMORE FILLINGS – Trout fishing is reported good. Some fine salmon trout two and three feet long being caught.

April 20, 1892 – The Ojai

THE VALLEY – Mr. E. H. Myers, the fish commissioner, was at Matilija on Tuesday of last week, superintending the opening of the north fork of Matilija creek, for the passage of trout up stream. A channel was dug around the falls near the hot springs which will open up about six miles more of trout stream. Mr. A. W. Blumberg, Mr. Myers and three others were three days at this work of blasting out rocks and cleaning out passages. Mr. Blumberg, who owns the land thereabouts, insisted on opening a passage around the falls for the fish, rather than to tear down the fall and thus destroy the beauty of the scenery. (Also appeared in the *Ventura Free Press*, April 22, 1892.)

Mr. Thomas R. Bard, of Hueneme, drove up to the Ojai from Santa Paula last Wednesday, and registered at the Hotel Oakdale. Thursday he angled for speckled beauties in the Matilija canon and on Friday returned to Santa Paula…

April 22, 1892 – Ventura Free Press

FILLMORE FILLINGS – M.E. Raymond caught 80 fine trout Sunday last. …Mr. C. S. Crocker and family came up from Los Angeles Tuesday to spend a month in the canyon camping and fishing.

NORDHOFF NOTES – A great many trout have been caught in the mountain brooks during the past three weeks.

SATICOY SIFTINGS – The Sespe is becoming quite a favorite with out fishermen. Messrs. Barnes and Fisbie brought down a fine string from there Wednesday. Oscar Harvey and Brunte brought down last week a good lot. Roadmaster John W. Graham came down Saturday with 200 trout from there.

May 4-5, 1892 – Ventura County Board of Supervisor's Minutes

In the matter of the Fish of Ventura County.

On motion of Supervisor Davis, seconded by Supervisor Willoughby, it ordered that E.H. Myers, Fish Comm., be and he is hereby authorized to put in a Fish Ladder in Santa Paula creek. (Reported in the *Ventura Free Press*, May 6, 1892.)

May 18, 1892 – The Ojai

ADVERTISEMENT – The Ojai Hot Springs, Matilija Canyon. A.W. Blumberg, Proprietor. Fifteen Miles from Ventura. Four and a Half Miles from Nordhoff. United States Mail Stage every day except Sunday.

Any one who is sick or wants an outing should go to the Ojai Hot Springs. The mountain scenery is the grandest on the coast, and the climate preferable to the far-famed Ojai. There are many springs of mineral and ordinary water, all soft as rain water. The hot mineral baths are the finest known. The spring, "Fountain of Life," is the great system regulator. It will cure the worst case of dyspepsia, kidney, liver or bowel complaint, constipation and general debility. The spring, "Mother Eve," will cure scrofulous and blood diseases, Bright's disease, dropsy, cancer, etc., and will break up an attack of malarial fever, pneumonia or la grippe. A cure is guaranteed in every case of rheumatism. Physicians say that the waters from the above-named springs are the best they have ever used. The hotel accommodations are good, with good home cooking and home-like people. A fine trout stream runs through the place, and there is plenty of game close by. Rates, $10 to $12 per week, including baths. Furnished rooms and tents to rent.

May 25, 1892 – The Ojai

THE VALLEY – Last Wednesday Wheeler and Ward Blumberg piloted a party of Ventura people over to Cottonwood Camp, on the Sespe, about twelve miles from the Matilija springs. …They reported to be catching trout by the barrelful…

VENTURA – Fish Commissioner Myers went out to Santa Paula creek May 18th to build a fish ladder up that stream. (From the *Ventura Free Press.*)

June 1, 1892 – The Ojai

NOTES FROM THE MATILIJA SPRINGS – Fish Commissioner Myers, hearing that some one had been killing trout in the neighborhood of the Matilija springs, took a trip up there last week, with "blood in his eyes." There seems to have been no foundation for the report, as he found no evidence of any such unsportsmanlike, unlawful work.

June 8, 1892 – The Ojai

NOTES FROM MATILIJA – Mr. J. M. Forbes,… a very sick man, is improving every day. He has left his bed and now about on foot. Both he and his good wife are lavish with their praises of the curative properties of the waters of the Matilija Springs. …Now he is wandering about buying and eating all the trout that are caught in the vicinity. (Also reported in the *Ventura Free Press* June 17, 1892.)

June 8, 1892 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

In the matter of the appointment of a Fish Commissioner for Ventura County.

Petition signed by one hundred or more residents of Ventura County received, asking the appointment of E.H. Myers as Fish Commissioner of Ventura County for the ensuring year at a monthly salary to be paid by the Board on motion of Supervisor Arnold, seconded by Supervisor Davis it is ordered that said petition be laid on table until next regular session of the Board.

June 17, 1892 – Ventura Free Press

MATILIJA NEWS – Fish, strawberries, chicken and other good things are on the bills of fare at this popular resort nowadays.

A party went from here to the Cuyama last week and brought back hundreds of trout. So many that not only was the hotel but the tents called into requisition in disposing of them. They were good, too.

The canal, which the county cut around the falls in the North Fork of the Matilija near the Springs, under the supervision of Fish Commissioner, E. H. Myers, has proved a success. Fish are now found in plentiful quantities two and one-half miles at least above the falls.

July 4, 1892 – Los Angeles Times
VENTURA COUNTY – The County Fish Commissioners expects a lot of brook trout form the United States Fish Commission between now and October 1 with which to stock our streams.

July 8, 1892 – Ventura Free Press

LOCAL BREVITIES – E.H. Myers has received a letter from Marshall McDonald, U. S. Fish Commissioner, in which he says he will furnish a supply of brook trout between this and the first of October for this county. They will be delivered at Eureka. (Also reported July 4, 1892, *Los Angeles Times* and July 6, 1892, *The Ojai*.)

From a gentleman who just came down from the Matilija, it is learned that the water in the stream is very low and before the season is over the supply is likely to get very short. It is highly probably that our present water supply will have to be used with care or there will be a famine.

July 19, 1892 – Santa Barbara Daily Independent

A SCENIC ROUTE – The most magnificent view in the whole county of Santa Barbara, and in fact, few counties even in California can match it, is from the toll road through the San Marcos Pass, on the heights of Santa Ynez. Before the traveler is spread a wide vista of valley, channel and islands. One can see from Carpinteria to Gaviota on the main land. It is no wonder that tourists so often choose this stage route to enjoy this marvelous scenery. Then they have the gem of valleys on the side, the beautiful Santa Ynez, with its superb hunting for the sportsmen and its streams full of trout for the wary fisherman. (Editor's note: This paragraph appeared in successive issues with the advertisements.)

August 3, 1892 – Santa Barbara Daily Independent

TAKE A VACATION – At this season of the year, there are many people who are starting off on their annual camping trips. They do not go away because they expect to find more beautiful surroundings or more agreeable climate—either would be impossible. They go simply for a change, and that only.

We have heard it said that one of the nicest things about "camping" was the delight one experienced on returning home. The cleanly inviting beds, the cool, airy sitting-room and the delights of one's own dining table are never so fully appreciated as on returning from a trip where most or all of these blessings have been wanting.

A change is good for all—even if the change brings no lessened labor. We believe everyone should have a vacation at least once a year, and camping in California mountains or a cruise among the beautiful channel islands works wonders to all.

The interest in the islands is steadily on the increase each year. Everyone who goes there comes home with wondrous tales of the beauty of the scenery, the entirely new plant-life and the peculiarly invigorating effects of the atmosphere. The time must come speedily when people will flock there by thousands and demand better accommodations than the small sailboats which now ply between this city and the islands at irregular intervals.

August 3, 1892 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

In the matter of Fish Comm.:

On motion of Supervisor Willoughby, seconded by Supervisor Arnold, it is ordered that E.H. Myers be and he is hereby authorized to receive fish from Shaw Hatchery and act as guide for the purpose of distributing same in the streams of Ventura County.

August 26, 1892 – Ventura Free Press

Dr. Comstock showed us the other day a rainbow trout that had been caught from the wharf. It has long been a perplexing question whether the fresh water trout went down to the sea, but it would seem from this that they did.

September 28, 1892 – The Ojai

GAME LAWS AS AMENDED BY THE LAST LEGISLATURE -- …Every person who takes, catches, or kills, or exposes for sale, or has in his possession, any speckled trout, brook or salmon trout, or any variety of trout, between the first day of November and the first day of April in the following year, except salmon trout taken with a rod and line in tide water, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

November 16, 1892 – The Ojai

THE OJAI HOT SPRINGS –(From the Santa Monica *Outlook*.) The junior of the *Outlook* enjoyed a very pleasant visit from our old friend A.W. Blumberg, of Matilija, last Sunday. (Description and curative powers of the hot springs.) …Mountain streams teem with speckled beauties awaiting the rod, and the hills and canons abound with game of every description…

1 8 9 3

Rainfall – 26.36 Inches

Sparks' Catch – 179 Trout

February 22, 1893 – The Ojai

GEOGRAPHY OF VENTURA COUNTY – (Los Angeles *Express* "Southern California Edition.") Over one and a quarter million acres of Southern California's richest land lies along the coast between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties, and is known as Ventura county. (Description of county boundaries.) …Through these valleys flow streams of never-failing water which furnish an abundant supply for all purposes. (Description of the different valleys.) …On the north of these lies the beautiful Santa Clara, reaching from Newhall, or Saugus, on the Southern Pacific Railroad, to the ocean at San Buenaventura-by-the-Sea. A more charming or fertile valley cannot be found. The Santa Clara River traverses this valley its entire length and is never dry. (Town descriptions.) …Ventura county is well watered, having the Santa Clara, the Ventura, the Santa Paula, the Sespe and the Piru rivers, for the larger streams, and numerous little creeks flowing from many of the canons in all directions. Artesian wells are easily obtained in many sections of the county, which, together with common wells and springs afford an ample supply of water.

March 1, 1893 – The Ojai

ADVERTISEMENT – Mountain Guide and completed camping outfit. Saddle and pack animals, provisions, blankets, tent, guns, fishing tackle—including my services as cook and guide—at the rate of $2.50 per day for each member of the party. Everything furnished for a trip to the Sespe, Pine Mountain and Hot Sulphur Springs. Clarence Patton, Nordhoff, Ojai Valley, Cal.

A NOVEL DIVERTISEMENT FOR TOURISTS – Mr. Charles Patton, a steady, reliable young man who is an expert hunter and fisherman, and has a thorough knowledge of the mountains of this section, has gone into business of guide and outfitter for parties who wish to enlarge their experiences…

March 10, 1893 – Ventura Free Press

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – Wednesday, March 8th. Petition for the appointment of a Fish Commissioner was held under advisement.

J.L. Harrison was appointed Fish and Game Commissioner of Ventura Co., to receive $3 per day, but not to exceed $300 per year. (Reported in *The Ojai,* March 22, 1893.)

March 29, 1893 – The Ojai

NEWS FROM THE MATILIJA – The river is falling rapidly and will be in fine condition for trout fishing on the 1st.

April 5, 1893 – The Ojai

THE POOR TROUT! – The ominous preparations of long poles, strong but almost invisible lines, cruel barbed hooks and deceitful flies that have been making for some time, culminated last Saturday, when the fish law opened for all comers, in a concerted attack on the pretty little trout in the brooks. The Ojai is a favorable place for this sport. Parties living near San Antonio creek made expeditions across the valley to the Matilija; --and the rule of go far to make the attack was generally observed. The boys whose wisdom teeth haven't sprouted yet, went down the streams to deep water; the old boys who have whipped the streams before, went up where there was less water. The harvest has been a few fish and a good many stories. But a circumstance worrying those who were foot-sore from much walking, was that a local sport, who evidently knew a thing or two and kept it to himself, caught more, and bigger, fish in the Nordhoff creek, in the very heart of town, than did those who went on horse-back or in carriages to remote parts to do their fishing.

EDITOR – *The Ojai* acknowledges a pleasant call last Wednesday from Mr. E.H. Myers, late Fish Commissioner of Ventura County. Mr. J.L. Harrison, of the Simi, who preceded Mr. Myers as Fish Commissioner, has been reappointed to that position. Mr. Myers will continue his interest in the pisciculture of Ventura county, however, to the extent of rendering any service to the new commissioner or giving any information in regard to the streams in the county he can. He has promised *The Ojai* an article on the brook fish of this section.

April 16, 1893 – Los Angeles Times

ADVERTISEMENT – Before returning East why not spend a few days at Ventura-by-the-sea. Hotel Rose offers first-class accommodations at reasonable rates. The streams about Ventura abound with trout. Take Southern Pacific cars at Arcade depot. Round trip ticket good for ten days, $4.50.

April 21, 1893 – Ventura Free Press

Bert Cooper comes to the front with the biggest fish story of the season. On the 17th he shot a fish of the Lake Tahoe variety, in the Matilija, that measured 29 ¾ inches and weighing 6 ¼ pounds.

Mr. Callingham and Mr. Morrow, of Los Angeles, all insurance officials, visited the Ojai and Matilija, on Thursday. They were out for pleasure and "speckled beauties." They seemed to be having plenty of the former, but the latter was expected "by and by."

May 3, 1893 – The Ojai

From the *Santa Paula Chronicle*. Information has reached us that Alex Grad is daily catching enough trout up at the Matilija to supply the table at the hotel where he stops. W shall expect to hear some big fish stories when he returns.

IN THE MATILIJA – The Matilija creek is being constantly whipped for trout, and large numbers of the pretty little things are foolish enough to get caught.

May 3, 1893 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

In the matter of the appointment of a Fish and Game Commissioner of Ventura County.

On motion Supervisor Arnold, seconded by Supervisor Bell it is ordered that J. L. Harrison be and he is hereby appointed Fish and Game Commissioner of Ventura County at a compensation of $3.00 per day for the time actually engaged in the service of the County provided however that such compensation shall not exceed the sum of $300.00.

May 31, 1893 – The Ojai

SUBLIME MATILIJA – (Editor R.A. Dague in the *Santa Paula Chronicle*, May 19th.) The editor spent several days last week and an equal number of days this week, at the Matilija Hot Sulphur Springs, twenty miles north-westward from Santa Paula. (Description of the Springs and surrounding areas.) …We found on coming her that Santa Paula was well represented. Up the cañon a mile and a half from where we write was L.B. Hogue, who is getting "fat and sassy" camping out and eating fresh trout. Then there is Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Carle. …If any enemy of Mr. Carle or Mr. Hogue should report at Santa Paula that there are fewer fish in the river Monday morning than on Saturday night let such tattler be squelched forthwith, or sooner, as a back-biter, for the editor having angled for fish on two or three separate occasions without getting a nibble, has concluded that Alex. Gray caught all of them before he left, except those that in a spirit of accommodation remained to be taken by Mrs. Carrie Youngken. Everyday Mrs. Youngken goes to the river and catches a "mess" of trout that Alex. Gray left. ...and the editor bait their hooks with the same kind of worms that Mrs. Youngken uses; we fish around the same rocks, but the obstinate, scaly little fellows decline to be hooked…

June 9, 1893 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

In the matter of the passage of and adoption of Ordinance No. 71 restricting the killing of game in Ventura County.

On motion of Supervisor Hartman, seconded by Supervisor Bell, that Ordinance No. 71, be passed and adopted, as presented and read, the vote being taken on the above motion resulted as follows:

Votes Supervisor Davis Aye

Supervisor Arnold	Aye
Supervisor Bell	Aye
Supervisor Grant	Aye
Supervisor Hartman	Aye

June 14, 1893 – The Ojai

Ventura *Democrat*. Jesus Maria Quijada caught a salmon in the Ventura river, at the Rice ranch, near the Matilija, the other day, that measured thirty inches in length and 11 ¾ inches in diameter. Mr. Quijada says that there is no necessity of going to the Sespe or any other place to catch fish, as you can find all kinds, shapes and sizes in the Ventura river.

July 5, 1893 – The Ojai

IN AND OUT OF MATILIJA – Ed. Todd and L.T. Corey have returned from their outing at the Matilija. Mr. Todd began telling the *Chronicle* man how many bears they caught but on close enquiry we found they meant bear-fish. By thus explaining they saved their reputation for truth and veracity.

July 12, 1893 – The Ojai

TOWN TALK – Clarence Patton, the mountain guide, last Thursday brought us a note from our friend Sol N. Sheridan, night editor of the San Francisco *Call*, who is now over on White Rock creek, eating trout, filling his lungs with pure mountain air, and, of course—writing. His trip will be written up for *Outing*, and one of his entertaining stories is promised for *The Ojai.*

July 24, 1893 – Los Angeles Times

GAME LAW CHANGES – The uncertainty regarding the game laws has been the subject of much comment recently among sportsmen. Over the entire State the boards of supervisors have been changing the opening and closing days of the various seasons referring to the different kinds of game. A brief list of the amendments to the general game law made in the southern counties will doubtless prove both of value and interest to local sportsmen. Under the general law of the State the killing of game and catching of fish are confined to the following seasons: …trout from April 1 to November 1.

July 26, 1893 – The Ojai

CAMP LIFE IN THE MATILIJA – Written for *The Ojai*. …a second reason for interest in the Matilija is its climate. It is generally cool and pleasant all through the summer, a refreshing breeze always blowing one way or the other through the cañon. …A third reason is its scenery and the opportunities for fishing afforded…

August 2, 1893 – The Ojai

TENTING AT CLIFF GLEN – Santa Barbara *Press.* The following sketch, taken from a private letter dated Matilija, July 18th, by Mrs. W. G. Kinsell, to a lady acquaintance of hers in this city, will no doubt, prove of interest to may of our subscribers. Some forty people are tenting about the Glen. …the mercury is 100 degrees in the shade. We do not mind the heat, however. …Trout have been pretty well thinned out near camp, but knowing anglers go a longish tramp up cañon and bring back heavy strings. Our next neighbor brought in 105 a few evenings ago…

August 9, 1893 – The Ojai

IN THE VALLEY OF SHELLS – Written for *The Ojai.* A party of seven started from the little town of Nordhoff to visit friends in the Cuyama valley, catch trout in the Sespe, shoot deer and bear, and have a good time in general. To show that one need not get dry, one of the party, having been over the road, thought that the number of times one crosses and recrossed the Matilija would be of interest; counted from the first crossing near the Matilija school-house to the last crossing at the foot of Ortega hill, the number was sixty-four. (Description of the area.) …Onward we march and cross the Sespe creek,--but up this high the stream is dry…

August 16, 1893 – The Ojai

OJAI AND MATILIJA – Y.H. Addis in the San Francisco *Traveler* for August. (Account is about the history, geology and beauty of the area.) …The Matilija proper and the North Fork are excellent trout streams, affording good sport,--and game, too, is abundant…

September 13, 1893 – The Ojai

On Tuesday evening of last week Mr. W. H. Shebley and Frank L. Montgomery, agents of the California Fish Commission, brought down 10,000 rainbow trout from Sissions, Siskiyou Co., and placed them in the Santa Paula creek, at the Ferndale. The application was made by Mr. A.C. Dietz. The fish were brought down in four large cans, and so closely do they have to be watched that fresh air must be pumped into the water every seven minutes and by the use of ice the water is kept at an even temperature all the time.—*Santa Paula News*. (Article also appeared in the *Ventura Free Press* September 15, 1893, with some additional sentences.) …Mr. Shebley started with twelve cans, but sent four of them to Visalia by another agent and four to Bakersfield. All lovers of the rod will be greatly pleased at the prospect of having some of this variety of trout in our streams. Mr. Shebley will start next Saturday in charge of another shipment consisting of 55,000 trout to be distributed in some of the streams in San Bernardino and San Diego counties.

October 11, 1893 – The Ojai

MORE TOWN TALK – With October expires the open season for trout fishing.

1 8 9 4

Rainfall – 7.41 Inches

Sparks' Catch – 88 Trout

March 16, 1894 – Ventura Free Press

STOCKING OUR STREAMS – Fish Commissioner J.L. Harrison received on Wednesday twenty thousand small eastern brook trout to be distributed in the headwaters of the Ventura river. Mr. Harrison being on the sick list, he deputized F.E. Taylor to place the fish in the tributary streams of the river. What Frank doesn't know about fish, is not worth one's while to learn, and it will not be a great while until our fishermen will be bringing in strings of the beauties. This county enjoys an enviable reputation already for fine trout fishing, and some of the streams among the hills abound with trout. Those placed Wednesday are a new species in this region, and if they take kindly to the existing conditions the number will be increased shortly. The fish were about three quarters of an inch long and apparently in good condition. A large piece of ice was placed in each can, containing the fish, as it is necessary to keep the water at a low temperature for trout.

LOCAL BREVITIES – Birdie Bristol last week found on a sand bar in the river a large salmon trout floundering around. He tried to capture Mr. Trout but found it too much for him so he buried him in the sand and went for the assistance of his big brother, Clare. The trout was captured and measured 27 inches, weighing about six pounds. Clare Bristol afterwards caught five or six more which he found on sand bars and in shallow pools in the river bed. No doubt hunting these fish while the river is shallow as now would prove good sport.

April 3, 1894 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

Report of J.L. Harrison Fish Commissioner of Ventura County was received and ordered placed on file.

April 4, 1894 – The Ojai

TOWN TALK – The fishing fever is about as epidemic as the grippe. Neither age, sex nor previous servitude are considered. Coming up from Ventura last Sunday, we had an opportunity to note how generally people were "struck." At the Chinese gardens at Cañada Larga were a number of buggies and 'busses', and on the bank of the stream was quite a crowd of men. We were wondering what the trouble was, when getting another view, a dozen fish poles, clumped within about a hundred feet, were silhouetted. There was a constant slap, slap of the lines on the water, and if any fish remained in that neighborhood it was probably sacred into an epileptic fit. In several places we saw fair fishers throwing lines from buggies standing in the stream. Bicyclists with fish poles were numerous as berries in a huckleberry patch. But how about the catch?

April 5, 1894 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

In the matter of the appointment of a Fish Commissioner of Ventura County for ensuing year.

On motion of Supervisor Grant, seconded by Supervisor Arnold is ordered that J. L. Harrison be and he is hereby reappointed Fish Commissioner of Ventura County for the ensuring year, upon the same terms and conditions under which he served for past year.

In the matter of the passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 77 providing for the protection of fish and game in Ventura County.

On motion of Supervisor Arnold, seconded by Supervisor Hartman it is ordered that Ordinance No. 77 be passed and adopted as presented and read.

The roll being called on the passage and adoption of said Ordinance No. 77 the members of the Board voted as follows:

Supervisor	F.E. Davis	Aye
Supervisor	W.H. Arnold	Aye
Supervisor	F. Hartman	Aye
Supervisor	Thos. Bell	Aye
Supervisor	K.P. Grant being absent.	

On motion of Supervisor Harman, seconded by Supervisor Bell it is ordered that said Ordinance No. 77 be published in the Ventura Democrat.

April 11, 1894 – The Ojai

IN AND OUT OF MATILIJA – Mr. F.W. Hubby made a very successful catch of trout last week.

A fishing party started for the Sespe Monday morning, and are expected home to-day with a goodly string of trout—or something.

April 18, 1894 – The Ojai

TROUT FISHERS, BEWARE – A New County Game Law of Especial Interest in the Ojai. On April 5th the Board of Supervisors of Ventura county adopted a new game law, which is more particularly of interest in the Ojai and Santa Paula districts than any other sections of the county. (Complaint that new ordinance, No. 77, was not published in *The Ojai*.)

Section 5. Section one of Ordinance No. 53 of the county of Ventura, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 1. Any person, persons, corporation or corporations, owning in whole or in part, or leasing, operating, or having in charge any mill-race,

irrigating ditch or canal, taking or receiving its waters from or emptying or discharging its waters into any river, creek or stream in this county in which fish have been placed or may exist, shall put or cause to be placed and maintained over both the inlet and outlet of said ditch, canal or mill-race a screen of such construction and fineness, strength and quality as shall prevent any such fish from entering such …when required to do so by the fish commissioner of said county…

Section 6. No person shall take or catch, nor have in his possession, in any one day, from any stream or streams in Ventura county, more than fifty fish; neither shall any person take, catch nor have in his possession for market, any fish from any stream or streams…

April 25, 1894 – The Ojai

HO! FOR THE SESPE – Messsr. Meyer, Crowley, Maddow and Misses Meyer, Ayers, Maddox and Elmer Vancuren, started for the Sespe, Monday morning. They propose to camp out, depopulate the trout streams (at the rate of not over fifty a day for each member of the party)…

Messrs. Stewart and Harlow went over to the Sespe a week or so ago "armed to the teeth" with fishing tackle. We haven't heard whether any fish are now in the Sespe or not.

May 2, 1894 – The Ojai

MATILIJA – Mr. Hanna, who spent last week at Cliff Glen, returned to Los Angeles Saturday, carrying with him a basket of fine mountain trout.

May 5, 1894 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

In the matter of publication of Ordinance No. 77.

Affidavit of B.A. Sykes publisher of the Ventura Free Press, having been received and filed showing the publication of Ordinance No. 77, in said newspaper for two issues, (?) the issue of _____1894;

On motion of Supervisor Harman seconded by Supervisor Bell it is ordered that said Ordinance No. 77 has been duly published and the publication thereof is hereby approved.

May 16, 1894 – The Ojai

MATILIJA – Dr. Edwin P. Bradbury of Boston, Mass., and Walter S. Sawyer of Santa Barbara, spent Saturday and Sunday at the Springs and succeeded in angling a dozen fine trout.

Robert Fulton of Santa Barbara has joined Mrs. Fulton at the Springs and is taking out his regular daily legal allowance of fifty beautiful trout.

May 20, 1894 – Los Angeles Times

THE MATILIJA HOT SPRINGS – L.M. Brown of the City Clerk's office, who has been sojourning at Matilija Hot Springs in Ventura county, for some weeks, is rapidly improving and hopes to return entirely cured. Mr. Brown speaks in the highest terms of the springs, and in a recent letter says: "Matilija Canyon is a branch of the river, and have been well stocked with trout, is now chock full of this gamey little fish and he is a poor sportsman who cannot land fifty to one hundred every day…"

May 23, 1894 – The Ojai

THE OJAI INN – The guests of the Inn were treated to fresh mountain trout for their Sunday dinner.

MATILIJA – The fishing and hunting grows better daily at the Springs.

June 13, 1894 – Los Angeles Times

IN SOCIAL SPHERES – A number of young folks from Newhall went on a fishing expedition last week on the Piru River in Ventura county. They report having a nice time, having caught quite a number of mountain tout; the merry party returned home, having been out four days. Those that composed the party were the following: Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Drew, Miss Ida Graves, Messrs N.J. Pico, Alfred Downs and Charles Graves.

June 30, 1894 – Ventura Free Press

LOCAL BREVITIES – Fish Commissioner J.L. Harrison received a telegram Tuesday announcing that 30,000 Tahoe and rainbow trout would arrive on Saturday. They will be distributed at once in various streams in the county.

July 23, 1894 – Los Angeles Times

SPORTING NEWS – Deputy Fish Commissioner J.L. Harrison of Ventura, has received 30,000 Tahoe and rainbow trout for distribution in the various streams of that county.

July 24, 1894 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing tackle at Mrs. G.D. Hoge's.

August 1, 1894 – The Ojai

AMONG THE PINES – Monday, July 9th, the editor, his son, Earl, Mr. A.W. Blumberg, and Mr. L.A. Patton, of the Sespe country, who acted as guide, caravaneer and chef, left Nordhoff for a trip to Pine Mountain. (Several page article about the area, topography, water, flora, and local stories.) …The Piedra Blanca creek is a good trout stream…

September 21, 1894 – Ventura Free Press

LOCAL BREVITIES – Fish Commissioner J.L. Harrison on Wednesday, received fifteen thousand Tahoe, and ten thousand Rainbow trout, for distribution in Ventura county streams. Part of the consignment was taken off the train at Piru, and part at Santa Paula, the balance being brought to Ventura. Mr. Harrison now has his hands full getting them where they will do the most good. *The Ojai* on September 26th carried the same story, but reported that the fish "were distributed in the headwaters of the Sespe, Santa Paula and Matilija streams." …"Thus far all the fish that have been placed in the different streams of the county have done splendidly." (This story was also reported in the *Los Angeles Times* on September 24, 1894.)

1 8 9 5

Rainfall – 17.97 Inches

Sparks' Catch – 379 Trout

March 9, 1895 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

Annual Report of Fish and Game Commissioner is received and on motion of Supervisor Grant seconded by Supervisor Bell it is ordered placed on file.

March 27, 1895 – The Ojai

TOWN TALK – A fish story, which is not a fish story, is told by P.L. Smith, of the Ojai Hot Springs. He says that Bert Cooper, a young man working for him, was riding on horseback through the creek when he saw a big salmon trout in the water. Reaching down, he grabbed the fish by the fins, and landed his prize safe on horseback. –*Venturian*

April 17, 1895 – The Ojai

TOWN TALK – Judge and Mrs. James McKee and Mrs. McKee's brother, Mr. Richard Holt, are spending the week among the mountains, catching "speckled beauties."

May 3, 1895 – Ventura Free Press

BRIGGS ITEMS – The returned fishermen from Agua Blanca found Will Whitaker making many improvements. He with C.J. French of Piru as partner, have four artificial ponds, from five to twenty-five feet deep and thirty to sixty feet long, twenty-five hundred feet above sea level, stocked with the eastern brook trout; the real speckled beauties of our boyhoods dream. About two years ago they commenced operations. Of the first ten thousand shipped, owing to the carelessness of an agent, only about three hundred lived; they have, however, since been very successful with their shipments. Within a short time we shall avail ourselves of a cordial invitation to eat trout with them. The hatchery is situated in Whitaker Portrero, on the mountain, five hundred feet above Agua Blanca creek. The ponds are supplied wholly from springs of the coldest and purest water.

May 7, 1895 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

In the matter of the appointment of a Game Warden for Ventura County.

Moved by Supervisor Bell, seconded by Supervisor Harman, it is ordered this county do not appoint a Game Warden of Ventura County.

On motion of Supervisor Grant, seconded by Supervisor Bell, J.L. Harrison is hereby employed to receive from the State Games Warden the consignment of fish to be shipped

to Ventura County for the purpose of stocking the Streams of said County and to place said fish in the Streams of the County at such places as is his judgment serve most beneficial, said J.L. Harrison to receive as compensation for such services the sum of $3.00 per day for time actually engaged the total amount not to exceed $25.00.

May 10, 1895 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

On motion of Supervisor Harman, seconded by Supervisor Bell it is ordered that the proposition of E.H. Myers in relation to fish and game warden be referred to the District Attorney.

May 15, 1895 – The Ojai

TOWN TALK – J.L. Harrison, the Fish Commissioner, a few days ago placed 20,000 Eastern brook trout in the Sespe and Santa Paula creeks.

May 31, 1895 – Ventura Free Press

TO SAVE THE TROUT – The California Fish Commissioner has directed Deputy Fish Commissioner Harrison to request ditch-owners to screen their ditches at once, in compliance with the new screen law. The commission has been to a very considerable expense in stocking the streams of this county, having planted 62,500 trout in the past fourteen months. It is their intention to have the law strictly enforced and Deputy Harrison has already notified the ditch owners to screen their ditches. The text of the new screen law is as follows: Sec. 629—Penal Code (similar language as County Ordinance No. 53.)

June 6, 1895 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

Report of J.L. Harrison, Deputy Fish Commissioner, received and ordered placed on file.

June 10, 1895 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes

Communication received from the Piru Fish Company relative to raising Trout for market. On motion of Supervisor Grant, seconded by Supervisor Hartman, said communication is referred to the District Attorney.

June 19, 1895 – The Ojai

NEW GAME LAW – The following article on the new game law is from the *California Cultivator*, and is believed to correct some errors in an article recently copied from another exchange:

Following is a condensation of the game laws enacted by the recent Legislature, the Supervisors having no jurisdiction in the matter: …Every person who takes, catches or kills, or exposes for sale, or has in his possession, speckled brook or salmon trout, or any

variety of trout, between November 1st and April 1st in the following year, or any one who takes or catches any trout except with hook and line, is guilty of a misdemeanor. It is unlawful to buy or sell any kind of trout less than six inches long…

June 21, 1895 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FROM SANTA PAULA SULPHUR SPRINGS – Quite a village of white tents has grown up in this delightful spot within the last few weeks and a very good-sized colony of pleasure-seekers now inhabit this peaceful valley nestled down among the mountains within sound of the rushing SirSar and in the shadow of the circling groves of grand old oaks… (Description of the area, flora and fauna.) …Plenty of fine trout to be caught in the clear waters of the neighboring creek and lots of pleasant rambles in and about the camp grounds.

June 26, 1895 – The Ojai

ADVERTISEMENT – The Ojai Hot Springs Matilija Canyon, P.L. Smith, Proprietor. Anyone who is sick or wants an outing should go to the Ojai Hot Springs…The hot mineral baths are the finest known, and cure the following diseases: Rheumatism, Catarrh, Erysipelae, Dyspepsia, Chronic Diarrhoea, Sore Eyes, Liver and Kidney Complaint, La Grippe, Piles, Neuralgia, Sick Headache, Cancer, Syphilis, and all kinds of Blood and Skin Diseases. …A fine trout stream runs through the place and there is plenty of game close by.

TOWN TALK – Phillip Stoll and John Phillipi, of Los Angeles, and Peter Neil of Pasadena, were piloted to Cottonwood Camp, in the Sespe, by Wheeler Blumberg, last week. They had all the fish they could eat.

June 28, 1895 – Santa Paula Chronicle

THE SANTA PAULA SULPHUR SPRINGS – About 150 persons were rusticating at the Springs last Sunday… On all sides the remark was made that the Santa Paula Sulphur springs is a much finer pleasure resort than any in the Matilija canyon. …At the present time the amusements consist principally of fishing, swinging and social pic-nicing.

August 28, 1895 – The Ojai

TOWN TALK – Last Monday a note was received from Prof. Reese by a friend in Nordhoff, stating that he and Charlie Matthews had killed neither deer nor bear, so far, but had seen plenty of tracks. He said they were having good luck in trout fishing.

December 14, 1895 – New York Times

FROM THE *PORTLAND OREGON* – The general public has always considered the "steelhead" a salmon, but some have maintained that it is a trout. Dr. David Starr Jordan, the piscatorial expert, now at the head of the Stanford University, after exhaustive

research some five years since declared that the steelhead is a member of the trout family. That settled it, as far as Dr. Jordan is concerned, but now the California courts are to look into the question and decide whether he is right or not.

The California Legislature, at its last session, passed an act prohibiting the sale of any trout in that State between Nov. 1 and April 1. The Fish Commissioners of California have decided to enforce the law, according to the decision of Dr. Jordan, and notified all fish dealers that if they attempted to handle or sell any steelhead trout they would be arrested.

The fisherman and dealers did not take kindly to this edict, and decided to fight the Fish Commissioners, and Dr. Jordan's decision in the courts, and a fund was raised to employ competent counsel. As soon as the first steelhead arrives in the San Francisco market the Fish Commissioners will be notified, and the steelhead will be sold to a deputy, who will be given a bill of sale of it, and the fish dealer will surrender as soon as a warrant is issued for his arrest, in order to get the question decided by the courts as speedily as possible.

1 8 9 6

Rainfall – 11.46 Inches

Sparks' Catch – 462 Trout

January 25, 1896 – The Ojai

OBSERVATIONS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA – By Dr. W.P. Wesselhoeft of Boston, Mass. (We copy the following from a paper sent to *The Ojai*. Dr. Wesselhoeft is the leader of the followers of Hahnemann in Boston. Those of our readers who are not of the Homeopathic faith will also be interested in his estimate of the Ojai and Sespe climates.) [Several columns devoted to describing the area and the benefits to health.] …Quail, pigeons, rabbit and deer abound here, and the trout fishing is excellent…

February 9, 1896 – Los Angeles Times

PISICULTURE. HOW CALIFORNIA BREEDS THE FINNY FELLOWS. PERPETUATING SPORT FOR OUR BOLD FISHERMEN. …The people of California, however, have always entertained a deep interest in their fish. The natural waterways are so numerous within her borders, so perfectly the ideal home of the trout; the scenery is so romantic, the air so health-giving… As for the game fish, those of which this article shall treat, they are propagated and preserved primarily for the benefit of sportsmen and hunters. And why not? It is worth a trip from New York to unreel a line beside a stream in the mountains of California. The excellence of trout-fishing is one of the greatest attractions of the Golden State. As this feature becomes yearly more advertised throughout the east, the summer excursionists and vacationists will increase in numbers.

…Hundreds, nay thousands, of people, during the summer season, leave the cities of this State and distribute themselves through the valleys along trout streams. They take from the streams annually many tons of fish, and experience has demonstrated that if there were not some means of checking this continual take and replenishing the numbers, in a few years the trout would be practically extinct within the State. (Explanation of laws, fish commission, hatcheries and planting.)

…There are many varieties of the trout in California and scientists have difficulty in classifying them. Some of the indigenous varieties are the Rainbow, the Steel Head, so-called from the color and hardness of his head, the Cut-throat, called from a red streak across his throat…The eastern brook trout is an exotic…and is distinguished from the natives by his beautiful marbleized back markings while the native has spots. …It is unfortunate, perhaps, that these beautiful fish are mainly denizens of the northern and central portions of the State. Many efforts have been made to keep trout in the rivers of Southern California, but these have not met with the success that was experienced in the north.

March 28, 1896 – The Ojai

TOWN TALK – R.E. Harrow reports the late snowstorm as covering the Sespe Valley with an even fall of three and a half feet. He walked over immediately after the storm…and arrived at his father's place in seven hours…The trout are large and plentiful in the streams.

March 30, 1896 – Santa Barbara Daily News

IN AND ABOUT THE CITY – Mr. P.H. Duryea, Mr. Canfield and several other gentlemen left today for San Cruz Cañon, where they will camp a couple of weeks. The party leaves on a trout fishing excursion and will be at the cañon when the season opens, April 1.

April 2, 1896 – Los Angeles Times

ALL ALONG THE LINE – Ventura county is rich in trout streams, and yesterday those streams were fished from end to end by disciples of Izaak Walton…

April 3, 1896 – Ventura Weekly Democrat

MISC. – The disciples of Isaac Walton were out with their fishing tackle whipping the river, at a very early hour, Wednesday morning. We haven't heard any marvelous fish yarns nor have we seen any fish, yet we learn that a few were caught. We are told that so far as the situation has been explored, trout is either scarce this season or not very hungry. The catches were light and many of the fish hooked, so small they were thrown back into the water. This report, however, comes from a party who don't know how to fish and may be taken with large gobs of salt. …"Jap" Middleswarth met with the most success as a Nimrod on the 1st, having caught a "jag" that weighed 11 lbs. 9 ounces…

April 3, 1896 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA COUNTY –The trout-fishing season opened today and from end to end the Ventura River has been whipped by disciples of Izaak Walton of high and low degree. About sixty fishermen from this city went out before daylight this morning to gather in fish and glean material for fish stories for the ensuring year. The fish are rather plentiful this year and some good catches were made; but truth told the large majority of the anglers caught more experience than fish. The Magnolia Fishing Club of Ventura went out last night, and dividing the river from the Orena ranch to the city line in sections, fished for the annual championship. Tonight at eight o'clock strings will be counted, and weights announced, when the prizes will be awarded and the champion's name made public.

On the Sespe, Dr. J.L. Crawford of Los Angeles and a party of friends are making the old Dye place the headquarters, and fishing Sespe Creek. As this party are veterans at fly fishing some record-breaking catches are an assured fact.

The small boy has been in his glory and discarding all established rules he brought home more fish than most of the expert fly fishers. One little chap informed the Times correspondent that "flies was no good," worms and two hooks were good enough for him, and he evidently told the truth, as he had a string of about thirty odd speckled victims of his bamboo and angle-worm outfit.

There are a few salmon in the river, one or two of which were caught by spearing. Taken as a whole, the season bids fair to be up to the average as regards quantity and quality of trout. The upper reaches of the streams are the best this year, as there has been no high water and the fish are heading well up stream.

April 3, 1896 – Ventura Free Press

Ventura County should have a fish and game warden. The illegal killing of game and fish should receive the attention of the authorities, and the only way to bring this about is to place the matter in expert hands. Last season…thousands of trout were destroyed by poaching fishermen. Ventura is one of the best stocked counties in Southern California, but wild game and fish are doomed unless some measure of local protection is adopted, and that soon.

YOU CAN CATCH TROUT – Big and Little, Young and Old Went Fishing. The Magnolia Fishing Club Will Patent a New Method for Catching Trout. Wednesday the trout season opened, and fishermen developed in every hamlet in this county. Never in the history of the gentle sport was the interest so great. Never was the desire for brain food so fully developed! (Comparison of the small boy with pole and worm versus the piscatorial expert with expensive equipment, and the boy did better.) …In spite of the thousands (by count millions) taken, there are a few more left for the regular anglers who, like veterans, follow the sport the season through, and who really catch some fish without the aid of silver hooks. (Rest of article about the supposed exploits of the Magnolia fishing club.)

April 4, 1896 – The Ojai

VALLEY NEWS – Mr. Hubby, Mr. Foster, Dr. Williams, and several other of the guests at the Gally Cottages went up the Matilija for the fishing this week.

April 4, 1896 – Santa Barbara Daily News

IN AND ABOUT THE CITY – Seth Loomis and Fred W. Canfield left for Dos Pueblos, this afternoon on a trout fishing excursion. They will remain until tomorrow evening when they will return with all the speckled beauties in the vicinity of their fishing grounds.

April 6, 1896 – Santa Barbara Daily News

THEY WENT ANGLING – But Each Did Much More Dreaming Than Fishing. Seth Loomis and Fred Canfield went to Dos Pueblos on a trout fishing excursion Saturday afternoon. Yesterday they returned with nearly one hundred speckled beauties; and, incidentally tales of the ones they didn't catch, those which broke the hook, or perhaps the line. And of course these latters were simply "out of sight." At least no one except the two fishermen saw them and both of these enterprising young men had to sleep on the hard, cold ground Saturday night and consequently were subject to bad dreams. But Mr. Canfield tells a good one on his companion. The "boys" were in Seth's store this morning when Mr. Canfield gave the story away.

"You see," he was saying as *The News* reporter entered the store, "the fish were a little slow in biting. Seth was quite a way ahead of me 'whipping' up stream and I was dazzling my bate in the trouts eyes some distance down. Along came a young fellow with a willow branch for a pole and a bent pin for a hook. He also had about fifty beautiful trout. I bought the string off him and stationing him below a ledge where the bark is somewhat high and hangs over the stream I proceeded to catch trout. Pretty soon Seth came back. Then I lowered my line—and well I hauled up a trout. Five came up. Seth got excited. Then I made another haul. By this time Seth had exhausted his vocabulary of adjectives and called into service, everything of which he knew that would offset a 'hoodoo'. But it was all of no use.

"He took my place a dozen times, but still the trout kept coming up on my line. Seth would never have known the difference if that darned kid hadn't yelled up:

"Say, Mister, yer hooks in my pants. If yer don't quit yer pullin' how's I goin' ter hook de rest of de trouts on."

"Well, there's one consolation," remarked Seth, "I caught mine" and then he began to trill—

"Fred will fish and Fred will—

What he can't catch he'll buy."

And now arises the question—From whom did Seth purchase the rest of the trout, beside those bought by Mr. Canfield?

April 20, 1896 – Santa Barbara Daily News

IN AND ABOUT THE CITY – According to our bright neighbor, the *Santa Maria Graphic*, the trout fishing in the Santa Ynez river is now at its height and that stream is lined from one end to the other with nimrods, angling for both pleasure and business. Martin Low of Arroyo Grande, thus far has been the most successful fisherman, in fifteen days he having caught 4500 of the finest kind of trout. He supplies the Arlington hotel in

Santa Barbara, the Ramona in San Luis, the hotels of Santa Ynez and Los Olivos, besides furnishing his friends with a mess every one in a while.

April 23, 1896 – Santa Barbara Daily News

IN AND ABOUT THE CITY – Mr. D. F. Oglesby and party left on a fishing expedition this morning. They go to the Santa Ynez river.

April 25, 1896 – The Ojai

VALLEY NEWS – Mr. Will Soule reports a catch of trout in the Matilija including twelve that were too large to go through the hole in the cover of his fish basket.

May 2, 1896 – Los Angeles Times

PASADENA YESTERDAY NEWS AND BUSINESS – A.D. Hall, who is trout fishing in the Ventura county, favored his friends with a large box of trout today, as samples of his skill with hook and line.

May 7, 1896 – Santa Barbara Daily News

ADVERTISEMENT – Builder's Hardware. Mechanic Tools. Paint, varnish, brushes, glass. Fishing Tackle, Guns & Sporting Goods. E.E. Packard & Co. 513 State Street.

May 28, 1896 – Santa Barbara Daily News

IN AND ABOUT THE CITY – Frank A. Conant, the jeweler, has returned from a fishing trip over the mountains. Reports fishing good—but hot—Oh—My!

June 6, 1896 – The Ojai

CASA DE PIEDRA NOTES – The Sespe Camping Trip. (Students went on annual camping trip.) …Without further trouble we arrived at Mr. Patton's and were conducted to our camp by his son. …Some of the boys went fishing every day, and, all told, I guess we caught about three hundred trout. Mr. T. made a remarkable catch of about forty-three in an hour and a half, and only walked about a half mile down steam.

July 22, 1896 – Los Angeles Times

VEWNTURA COUNTY – The Summer Resorts. Everybody who can afford to do so has gone to the mountains for July and August, and business is dull in proportion. A visit to the five resorts in the Matilija Cañon demonstrated the fact that to be fashionable sulpher water is one of the chief essentials. At this writing there are fully five hundred campers in the cañon, and every day adds to the number. Pasadena is well represented this year, something over twenty guests from the "Crown of the Valley" occupying tents and cottages in the main cañon and on the North Fork. Every inch of available space is

occupied, and the applications for rooms roll in faster than vacancies occur. Saturday, *The Times* correspondent, while deer-hunting along the upper Cuyama trail, struck camp of A.D. Hall of Pasadena and Will E Chapin, staff artists of the *Los Angeles Times*. These men are tenting with their families at Matilija Hot Springs, and had been in the mountains on a trout-fishing trip. Mr. Hall had caught the most fish, but Mr. Chapin was the boss, as his catch numbered the largest in size. He had some beauties, and is now ambitious to kill a wildcat, when his record as a nimrod and fisherman will be made. Never in the history of the springs has the interest been so great or the guests from the outside the county limits so numerous.

August 15, 1896 – The Ojai

VALLEY NEWS – Fish are plentiful and deer scarce on the Sespe.

August 22, 1896 – The Ojai

VALLEY NEWS – Rev. F.F. Pearse and family and F.P. Barrows and family broke camp at Wilcoxsen Springs and returned to Nordhoff Wednesday. Mr. Barrows' sons Albert and Stevie waded into the Matilija and caught twenty-eight trout in their hands, all in one pool.

1 8 9 7

Rainfall – 13.25 Inches

Sparks' Catch – 450 Trout

January 1, 1897 – Los Angeles Times

SANTA PAULA – The following description of Santa Paula, written by Mary M. Bowman of that place, appeared in a recent edition of the "Land of Sunshine": The Santa Clara Valley of the south holds the thriving little town of Santa Paula at its heart, the central setting in its chain of possessions. Extending southwest from the San ?Fernando Mountains to the sea, the valley is forty-five miles long and averages two to three miles wide, with a funnel-shaped flare at the end. On the north is rimmed by a broken range of mountains and foothills that hide their depths. Smaller valleys and cañons, the paradise of the sportsman and in beauty of scenery unsurpassed. The clear streams tumbling noisily down cañons, breaking into cascades over rocks, loitering in still pools, rushing on through ferns and brakes and wooded hills, under branching sycamores and clean-limbed alders, lure the lover of trout fishing till the very abundance of the catch impels him to desist…

March 8, 1897 – Santa Barbara Daily News

UNLAWFUL ACTS – Ruthless Destruction of Our Game Fish Steadily Going On. A correspondent writes the *News* as follows:

The *Lompoc Record* says the steelhead trout are making unusual run to the head waters—Yes? Well, we wonder if they have taken their nets and screens out of the mouth of the river. We hope so.

The last five or six years there has not been, in the month of July, a trout to be caught as long as your finger east of the Santa Ynez. And, you can see any day (when the water is clear enough for fishing) any amount of fishermen with spears, pitchforks and guns, taking the large fish that have escaped the nets below, and have come up to spawn.

Now we think it about time that something was done about this reckless slaughtering of breeding fish. We know of one party on the Santa Ynez river, who, it is claimed has taken three hundred pounds of the fish that were just ready to spawn. See how many thousand eggs are destroyed by this one man, and there are a great many others who have more or less.

Santa Barbara county has more trout streams, better cover, feed for small and large game and less protection for the quantities of game and fish we might have than any county in Southern California, and I truthfully say more extensively advertised.

Show me, if you can, a resort of note where fine fishing and hunting is not the first thing mentioned. Then comes climate, fruit and flowers, etc., etc., etc. What we want and want badly, is gun clubs in every town. That will enforce the present laws.

March 12, 1897 – Ventura Weekly Democrat

THE FISH LAW – The New Statute for the Protection of Trout. …Section 1. Section 632 is hereby amended to read as follows: Section 632. SIZE AND SEASON. Every person who buys, sells, offers or exposes for sale any kind of trout less than six inches in length, every person who takes, catches kills, buys, sells, exposes or offers for sale, or has in his possession any salmon trout, brook or lake trout, or any variety of trout, except steelhead trout (Salmo gairdneri), between the 1st day of December and the first day of April of the following year; any steelhead trout between the 1st day of February and the 1st day of May of each year; every person who at any time takes or catches any trout, except with hook or line, is guilty of a misdemeanor…

…Nothing in this section shall prohibit the possession at any time of steelhead trout (Salmo gairdneri) when taken in tide water with hook and line, and nothing shall prohibit the United States Fish Commission and the Fish Commission of this state from taking at all such times such fish as they deem necessary for the purpose of artificial hatching.

April 4, 1897 – Santa Barbara Daily News

CITY GOSSIP – The first consignment of mountain trout since the beginning of the season, was received today by Col. Fernandez. They are the finest trout in American, and come from Lake Tahoe. They are very pretty and are very much appreciated by epicures. (Editor's Note: Col. Fernandez owned a meat and seafood shop.)

April 10, 1897 – Santa Barbara Daily News

EDITORIAL – It may not have occurred to everyone, but Santa Barbara county is a paradise for the hunter, the fisherman and angler.

A large part of our domain is as wild land as the world shows—rocky, mountainous tracts of many square miles in extant that have never felt the foot of man. This is and probably always will be the case as far as utility of the land for agriculture is concerned.

This great tract of wild mountain land may be considered as a grand natural park in which, if the proper protection is given, will roam wild animals of various species the delight of the hunter and pleasure seeker.

The streams of this county are the natural homes of many species of the finny tribes and these, too, with proper safeguards, can be made to furnish, for many years, the most royal sport for the lovers of angling. Indeed, in regards to the hunter and the angler, the supplies can be greatly augmented and yet give all a chance to enjoy the many out-door sports to their heart's content. It is not our desire to see anyone's pleasure curtailed but

augmented. We desire to see all accorded their rights and made to respect the rights of others.

No attraction can be mere alluring to the outside world than the simple announcement that hunting and fishing are good in this county.

The people of Santa Barbara county are peculiarly situated. On their front is the great channel with its waters actually alive with fish of most delicate quality; back of them lies the great tract of wild land that will forever be a natural park exactly suited to the lovers of nature where solitude is unbroken, where the cares of civilization are forgotten and petty annoyances of live may be cast aside absolutely. There man may rest and drink in the pure mountain air and recuperate from the wastes brought on by the cares of business. Following the mountain trails, scaling the heights, viewing the wondrous landscape will give even a half dead man a chance for a renewed lease of life.

These vast solitudes are the inalienable property of all the people. There every man is free to act as he pleases—except infringe on the rights and privileges of others.

One of the most serious infringements on the rights of others is the killing of the game and fish in unlawful manner and at unlawful times. Our supervisors have acted wisely and appointed as game warden an excellent man. He knows the game laws, the rights accorded by them to all men. He is absolutely fearless and will discharge his duties equitably to all. We want him to be able to do his best and, in order to do that, he must have the support of all true lovers of nature. Backed by them and the law Mr. Mandeville will prove an admirable officer.

* * * * *

There is a movement to establish an organization known as a "Gun Club." We approve it. The idea is to enroll all the botanists, geologists, hunters, anglers and lovers and nature and thus obtain a determined body of people, bound by common ties, that will be sufficiently powerful to aid the game warden in the proper discharge of his duties; act as a sort of advisory board to him; see that he performs his duties. There are in this county in the neighborhood 3500 men. Suppose we enroll 1000 of them in a club of the kind under consideration. The dues are to be so small that everyone can afford to pay them—say one dollar per annum.

Such a club will do more for the preservation of our forests, our game, our natural landmarks and our flora than all other agencies possible.

As the club gains in numbers, it is proposed to hold "meets," at which all sorts of manly sports will have a show. Trap shooting, rifle and pistol target shoots and probably archery would be important features.

The club would procure exact information to all the trails, streams and passes; the different mountain peaks would be ascended and the dark unknown cañons be explored.

Probably, later on, a club house would be possible as well as various camps and lodges. A new occupation would be created—that of guides. A tremendous boom in favor of manly, out door sports and exercise would be a natural sequence, to the bettering of us all.

We heartily commend the movement and hope the "Gun Club" will become a fact within a very few days.

May 19, 1897 – Los Angeles Times

Ex-Assemblyman Melick is writing to the Fish Commission relative to stocking the waters of the Southern rivers with black bass. Those fish should be domesticated entirely in lakes, as they kill off all the trout when placed in the same waters with them. What would be useful to us would be shad in the Ventura and Santa Ana rivers and striped bass in the bays between Santa Barbara and San Diego…

May 27, 1897 – The Santa Barbara Daily News

THE EDITORIAL WORLD, UTTERANCES AND OPINIONS OF PACIFIC COAST EDITORS – GAME PROTECTION – If California would preserve its fish and game for future generations, it is very evident that some more efficient means must be adopted. Every year game grows scarcer, and despite the thousands of planted fish, our mountain streams are becoming almost fishless. The State has hundreds of square miles of forest-covered mountain and foothill country, almost unsettled, which is the natural home of fish and game, and yet the supply is steadily decreasing.

In the matter of game and fish protection this State might learn something of the State of Maine, which, though an old State in the Union, and containing four times the inhabitants to the square mile, has so protected its game that there has been a steady increase during the last twenty-five years, so that not it is fully as abundant as it was on the advent of the first settlers. This has been brought about by careful legislation and faithful execution of the laws.

In that State the game is indirectly one of the chief sources of revenue. Every summer within its border a transient population nearly equal to the whole number of permanent inhabitants. A large proportion of these visitors are attracted to the State on account of the splendid sport afforded by its lakes, streams and forest. The lakes and streams swarm with all the finest varieties of inland fish, while the forests abound in deer, caribou, moose and other varieties of noble game. *Calaveras Prospect*

May 29, 1897 – The Ojai

WHEELER'S HOT SPRINGS -- …Wheeler C. Blumberg has expended a heavy sum of money on road building this year. …The road has been made over,--rebuilt,--and has been covered with shale at many points; heavy blasts and huge cuts have been made in

great rocks and hillsides, and plenty of places have been left for teams to pass each other, so that it is now unnecessary to telephone ahead that you are coming for fear that you will meet another rig on the road. …Mr. Blumberg has not astonished the natives with the declaration that he will dam up the creek, put in a dynamo and make the water furnish power to illuminate his grounds from one end of the cañon to the other, as well as the whole grade. "Why not?" he asks, "There's such a great volume of water doing nothing but run down hill, and look pretty. It will look just as pretty if I light my grounds with it, won't it?"…

June 12, 1897 – The Ojai

LOCAL NEWS – By grapevine telephone we learn that L.O. Reese is still having some trying experiences on the Sespe. The other day he caught three large trout, and hung them on the fork of a tree while he went further down stream. Presently another fisherman came along and took the fish from the tree and replaced them with three measly little ones. When Mr. Reese returned, he eyed the fish rather incredulously and remarked that he never knew before that fish could shrink so!

June 19, 1897 – The Ojai

ELECTRIC LIGHTS AT WHEELER'S – When we announced, some weeks ago, that Wheeler Blumberg intended to put in a complete electric lighting plant at his springs, not a little incredulity was shown. But when our people go up there on Saturday, July 3, to celebrate the Glorious Fourth, they will find the plant in operation, all right, all right…

July 3, 1897 – The Ojai

IN THE COUNTY – The papers are filled with the doings of the United States Fish Commission from day to day, but that institution's operations have been confined mostly to the northward of San Francisco. If they will only plant striped bass at the mouths of the Ventura and Santa Ana, we shall have plenty of those fine fish five years hence, without having to send to San Francisco for them. It is also believed that shad will live in these waters and they might be planted as far south as the Trabuco experimentally. *L.A. Times.*

August 14, 1897 – The Ojai
August 21, 1897 – The Ojai

THE PINE MOUNTAIN PARK – On Thursday of last week Congressman Barlow, State Assemblyman Toland and ex-County Surveyor Barry took horses at Nordhoff and left for Pine mountain, accompanied by a party from Ojai… the purpose of Mr. Barlow's visit was to obtain necessary data concerning the proposed Government park, that he may properly present the matter before Congress,--that is to say Speaker Reed. (Description of one of the party going through mountains, mule that fell over cliff, but survived, and other party members getting lost.)

…The next day the company traveled to the Big Hot Springs, and after a rest and a swim proceeded to Willet's, where they left the pine forest. Willets treated the party royally, putting all the horses in his commodious barn, and presenting the party with watermelons and eggs and trout galore and many other dainties. …Leaving this hospitable ranch, the party journeyed along the Sespe, taking advantage of many fine swimming holes in the river, and passing the ranches of the Rich brothers, Lathop and Patton, and bringing up at noon at J.G. Harrow's ranch. Here a bevy of handsome young ladies beguiled their time so pleasantly that it was almost necessary to resort to extreme measures in order to get the crowd to break away at once. The country from Willet's to Harrow's is a fine stretch of river valley on the finest trout stream in the world. Leaving Harrow's the route was the Topa Topa trail to Nordhoff, where they arrived last Tuesday night. (The rest of the article was about the damage sheep herding had done to the area and the proposal to make Pine Mountain a reservation.)

<u>December 10, 1897 – Ventura County Board of Supervisors' Minutes</u>

On motion of Supervisor Davis, seconded by Supervisor Crane, the requisition of J.L. Harrison filed December 9, 1897 is granted.

1 8 9 8

Rainfall – 6.01 inches

Sparks' Catch – 283 Trout

January 1, 1898 – Los Angeles Times

WITH ROD & REEL – However much we may enjoy the tumbling hills from which one can look over wide expanses of green orchard and meadow to the shimmering face of the distant ocean, there are few who do not also love the deep cañon that shuts out all but the blue sky above. Nothing in Southern California is more pleasant than the mountain brook that foams and swirls between the rugged hills, and it grows ever more charming with increasing wildness of cañon and swifter rush of its waters, as we ascend it to where the little streams that form it trickle from banks of almost eternal snow.

What wonders, then, that when the 1st of April releases the arm of law the lover of out of doors hies him with light rod and creel to see the first trout of the season break the circling pool, or flash in the rapids that sparkle below it? The trout is among the fish what the woodcock is among birds. It has its peculiar attraction that none can explain, an attraction quite independent of size, and still more independent of flavor. It is because it is the purest gem of life that earth can show. No bird, no animal, no fish compares with it. Many birds surpass it in intensity of color, but none in beauty; nothing excels it in grace, while nowhere is there such another condensation of equal energy and quickness in equal compass.

No other game or fish has such a charming home, a home that it is a pleasure in itself to visit, in which one likes to lie down and doze away the middle of the day to the music of the waters beneath the solemn shades of the great alders that in places interlock their heads into an arcade above them. But, as in all the sports of the field, the principal charm lies in the skill required to get even a bite. The trout is about the only fish that seems to have an intuitive knowledge of many and his ways. Tame as they may be in the brooks, the step of many has never invaded, trout are still very wild compared with any other fish. No fish so puzzles the tyro, and many of its ways are a puzzle even to the expert. The every changing moods of the trout make it so impossible to calculate his tastes and movements with accuracy, that even the expert has often to make a new study of the subject at every new brook, or at every change of weather, water or time of day.

March 12, 1898 – The Ojai

VENTURA COUNTY – (From the Ventura County Directory.) Ventura county is bounded on the north by Kern county, on the east by Los Angeles county, on the south by Los Angeles county and ocean, on the wet by Santa Barbara county and the Pacific ocean.

It contains in round numbers 1900 square miles, or 1,200,000 acres, and 16,000 inhabitants. Two-thirds of this area is mountain land, whose peaks attain a maximum height of 7000 feet. The other third consists of valley land of surprising fertility. The mountain land abounds in magnificent forest, mineral wealth and abundance of water, the greater part of the land being valuable for horticultural purposes, grain, hay, stock, sheep, wool and honey.

Ventura county is claimed to be the best watered county in Southern California. There is abundant artesian water at Nordhoff, Saticoy, El Rio, Simi, Somis and other places, found at depths generally of 100 to 150 feet.

The Ventura and Santa Clara rivers, with their tributaries, the San Antonio, Sespe and Piru creeks, form the principal water courses of the county. The Simi and Las Posas creeks and other tributaries drain a large extent of country south of the Santa Clara river. The mountains are full of springs and rivulets, including mineral water, making fine health resorts.

Ventura county is well wooded. There is abundance of oak and sycamore in the canons and lower mountain valleys, and pine forests in higher regions. It is the sportsman's paradise. In the proposed Pine Mountain reservation above the Ojai Valley there is excellent trout fishing and abundant game, making it a fine resort for pleasure seekers and tourists. (Rest of the piece writes about agriculture, water rights, climates and the build-up of infrastructure.)

<u>April 8, 1898 – Ventura Free Press</u>

SATICOY – Lin Crane and Ben Virden in company with a part from Ventura went to the Sespe on a fishing trip last Friday. The boys returned Monday having had a most enjoyable time. The catch was something over 600 in number but were rather small in size.

ADVERTISEMENT – (Picture of man in top hat and dressing coat sitting in boat with fishing pole.) Fishing for Health. When a man breaks down with that dread disease, consumption, and recognizes his condition, he starts out to fish for health. He tries this thing and that thing. He consults this doctor and that doctor. He indulges in all kinds of absurd athletic exercises. He tries first one climate and then another. He tries the rest cure and the work cure. …Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

<u>April 9, 1898 – The Ojai</u>

PINE MOUNTAIN RESERVATION – The *Los Angeles Times* says: Beyond a brief telegraphic report from Washington that the President has signed a bill for the creation of the Pine Mountain and Zaca Lake Reservation, in Southern California,…which creates a new national park, covering 1,144,000 acres of land in the counties of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo. …From George E. Stewart of Nordhoff, Ventura County, who is well acquainted with the land thus reserved, "For the hunter there are

bear, deer, antelope and smaller game. There are over 150 miles of good trout streams." (The rest of the article is about the boundaries of the park.)

TROUT POOLS OF THE SESPE – Now that open season for trout is here—April 1 being the date upon which all legal protection of this fish was removed—disciples of Izaak Walton throughout the city (author is referring to Los Angeles) are anticipating at least a few days' stay among the mountains in pursuit of their favorite pastime. Aside from quail-hunting, when one has cultivated scruples in regard to pot-shooting, there is no sport requiring more real science in handling than trout fishing. This especially applies to California trout, which are fully alive to the maneuvers of the most skilled sportsman, and it frequently takes a deal of patience to safely land the speckled beauties of our mountain streams.

One of the best trout streams in all Southern California is the Sespe River, which winds its lonely way through the isolated and rugged Sespe Valley in Ventura County, twenty-five miles due east of Ojai Valley, and separated from this lovely little "mountain nest" by the Topa Topa Mountain chain. The Sespe is not a famous resort. It is a wild, lonely, desolate country, for many years given over to Basque sheepherders, whose only care has been to guide their flocks through the winding valley and its many canons, and, in so far as possible, to protect them from the ravages of bears and other wild animals that infest the place.

The Sespe Valley is about twenty-five miles in length, with but here and there a level stretch of country suitable for farming purposes. Recently a number of government claims have been taken under the homestead act, and the soil has responded generously to various crops which have been planted.

At the intersection of Sespe River and its tributary, Pedro Blanco, or White Rock Creek, Clarence A. Patton, a former Los Angeles man, has located. His place is, perhaps, the best claim in the valley. Water for irrigating purposes is brought through ditches, which tap the creek half a mile above the claim. A mile above this point the creek has cut its courses through a mighty formation of white sandstone, which rises on all sides to a height of several hundred feet. This formation extends for several miles in a northerly direction, and will some day become famous for its grandeur. The place is honeycombed with caves, among which have been found Indian baskets and other relics of a race which at some remote period inhabited the valley. Another object of interest is a mountain of shells—sea shells of all descriptions. On this mountain last year, Mrs. Patton, wife of the settler above referred to, picked up what later was identified as being the tusk of one of a species of sea monster which has long been extinct.

It is along the Pedro Blanco, and where it flows into the Sespe River that the fisherman will find his best sport.

Along the streams the valley is heavily timbered, and during a dry year, like the present, the water will be collected in deep and wide pools.

It is not unusual for a fisherman to be disturbed by the sudden appearance of deer, especially in the early morning or just at the close of day, when this game comes down to the stream to feed on the tender water grasses.

Three years ago a number of sportsmen, composed of Nordhoff businessmen, had a lodge erected on Pine Mountain, at the head of Pedro Blanco. Every summer since then "Hunters' Lodge," as the place is called, has been a favorite resort of the members and their friends.

The trout pools in this region are simply inexhaustible, and the very fact that they are seldom visited makes the sport all the more enticing.

There are several routes to this region, but the shortest and best is by the new county trail, which leads over the Topa Topa, in the lower Ojai. It is a good seven-hours' horseback journey from Nordhoff. All provisions must be packed over on animals, but when one is once settled in camp all these difficulties are readily forgotten in the care-free, healthful life in prospect.

The region is now part of the new forest preserve, and will hereafter be protected from the destructive fires set out by sheepherders, who make a practice of burning off the timber in order to secure pasture for their flocks.—*Los Angeles Express.*

May 14, 1898 – The Ojai

CASA DE PIEDRA NOTES – The Sespe Camping Trip. (Students from the school went on a camping trip up to the Sespe area, mainly staying up at the Piedra Blanca Creek.) …The next day most of us got up at four o'clock and went fishing. We caught fifteen trout altogether, and when we returned we found the other fellows just sitting down to a delicious dinner… The next two days—Tuesday and Wednesday—we spent in much the same manner; those who went away from camp went fishing, hunting and exploring, while those who stayed at home lay around in groups in the caves and read and talked together…

July 23, 1898 – The Ojai

CALIFORNIA GAME LAWS -- …The close season for game is as follows, to wit: …Trout, from Dec. 1 to April 1; trout steelhead Feb. 1 to May 1.

From County Government Act of 1897: 28 "To provide by ordinances not in conflict with the general laws of the State, for the protection of game, and [Supervisors] may shorten the season for the taking or killing of fish and game, within the dates fixed by the general state laws, but shall not lengthen the same." …

November 5, 1898 – The Ojai

VISITORS ON VENTURA COUNTY – Messrs. E.A. and Harry B. Chase of the Chase Nursery company have just returned from a driving trip in and around the Santa Clara valley, and are fully impressed that Riverside is without a peer, and outside of Los Angeles the best town in Southern California. (Article mainly about their operations and that of other agriculturalists in the area, but what is interesting is two sentences in the lengthy article.) …For the first time the Santa Paula creek went dry, and without this pumping plant the town would have been in the most deplorable condition. (Also)…Streams are dry this year which have never before been known to scarcely diminish their flow in any year…

0.

Rainfall – 7.40 inches

Sparks' Catch – 226 Trout

March 18, 1899 – The Ojai

The rain in the Matilija has been exceptionally heavy. The precipitation for Wednesday night alone at Geo. Macleod's ranch on the right fork of the canon was three inches. The rainfall since then has cleaned out the moss in the Matilija, and the fish are beginning to run up. This is also true of the north fork of the Matilija, as well as of the San Antonio Creek. It has been noticed quite recently that the fish have been spawning freely and that small fish have made their appearance in these creeks in large numbers. Persons acquainted with this fact have felt confident that this fish instinct was a good ground for the hope that rains would come about the time of the equinox, which is now upon us.

March 24, 1899 – Ventura Free Press

CAUGHT A WHOPPER – Wednesday afternoon Henry Leiva and Thos. Garcia while fishing at the mouth of the Ventura river with hook and line had a lively experience with a large "Steelhead" salmon and after a hard struggle succeeded in landing a fine specimen which measured 9 feet in length and weighed 14 pounds. The boys attracted so much attention as they carried their captive through the streets to their homes. The fishing fever will now be catching and the banks of the historic stream will probably be lined with patient anglers.

April 1, 1899 – The Ojai

LOCAL ITEMS – Fishing season opens today.

April 7, 1899 – Ventura Free Press

SATICOY NEWS ITEMS – Several of the school children have been enjoying themselves during Institute week, by fishing, hunting, etc., have also found great sport in catching fish from the irrigating ditches across the river. We don't envy the youngsters their enjoyment but wouldn't it be a good idea to have a try or screen at the heads of these ditches for the purpose of protecting the fish industry and keep them in the rivers and streams?

April 8, 1899 – The Ojai

ADVERTISMENT – Campers, Attention! I will carry camping parties to any point in the county, or will board them at my ranch in the Sespe. Parties intending to go camping, fishing, or hunting on the Sespe or any of its tributaries would do well to address: L.A. Patton, Nordhoff, Cal.

April 15, 1899 – The Ojai

CASA DE PIEDRA NOTES – (Annual school camping trip.) …Tommy and Reed Vail were especially aspiring and decided they would go a-fishing. Fully armed for great sport they left the school at 7:30 and spent the day wading the creeks of the Matilija. After supper they returned, tired and wet but triumphant for they caught one fish. French and S. Spaulding had better luck, or we should say used better skill, in the line of fishing, but their catch was nothing phenomenal. Going up in the middle of the day, you strike the wrong time for fish.

April 23, 1899 – Los Angeles Times

THE MATILIJA COUNTRY – …Both these highways lead to Matilija, and happy the wayfarer who journeys thither in summer, winter or in early spring, when the Matilija Creek comes roaring down the cañon, and the San Antonio is wakened into a noisy flood. It is then, indeed, that to the fisherman the Matilija possesses its greatest charm, for then the trout abound and bite most greedily, but even in mid-summer the trout respond readily to the fly and lurk in drowsy pools awaiting the wooing of the delusive hook.

...I would that I could voice one-half the joy of an outing in the Matilija country. The seasons vary so little that, summer or winter, it is the Eden of the camper-out and hunter. There is, however, no language to describe the blended music of sighing branches and bubbling waters and the various wood sounds that are a balm to weary nerves. Trout fishing, deer stalking, bear hunting, tramps for the pure joy of sight and motion, these are lures for the days of perfect delight… Lou V. Chapin.

May 6, 1899 – The Ojai

THE CAMPING PARTY – (Continuation of school trip.) …Fishing proved to be fair, and 266 trout were caught and eaten…

May 12, 1899 – The Ventura Democrat

A GAME WARDEN NEEDED – The *Signal's* three reasons why the Supervisors are not liable to appoint a Game Warden—whether he be Owen Boling or any other fellow—does not do away with the fact that Ventura county needs such an official, if there is any disposition on the part of those in or out of authority to protect the fish and game within its borders. Local sportsmen, recognizing the present importance of such an appointment, by petition asked the Board to name Owen for the place, which, in all fairness to Mr. Boling, it is only just to say, that on his part, the place was unsolicited.

By unlawful practices the fish and game is being rapidly exterminated. With proper protection from the raids of profligate sportsmen, this county offers greater opportunities for the popular pastime of hunting and fishing than any in the state. As a drawing card for tourists, this class of sport heads the list.

We believe the Board is in sympathy with every measure tending to increase the popularity of the county and if, in their opinion, the end so sought justifies the means, a Game Warden we shall have—whether Owen or some other unthought-of of candidate—although Owen's knowledge of every river, creek and mountain trail in this section amply fits him for such office, and being fully "on" in the matter of existing law infractions, renders him, doubly available as a candidate—besides already having the endorsements of our leading local sportsmen.

OXNARD LOCALS – Four Ventura bloods went trout fishing Sunday. The aggregate catch was three small fishes. It is not reported that they fed the multitude. If they fed the four with the catch it was miracle enough.

May 15, 1899 – Los Angeles Times

ROD AND REEL – Rod-and-reel men are having more fun these days than any one, and local outfitters are having good business. Many parties have either gone or are preparing to go to the mountains for a season among the trout. The brief season in this county was something of a disappointment to those who love to cast a fly in water where there ought to be trout, but to those who are after meat the local law was of no consequence, for this county is a bit shy this season. As a matter of fact trout fishing in Southern California proper is not up to the standard, owing to increase water development and decreased rainfall. There are said to be very few trout in the San Gabriel, and those away up near the head waters. Up in the Santa Ana and Mill Creek above Redlands trout are said to be yet quite numerous, but they are small; further on in the Bear Valley country they are large, gamy and plentiful. Good sport is also reported in the Sespe, Santa Ynez and Piru creeks, while up in Kern it is, as it always has been, good. (The rest of the article is about the Tuna Club in Los Angeles and their contest.)

June 10, 1899 – The Ojai

THE GREAT SUMMER RESORT – Things are humming at Wheeler's Hot Springs. …There may now be found a great abundance of beautiful wild flowers of many varieties, and the fishing is fair. Our correspondent at this resort furnished us the following notes: Fishing parties are the order of the day…

June 17, 1899 – The Ojai

ADVERTISEMENT – Cliff Glen Mineral Springs…FISHING. A large mountain stream filled with speckled trout within a stone's throw of the Hotel.

1 9 0 0

Rainfall – 9.57 inches

Sparks' Catch – 233 Trout

March 24, 1900 – Los Angeles Times

ALL ALONG THE LINE – The California Fish Commission is preparing to stock the streams of the southern part of the State with a large number of trout fry this fall. The trout will be taken from the Shovel Creek hatchery.

April 6, 1900 – The Ventura Democrat

ADVERTISEMENT – Wheeler's Hot Springs, The Health Resort of Southern California. A Delightful Spot for Summer and Winter—Tourists of All Classes.

Climate-The Healthful climate of this beautiful resort is unsurpassed by that of any resort in the world.

Scenery-The scenery around this locality is simply grand and must be seen to be appreciated. Grand Canyons, abounding in game and sparkling streams where fish of all kinds are plentiful. Beautiful valleys with their green fields, etc.

Fishing and Hunting-Here the sportsman can profitably spend his time. Game and Fish of all kinds can be had almost for the asking, only a short distance from the Springs. No long tramps in hopeless search for game! No tedious waiting for a bite!

April 13, 1900 – Ventura Free Press

MONTALVO – H. Walbridge returned from his recent excursion to the Sespe with one hundred and twenty-five fine trout. Le Bounds and Elwin Haydock were equally successful, as they proudly displayed one hundred and fifty caught in the same region.

April 14, 1900 – The Ojai

One day this week Postmaster Youngken, armed with a fishing rod and a can of worms and a basket, took the east bound train. He returned in the evening and had dangling to his belt a speckled trout that was measured and found to be seventeen inches in length. He proudly marched through the street the envy of all our old sportsmen. Some of the chronic kickers are now telling around that Harry bought that trout, others say found it, and still other envious persons claim that the fish came out of a salt barrel at Fillmore. The *Chronicle* believes that our Nasby actually yanked that fish right out of the waters of the raging Sespe.—*Chronicle*

The *Chronicle* is correct in its deduction. After a careful recount of the trout in the Sespe the editor of *The Ojai* finds one missing.

April 21, 1900 – Los Angeles Times

ALL ALONG THE LINE – Game Warden Hall of Santa Barbara county states that the winter has been disastrous to trout.

May 3, 1900 – Ventura Board of Supervisors' Minutes

On motion of Supervisor D.A. Smith, seconded by Supervisor Touchton, it is ordered that J.M. Staire and W.H. Granger, be and they are hereby appointed Delegates to attend a general convention of citizens of this State to meet in the City of San Francisco, on Tuesday, May 24th, 1900, for the purpose of formulating a law for the protection, preservation and propagation of game, and to represent Ventura County.

June 16, 1900 – The Ojai

THE EDITOR'S WEEK OFF – When the editor concluded to take a week's vacation, he announced his purpose to spend it at the hot springs. In company with Geo. E. Stewart, we drove to the Wheeler's Hot Springs on Sunday morning, intending to return to Nordhoff in the afternoon for our mail….(lighthearted descriptions of his stay at the springs)

After reading our eternal, infernal mail and while answering it the editor resolved to go far enough away from letters and papers that for a week he should not be able to get holed of them. Then he sailed down the street and met Mr. Stewart, who readily agreed to go fishing on the Sespe.

…We followed the north fork of the Matilija to its source above a group of firs on watershed dividing it from the Sespe country. You no sooner attain the divide than you are in a mountain waste of chaparral and cactus growing on the edges of sand formed of decayed rock washed down from the ridges to right and left on either side which form the gradually widening canyon, where rises a fork of Howard Creek. The source of this creek is in wintertime the summit of the divide, but just now it rises in a bed of dry sand and you go a mile down before you find the sand wet at the surface. There it trickles just a little bit, and as you ride down the arroyo, you find it has become a streamlet as big as your little finger. Farther on it becomes a respectable creek containing fine trout in its pools, and on its banks there are willows and undergrowth and flowers.

(The group then traveled to John G. Harrow's ranch in the valley of the Sespe.)

…Mr. Harrow advised us to go to Bear Creek, as there was splendid fishing and hunting, and we decided to go there. He wanted to go with us, but as his son Will desired to continue on the trip, and as one or the other must stay at the ranch, he yielded to Will, and the three of us started off down Howard Creek.

(Their travels took them to Paul Lathrop's place.)

…At his ranch we met Clarence Patton, who had come for a visit. He besieged us with such strong invitation to abandon the trip to Bear Creek and make his house our headquarters that we readily consented to do so. He told us there was excellent fishing in the Piedra Blanca, which empties into the Sespe on his ranch, and that it would be much pleasanter to sleep in beds in his house than to spread our blankets on the ground in the wilds. Securing from Mr. Lathrop a roll of butter in which to fry our fish, the four of us went down the river to his home. …On arriving there at 5 o'clock, the editor took the can of angleworms from his pocket, and Stewart went up the Piedra Blanca, returning shortly with 12 trout.

On Thursday we loafed around the house, the editor going up the creek long enough to hook 13 trout for dinner.

(The rest of the story is about an encounter with a rattlesnake and a trip to Pine Mountain.)

June 30, 1900 – The Ojai

THE EDITOR'S WEEK OFF (Continued from the last issue.) -- …We have often heard about the "raging Sespe," and judging from the story told by its banks, it does rage to a degree in ordinary seasons. But for three years dry seasons have been the rage, and have knocked the old river out of its job. There is no enthusiasm about the stream just now, and it shamedly hides itself beneath its bed for a quarter of a mile at a stretch, rising again as a sluggish stream in whose shallows moss finds lodgment and renders the few fish unfit for food. Still, there are pools deep enough for a small turtle to swim in, for we saw one do it with seemingly no fear of becoming hopelessly stranded.

However, Bear, Piedra Blanca, and Howard Creeks and the north fork of the Matilija all afford good trout fishing this year, and there is no moss in them, for the waters flow swiftly down their canyons. Trout Creek is apparently a misnomer, for this year there are no fish in it.

(The article finishes with their ride to other places in the Ojai valley and gathering wild flowers.)

ADVERTISEMENT – Wheeler's Hot Springs. The Health Resort of Southern California. A Delightful Spot for Summer and Winter Tourists of All Classes. …Fishing and Hunting – Here the sportsman can profitably spend his time. Game and Fish of all kinds can be had almost for the asking, only a short distance from the Springs. No long tramps in hopeless search for game! No tedious waiting for a bite.

July 2, 1900 – Los Angeles Times

ALL ALONG THE LINE – Game Warden Hall of Santa Barbara county reports a satisfactory condition of most sorts of game in the county, according to the *Santa Barbara Press*. …Deer, while abundant in some parts are rapidly disappearing from others. The low streams of the past few seasons have been disastrous to trout, and it will take years to re-stock.

September 1, 1900 – Oxnard Courier

BRIEF MENTIONS – For the benefit of the nimrod readers of the *Courier* we publish the game laws of Ventura and Los Angeles counties of 1900. They are as follows: Ventura county – …trout April 1 to Dec. 1. Los Angeles county – …trout April 1 to May 1.

1 9 0 1

Rainfall – 16.09 inches

Sparks' Catch – 1,016 Trout

April 13, 1901 – The Ojai

LOCAL ITEMS – Harry Jones has returned from a two week's outing at Rose Valley in the Sespe, much improved in health. There were several snowstorms there during his stay. Fishing is good in the Sespe.

June 1, 1901 – Oxnard Courier

THIS WEEK'S DOING – Almost for the first time this season fishing off the Hueneme wharf Sunday was rewarded with some degree of success. Sea trout were landed in numbers for several hours. But frequenters of the wharf say that fishing is exceedingly backward this year, that it has been on a gradual decline since the sugar factory built its waste water ditch to empty in the sea a few miles below the wharf, and in every way fishing is not satisfactory sport that it used to be.

August 3, 1901 – Oxnard Courier

BRIEF MENTION – Some time ago Assemblyman Robert M. Clarke and G.E. Webb asked for an allotment of fish for Santa Paula and Sespe rivers, and, as a result, the California Fish Commission has assigned Mr. Clark and Mr. Webb each 15,000 rainbow trout. The allotment for Mr. Clarke arrived Saturday, and has been placed in the river.

August 10, 1901 – Los Angeles Times

SANTA PAULA NEWS BREVITIES – Hon. Robert M. Clarke has received a second lot of trout to be placed in the Santa Paula River.

1 9 0 2

Rainfall – 13.09 inches

Sparks' Catch – 662 Trout

February 7, 1902 – Ventura Free Press

PROTECT OUR GAME AND FISH PRESERVES – H. Payne representing the State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners met with local sportsmen last night at Judge Argabrite's office. The object of the meeting as stated by Mr. Payne was to organize a local association for the protection of fish in the mountains. Much interest was manifested in the matter as evidenced by the good attendance. Sheriff Charlebois was elected chairman and W.H. Granger secretary of the meeting. The following officers were elected to serve for one year: H.M. Staire, president; P. Charlebois, vice president; M.E. Vander Bogart, secretary and Thos. S. Newby, Treasurer. The by laws of the Santa Clara County association with necessary changes were adopted. The regular meetings of the local association will be held on the second Monday of each month.

J.W. Hammons, A. Pratt and Chas. Gandolfo were appointed a committee on membership. There is a possibility of such an association accomplishing much good in this county, and from the enthusiasm shown and the membership secured it is believed the association will be an active, alert, and competent organization.

February 22, 1902 – Oxnard Courier

TO CARE FOR THE GAME – Last Wednesday evening, at the call of H.T. Payne, agent of the State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners, a number of citizens of Oxnard met at the office of Justice Lander for the purpose of organizing a local game and fish protective association. Mr. Payne called the meeting to order, stating the objects and purposes of such associations and the benefits to be derived therefrom. C.H. Cobb was elected temporary chairman and Sim Myers temporary secretary. The matter of by-laws for the government of the association and the form of permanent organization was discussed at some length, after which the meeting adjourned to meet for the consummation of a permanent organization at the same place on next Monday night at 8 o'clock.

There was considerable amount of enthusiasm manifested by those present, and no doubt next Monday's meeting will be a large one. Mr. Payne promised to return next Monday and will probably give those present a little talk on the origin, purposes and progress of game protection. Certainly no one in the state has given the subject more study, or is better able to discuss it than he.

March 13, 1902 – Los Angeles Times

STATE SNAPSHOTS –Grover Cleveland has joined the 'Frisco Fly Casting Club. Now watch our mountain streams grown troutless!

March 25, 1902 – Los Angeles Times

SPORTSMEN MUST NOT FORGET TROUT LAW – Lest the piscatorial sportsmen of the county may forget, the Supervisors are calling their attention to an ordinance that went into effect last year, shortening the season for taking and killing trout.

Don't spend April fool's day fishing, as you did last year. It won't be lawful.

The open season for trout this year begins two months later—on June 1, and, should a breach of the law be made, there will be trouble ahead for the "breacher," according to the new ordinance, as follows:

"Section 1—Every person in the county of Los Angeles, State of California, who takes or catches, buys or sells, or has in his possession, or offers for sale, any kind of trout, between September 15 and June 1, next thereafter, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

April 5, 1902 – Los Angeles Times

"What shall we do with our ex-Presidents?" asks the *Washington Star*. Give the only one we have left a fish pole and a can of bait and put him on a good trout stream. That's about the proper thing to do just now.

May 16, 1902 – Ventura Free Press

S. B. Wolfe and J. F. Newby returned home Saturday from a fishing trip on the Sespe. They were gone five days and had a splendid outing. Fish were not very plentiful, but between them they succeeded in catching two hundred.

July 25, 1902 – Ventura Free Press

GAME LAWS – At the request of several of our readers, we publish herewith the game laws of Ventura County completed from ordinances of the county and statutes of the State. The open season for taking game and fish is indicated.

…TROUT. April 1st to November 1st. Buying or selling of trout under pound, is a misdemeanor, 50 fish limit for one day.

July 27, 1902 – Los Angeles Times

MATILIJA SPRINGS, ANGELENOS IN MOUNTAINS – H.L. Knight returned yesterday after 'two days' trout fishing in the Sespe, with 150 fine specimens.

July 31, 1902 – Los Angeles Times

MATILIJA SPRINGS, NOTES OF MOUNTAIN VISITORS – Jesse Yarnell distinguished himself yesterday by bringing to camp a string of trout, the smallest of which measured twelve inches.

1 9 0 3

Rainfall – 18.40 inches

Sparks' Catch – 1,118 Trout

March 9, 1903 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT FISHING – If the Los Angeles trout fishermen come into Ventura county on April 1 with the expectation of whipping Ventura streams for trout they will get badly fooled, and some of them may get something else not to their liking. The open season for trout in Ventura county at present begins April 1. In Los Angeles the open season is not until May 1, and for several seasons past the results of this difference in the two counties has been that just as soon as the season opened in Ventura the Los Angeles anglers would flock to Ventura county with rod and reel and do their best to whip the streams as clean of fish as possible. The streams they operated in were the Sespe, Piru and Santa Paula, the very choicest trout streams in Ventura county. This influx of Los Angeles sports left very scant picking for Ventura fishermen, for it is stated that the Los Angeles fishermen even hooked the tadpoles in the streams in their greediness. Venturan have grown weary of it all, and have enlisted Supervisor Warring in their cause, with the result that when the Supervisors meet on the 16th an ordinance will be introduced and passed to change the open season for trout in the county to May 1.

March 13, 1903 – Ventura Free Press

SUPERVISORS MEET ON THE 16TH – The Board of Supervisors will meet on the 16th inst., and one of the important matters that will come before them at that time will be a change in the open season for trout. At present the law allows trout fishing after April 1st. In Los Angeles county trout fishing is not allowable until May 1st. The result is that early in April the trout streams up about Sespe and Piru are lined with Los Angeles anglers, who clean out the pools as well as they can for a month, when they remove their scene of action to their own county to be ready for the May opening. This leaves mighty little fishing for the Venturans, and for one, Supervisor Warring is weary of it and will see that the ordinance is changed to read May 1st.

March 14, 1903 – Oxnard Courier

EDITORIAL – Ventura county has for several seasons past suffered at the hands of the fishermen of Los Angeles county, who have come into this county on April first and caught hundreds of trout in the Sespe district while their own steams were guarded by law until the first of May. The meeting of the Board of Supervisors to regulate the matter somewhat, we think is a good move and will protect our streams against an overrunning number of southern sportsmen.

March 17, 1903 – Los Angeles Times

FISH HOGS SHUT OUT – The Board of Supervisors today changed the county fish and deer ordinances. Heretofore the open season for trout in Ventura county has been April 1. The board changed the date to May 1, as it was stated Los Angeles pot fishermen come into the county and deplete the streams before the trout season in their own county opens.

March 20, 1903 – Ventura Free Press

LETTER TO SPORTSMEN – Concerning the proposed change of the trout season, an item of which appeared in the Times of Sunday, a Los Angeles sportsmen sends the following communication to Ventura county sportsmen through the Free Press:

Los Angeles, Cal., March 9, 1903.
Brother Sportsmen of Ventura:

The article in this morning's Times in regard to changing the trout season was evidently written before breakfast, after a very bad night. Los Angeles fishermen are not so foolish as to go to any outside county and fish contrary to law, nor are they quite as greedy as the article would infer—and from my own experience, leave more dollars than they carry away fish, and the sooner the Ventura boys get together and have their season changed to agree with Los Angeles county, the better, that is, from June 1st, not May 1st, as our dyspeptic friend has it. It would be even better for them to close the stream for the whole season. From personal observation, the fish had a very trying season last summer. On the 1st of August I was one of a party of three who camped up on the head waters of the Sespe, or where the head waters should have been, and know that there were miles of stream dry, being no water from the hot springs up, and there were many fish in holes that I fear were entirely dry before we had any rains to help matters out. It stands to reason if you have your season open the same as ours, you will stop a lot of the tadpole contingent who, I trust, by June first will be satisfied with catching smelt and herring from some of our beach wharfs. Make it 1st of June, boys. Yours, James A. Farrell.

May 1, 1903 – Ventura Free Press

PROSPECT FOR FISH – Ventura County Rivers Reported Full of Trout. Expect Much Sport. Of the prospects for trout in Ventura county streams, the Herald gives Los Angeles fishermen the following information:

"The Matilija, Agua Blanca, upper Sespe and the upper reaches of Piru creek in Ventura county will carry their quota of fishermen opening day, which is next Thursday, but the streams are all muddy. Some of the trouters, who have friends living well up in the Piru mountains, say the streams are beautifully clean so far as brushwood and grass are concerned, and the change is decidedly for the better. In years gone by the brush has made trouting on parts of the upper Sespe a hands and knees two foot leader proposition, in which the angler had nearly to share his fish in order to get the bait near it.

"A most unusual occurrence took place at the mouth of the Ventura river the other day, when some boys wading around with a fish spear struck a fish of a kind that was new to them. They brought it home and it was identified as a small salmon weighing about seven pounds. The fish was not a steelhead either, though some of the wise fraternity will probably nod their heads and aver that is what must have been. From this occurrence and other circumstances of a similar nature, the Ventura sportsmen are looking for some rare and unusual sport a little later. It is an odd time of the year for the fish to be running in that part of the stream.

"In all probability the fishing on the Ventura river this year will be confined to the territory above the Casitas Pass, and in fact above the Hollingsworth place. Most of the Ventura men say it will be of little use to expect good sport for a week or ten days yet, and in case of another rain even that much longer, though, it is good gambling that the entire delegation of rodsters will be 'taking a chance' early on the morning of May 1."

May 8, 1903 – Ventura Free Press

Frank Newby and Cyrus Bogart went to the Sespe for some quiet fishing, striking camp the night before the season opened. In the most inaccessible place possible, far above Devil's Gate, and, as they supposed, far from the madding crowd, they found others, like themselves, hunting a quite place. That night fifteen fishermen sat around the Newby campfire. They were from Los Angeles and other places. Newby said the next morning the place thronged with rods and reels, and though the waters were high, some good catches were made. Newby and Bogart got the limit, but they say the next time they strike for quiet place, it will be nearer home.

May 13, 1903 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT STILL BITING WELL – Good Catches in Sespe, and Ventura Streams. There have been years when the lot of the trout-fisherman has been hard, but the season of 1903 has already atoned for several of them, and when the general freshets have subsided there is reason to believe the local nimrods will enjoy the best sport that has fallen to their lot in half a decade.

…In the Sespe the foggy weather has been something of a drawback to those who prefer fly-fishing. One party reports that whenever the sun came out, the hackles worked to perfection, and the trout rose to them with midsummer voracity. Walter A. Ellis and D.J. Swarts fished the upper Sespe last Saturday and caught sixty trout, averaging seven and a half inches in length—very respectable fish. There were some ten-inchers among them, and many of the best ones were taken in an interval about noon when the sun broke through the fog. Ellis says the Sespe is high and muddy at present, but not as bad as it was early in the season. The stream is as full of trout as it can well hold, and the fish appear to be very well fed. Some of the party's catch were very peculiar trout, looking exactly like a hybrid steelhead, and a man who has stocked the stream during the last few years expresses the belief that they are so. Within a month there should be some grand

sport on the Sespe and Agua Blanca as well as the other Ventura streams. (Article also includes fishing in the San Gabriel and Santa Monica mountains areas.) Reprinted on May 15, 1903 in the *Ventura Free Press* under the headline NUMBERLESS FISHES.

May 30, 1903 – Oxnard Courier

BRIEF MENTIONS – L. Wells, M.V. Carr and Geo. Wells spent the larger part of the week fishing in the mountain trout streams.

May 31, 1903 – Los Angeles Times

FLY FISHERMEN ARE HAVING SOME SPORT – Trout fishing thanks to the approach of genuine summer weather, is becoming more of a sportsman's sport every day. In the higher reaches of the San Gabriel, Sespe and other creeks the fish are beginning to cast amorous glances at the hackles, Coachmen, palmers and other floating renditions of fur and feathers that are dangled over their lairs by devotees of the fly rod who venture far enough from home to reach good trout water

Dr. W.L. Graves has been up in the Sespe several days and late last week he invited two local friends to join him, reporting the sport as all that could be desired by a trout fisherman. Bait has been the main reliance, though some of the Sespe parties after catching a good string, put on their flies just to have fun with the fish, and mayhap hook a big one.

According to Wheeler Blumberg, the Matilija country is quite well stocked with fair-sized trout at present, and a number of Ventura sportsmen have gone out from his camp during the last ten days. (Article also reported on the San Gabriel and Malibu areas.)

June 15, 1903 – Los Angeles Times

SLOTTERBACK RAIDS SALMON TROUT POOL – (Editor's note: The article is largely about conditions in the San Gabriel and Santa Monica areas.)

…The water is getting too warm for good fishing in the lower Sespe, and such catches as have been made there since last week resulted from hard trips far back into the mountains. The headwaters of the Sespe streams are all good trouting ground now, but plenty of time and a good knowledge of the country are necessary in order to reach them.

June 28, 1903 – Los Angeles Times

HERZOG'S TRIP – Having Fun at Matilija. Louis Herzog, the secretary of the local Game and Fish Protective Association, is putting in a two months' vacation at Matilija, in Ventura county, and from the tone of his letter must be having the time of his life. Mr. Herzog says:

"I have been bowling up on sulphur cocktails morning and evening with half-hour fishing jaunts in between. Usually I get about a half a dozen six to seven and a half-inch trout on each one, without going out of the canon, but next week I will go farther up into the upper Sespe country after some bigger ones. Fishing is not supposed to be the best right near the springs, but I have made some good catches. …We have concerts, bowling matches and all manner of good times here in the evenings; there are many people at the place just now. The baths are very healthful and have done me a great deal of good."

August 9, 1903 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA – Twenty-five thousand young trout have been sent to Santa Paula from the State hatchery and will on Monday be turned loose in the streams of that section.

August 25, 1903 – Los Angeles Times

NOT A "PISCATORIAL PORKER" – Now comes Alex Gray of Santa Paula and denies the accusation that he is a "piscatorial porker," that he caught trout which he allowed to rot, or that he had rheumatism as a result of the successful fishing. As Mr. Gray has made affidavit before a notary public that of all the trout he has caught during his thirty-six years' residence in Ventura county, he has never sold a trout caught in a Ventura county stream, or allowed one to go to waste, the person who said Mr. Gray did or suffered those things is convicted of piscatorial prevarication.

October 23, 1903 – Oxnard Courier

TO PROTECT OUR GAME – It is seldom that there is a state meeting of any association that has for its object any labor except that which alone interests its own members. The gathering at Paso Robles on November 13 and 14 will be an exception to this general rule, for its labors are far more in the interest of the whole commonwealth than for the individual benefit of its own members.

This gathering will be the fourth annual meeting of the California Game and Fish Protective Association, an organization unselfishly laboring for the preservation and restoration of the game and fish of the state, in order that this valuable food supply shall be maintained for the benefit of the whole people of this and coming generations. Too much value cannot be placed upon these natural resources of the state, and no labor should be spared by our thoughtful citizens to secure such legislation and such enforcement of the laws as will preserve, unimpaired for all time, at least the present supply.

Usually a state only awakens to the value of its game and fish when the supply has become exhausted, but through foresight of the gentlemen composing the California Game and Fish Protective Association, it now seems certain that California will be an exception to the general rule and simply safeguard its fish and game interests while the supply is yet in a fairly good condition. Local associations have already been organized in nearly all sections of the State, having for their object the conservation of these

interests, and it is of delegates from those local associations that the state associations which will meet at Paso Robles is formed. At the annual meetings, besides a general discussion of the best methods of securing the necessary conservation of this valuable food supply, many interesting and instructive papers are read on the game and fish of the state, and their economic relation to the commonwealth.

The local association has not as yet elected to send a delegate as the treasury is depleted. The officers are T.E. Walker, president; S. Myers, vice-president; R.B. Witman, secretary-treasurer, and an executive committee consisting of Ben S. Virden, S. Myers, and C.E. Coultas.

1 9 0 4

Rainfall – 11.54 inches

Sparks' Catch – 383 Trout

March 10, 1904 – The Republican

BAY BREEZES – There has been some great trout and salmon-trout fishing in the still water under the old wheel of what was once the ice plant, on the property of the electric light plant out on the Avenue. One fish was caught which measured 22 inches. Smaller ones have been taken by the dozen. As they are caught in dip nets it is not a thrilling sport, or one in which the trout have much of "a run for their money." It was at first thought the fish got there in some way through the wheel, but the truth probably is that they work their way up from the river along the ditch which carries the water away from the wheel.

March 28, 1904 – Los Angeles Times

WARNING TO ANGLERS – A number of people in the county with sporting and outing proclivities, particularly the eastern tourists at the fashionable Nordhoff resorts, are preparing for an onslaught on the trout streams of the county April 1. They should have a care or they will get fooled in an unpleasant way. The trout season does not open in this county until May 1. It used to open April 1, but last year in order to head off the Los Angeles fishermen, who were in the habit of coming into this county and "hogging" the streams while waiting for their own season to open, the Ventura Supervisors extended the close season a month. It is likely this action of the Supervisors has been overlooked by some Ventura sportsmen, while the easterners are not particular anyway, hence the talk about taking the trout here on April 1. The best streams are on the government reservation, and the rangers will perhaps take a hand in keeping out poachers. Those streams not on the reservation are so near the settled communities that it will be very risky to attempt to take trout from them. Those best posted say that there will be an abundance of trout in the streams this season.

March 31, 1904 – The Republican

FILLMORE – The Sespe river was so high Sunday that no one crossed it.

April 3, 1904 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT SEASON SOON AT HAND – Separated from their favorite sport by less than a month, trout fishermen are already speculating with great interests on prospects of the impending season, and wherever these devotees of the strenuous art do congregate, general satisfaction is expressed at the good times on mountain creek or pool that seems to be held forth by the heavy snowfall and great quantity of water which is now running bank full in the Sespe and upper San Gabriel steams.

…Such reports as have reached town from the Sespe state that there is an abundance of snow water in the head of that stream and much the same talk has been borne down from Big Rock Creek in the San Gabriel. Nobody is legally in a position to say much about the fish prospect as yet, and the fish appear to be safe from all marauders so long as rain is falling every week… (The rest of the article deals with different tackles to use.)

April 4, 1904 – Los Angeles Times

PEOPLE OF PIRU DISPLEASED – Trout Poachers. The trout law made by the Ventura Supervisors is being violated in this county, and many fish are being taken from the streams. There seems to be a conflict in the interpretation of the law as to the open season for fishing, and some anglers are willing to take a risk in order to try a hand with the speckled beauties with which Ventura steams abound. The State law provides that the open season begins on April 1, and that county boards of supervisors may shorten the season, but cannot lengthen it. The Ventura Supervisors have shortened the season by making the closing date May 1 instead of April 1. With this technicality in their favor the previous trout fishermen are at work, and it is rumored that a lot of Los Angeles fishermen are hastening toward the streams in the neighborhood of Santa Paula and Piru with the intention of fishing. To offset this invasion it is stated that the local sports about Santa Paula, who believe that the May ordinance should be obeyed, are preparing to patrol their streams during April with shotguns, if necessary, in order to keep out the hasty lot of unsportsmanlike sportsmen. There is good trout fishing being had now at the mouth of the Ventura River and some excellent strings are being taken. As the location is in tide water the fishermen claim that there is no violation of the law.

April 8, 1904 – Oxnard Courier

THE "SPECKLED BEAUTY" SAFE UNTIL MAY 1 – *Chronicle*: There is a conflict in the interpretation of the law as to the open season for trout. The state law provides that it commences April 1, and that county boards may shorten the season but cannot lengthen it. The county board of Ventura county last year shortened the season by enacting that it should commence May 1.

It's understood that a number of Los Angeles sportsmen threaten to fish in Ventura county streams in April, and the Santa Paula fisherman will have the streams in this vicinity patrolled during April by a force of men sufficient to protect our game fish. All persons catching trout in April be prosecuted to the extent of the law.

April 15, 1904 – Ventura Free Press

OUR NATURAL ADVANTAGES -- …The owners of the various springs are, we are informed, not very well pleased with the action of the board of supervisors in prohibiting fishing until May 1st as it means the taking away of several hundreds of dollars from them that would be spent by Los Angeles people who have hitherto always came to fish before their season was open. The fishermen justly remark, "if we come to Ventura in April you

folks can come to Los Angeles in May" and so it's as broad as it's long. What would be more to the point would be to prevent fishing before the time by our own people as well as outsiders and it would not take half a detective to catch many a law breaker. Another argument in favor of April fishing is that ordinarily the streams are free from weeds and the weather being colder the fish are much firmer and better as after hot weather sets in their flesh is more soft and flabby; but as this is not just a fish story we will drop the subject…(Article was about areas and resorts to visit in Ventura County.)

April 24, 1904 – Los Angeles Times

TROUTERS NOW AWAIT SEASON – Only a week from today the creel bearers will be wading their icy way in the snow water of the mountain streams, opening the trout season in Southern California.

…At the mouth of the Ventura River the small steelheads are said to be running in considerable numbers, and they appear to be ascending. Catching them there is quite an art and only a few of the natives possess the secret… (Bulk of the article is about the San Gabriel River.)

May 1, 1904 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT SEASON STARTS TODAY – …The few who left Friday for the upper creeks of Ventura county will probably have splendid sport, as the big steelhead trout are said to be running and of great size. Conditions are more favorable there than here (San Gabriel area), and the crowd will not be a factor in the opening day's conditions owing to the remoteness of the creeks. (Article dealt mainly with fishing in the San Gabriel area.)

May 5, 1904 – Ventura Free Press

TROUT SEASON OPENED – The opening of May and the trout season found the banks of every stream in the county lined with eager and expectant fishermen. The season opened a month later than last year and the fishing was therefore much better than usual.

Many excursionists came up from Los Angeles to fish in the Piru and Sespe and it is reported that along the lower courses of these streams every rock had a fisherman on it. On the Ventura River fishing was contained mostly of local men. A number of splendid catches are reported. Dr. J.M. Staire brought in about the best mess. He was out before daylight and by nine o'clock had a basketful of fine trout several of them over eleven inches long. W.P. Lincoln caught two dozen beauties. All day long youngsters and older fishermen whipped the stream and there were less trout in the river by several hundred at dark Sunday night.

May 5, 1904 – The Republican

BAY BREEZES – Dr. J. M. Staire is credited with being high line fisherman on the Ventura river when the trout season opened Sunday. He had a basketful of fine specimens before church time. W. P. Lincoln caught two dozen.

May 13, 1904 – Oxnard Courier

THIS WEEK'S DOINGS – Assistant Postmaster Geo. Bellah left his cage last Saturday and wandered over to Ventura, where he joined forces with his brother-in-law, Wm. Mays, in a trout catching contest, beating his relative two to one, which is no intimation that they only landed three. Geo. crossed his heart and declared that he caught an even dozen, without wasting an angle worm or losing a fly.

ADVERTISMENT – Matilija Hot Springs. Sim Myers, Prop. Matilija, Ventura County, Cal. Open Winter & Summer. A beautiful five mile ride from Nordhoff through the Ojai Valley in the old fashioned stage coach. Fare 50c. Accomodations: First-class dining room, cottages, tents, electric lights, regular postoffice, long distance telephone, general store, livery stable, free library and reading room, barber shop, public school, hot sulphur baths, medicinal waters to drink, no frost or winds. Sports and Amusements: Trout fishing, hunting, riding, camping, children's warm plunge, large swimming pool, bowling, croquet, billiards, gymnasium, dancing pavilion, music, etc. magnificent scenery and sublime climate. Rates: Board at Hotel, per week $12.00 and up; Furnished Tents, per week $2.50 and up; Special rates for camping privileges.

May 14, 1904 – The Ojai

AN OBJECT LESSON – The big crowd of people that attended Opening Day at Matilija Springs two weeks ago, should teach an object lesson to some of our business people on who largely the life of the community depends.

About six hundred people, regardless of the bleakness of the early part of the day, and the showers in the evening, enjoyed the day at the springs. The crowd would still have swelled in size, had not every available conveyance in the county been engaged, thus putting a limit to those anxious to go. We doubt if the Matilija, or even the Ojai Valley, ever had such a gathering of people. The canyon was jammed with people, conveyances and lunch baskets.

Where is the lesson for us, the sleepy business people may ask? It lies in the manner in which the management of a business is advertised. A few days before Sim Myers' old fashioned stage coach left Los Angeles to do service between Matilija and Nordhoff, it was driven through the principal streets of Los Angeles with banners attached: "Matilija Grand Opening, May 1st." Every newspaper in the county, in Santa Barbara, and many Los Angeles Papers, had advertisements of the springs, and the May-Day Opening. The result of this liberal policy, characteristic of Sim Myers, was demonstrated by the vast crowd that attended Opening Day at the Matilija Springs

The merchant, hotel keeper, and the real estate man, who would keep pace with the times, must do practically the same thing, advertise liberally; and produce the goods, the treatment, or the home site, when the patron responds to call.

The other fellow shuffles along for a few years, may lapse into that indifference whether he makes anything or not, or quit the business under the impression that it don't pay.

THACHER SCHOOL – On Friday afternoon, Dickey and Bissell, under the leadership of Mr. Dodge, went to the Sespe Gorge on a fishing trip, over the Topa Topa trail returning Sunday by the way of Lathrop's.

May 21, 1904 – The Ojai

LOCALS – A.A. Garland and Miss Ruby Garland were off on a fishing trip to the Sespe, the fore part of the week. They report a good time and plenty of fish.

THACHER SCHOOL – On Friday afternoon Mrs. Dickey, Miss Bradbury and Miss Martha Wood, accompanied by Painter and Dickey, went over to Lathrop's on a fishing trip. Although Painter and Dickey only caught eleven fish nobody has yet thought it strange.

May 23, 1904 – The Ojai

ADVERTISEMENT – Matilija Hot Springs. Sim Myers, Prop. Matilija, Ventura County, Cal. Grand Opening May 1, 1904. Open Winter and Summer… Sports and Amusements: Trout Fishing, Hunting, Riding, Camping, Children's Warm Plunge, Large Swimming Plunge, Bowling, Croquet, Billiards…. (Editor's Note: Mr. Blumberg, the previous owner had died in June 1900 when he fell off his bicycle. He died intestate so they family agreed to the sale of the resort.)

June 5, 1904 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT SEASON DISAPPOINTING. Local Anglers Consider It Nearly A Failure. – The trout season of 1904 around Los Angeles has thus far been practically a failure.

In some cases sportsmen struck a day's sport and returned with decent creelsful of fine fish, but the lucky ones made long trips far back into the recesses of the mountains for their speckled darlings, and went to expenditure both of money and time that place the game far beyond the reach of the average fisherman.
The San Gabriel, which is the most accessible stream to Los Angeles, has been fished and fished until the western fly rodsters say there is no use in going there except for several days stay, and if one is to be gone so long he might as well hie himself to the upper reaches of the Sespe, or to Kern River where he may know he will get good fishing.

Just what caused the scarcity of trout in the San Gabriel this year is a mooted point among the trouters but a majority believe the water conditions, owing to a comparatively dry winter, were unfavorable. Others say the sport will improve considerably after another week of hot weather, but they confine their predictions to small fish.

Probably the chief reason may be found in the merciless persecution the San Gabriel trout have been forced to suffer. Were a big stream permanent, there the trout might be kept up by copious plantings of fry, and this has been done to some extent but the demand keeps getting ahead of the supply.

…Ventura county fishermen have been doing much better on the Sespe and tributary creeks than the Los Angeles county brethren have in their own bailiwick. Throughout the stream the trout are running of very respectable sizes and some beautiful specimens have been brought to town during the last two weeks.

June 7, 1904 – Los Angeles Times

DYNAMITING TROUT – Dynamiters are getting in their deadly work on the trout again, this time in Ventura county. The announcement will hardly be news to those who have fished Southern California waters much of late years, but Lon Marshall of Ventura, who is the informant, states that section bosses and others working on the railroad that county are indulging in the pernicious practice to an even greater extent than usual. The Ventura River, so Marshall says, is being "shot" nearly every day.

The depredations of the sportsmen themselves, armed only with rod and reel, are enough to keep the trout supply down. The State law puts heavy penalties on dynamiting nay kind of fish, but it might as well not be on the books so far as the good it does is concerned. Marshall, yesterday, when asked where the Ventura county game warden was, stated he didn't he didn't know; that the one who officiated as game warden last year had been "fired" for catching trout out of season, and added that it was useless to look for relief from that source.

Dynamite is no respecter of size, limit or anything else; big fish, fry and spawn all suffer when it is used. Unless the practice is broken up by inflicting exemplary punishment on some of the offenders, sportsmen might as well quit the mountains and sell their rods. It is hard to think of anything bad enough to do to a man who deliberately dynamites a stream for two or three fish he can eat, destroying maybe ten thousand big and little fish at the shot.

Marshall further stated that it was rainbow trout, the fellows seemed to be after. He did what he could in the form of protestation, but a man who would dynamite trout is beyond all hope of redemption except legally enforced good behavior.

June 9, 1904 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA COUNTY – Alleged Fish Dynamiter. Charles McGlinchey of Ventura avenue, was arrested today by Under Sheriff Reilly for dynamiting fish in the Ventura River. The complaint was sown out by H.I. Pritchard of Santa Monica. McGlinchey was taken before Justice of the Peace Boiling, who released him on his own recognizance with orders to appear for examination on the 16th inst. The charge is that on May 29 McGlinchey used an explosive to kill trout. There have been whispers for some time of

certain parties using dynamite to kill fish in the river, the rumor having it that the lawbreaking was done by railroad workmen, who handle and understand the use of explosives, and the arrest comes as no surprise. The penalty is heavy—a fine of not less than $250, nor less than 150 days in jail, or both.

June 10, 1904 – Ventura Free Press

On the complaint of Fish Commissioner H.I. Pritchard of Santa Monica, Charles McGlinchey, a well known Ventura young man, was today arrested for killing trout with dynamite in the Ventura river. The offense is alleged to have been committed on May 29. McGlinchey was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Reilly and taken before the judge where he was informed of his rights and then released on his own recognizance.

June 24, 1904 – Oxnard Courier

THIS WEEK'S DOINGS – The Sespe fishing party, composed of Harry Wolff, "Shorty" Gillespie, and Kitty Cook, returned home yesterday, full of trout and mountain lyin'. Louis Wells and Matt Car preceded them several days ago.

July 15, 1905 – Oxnard Courier

MATILIJA SPRINGS – Joe Levy of Oxnard caught a trout twelve inches long in the stream just above "Hanging Rock," last week.

July 26, 1904 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA NOTES – The case of Charles McGlinchey, who was arrested for dynamiting trout in the Ventura River, was dismissed Saturday before Justice Boling on the ground of insufficiency of evidence.

August 16, 1904 – Los Angeles Times

MATILIJA SPRINGS – Fine Strings of Trout. E.A. Curtis and L. Lohman of Los Angeles; L. Herzog, Ocean Park; and Roy Fleming, Tucson, Ariz., brought in eighty-six speckled trout that averaged over ten inches Friday night. Mr. Curtis is one of the best fishermen at Matilija this season.

J.H. and R.H. Alexander of Los Angeles returned from a two-day's fishing trip in the Sespe. They brought fifty trout.

August 19, 1904 – Oxnard Courier

NEWS FROM THE FAMOUS MATILIJA – Messrs. Herzog and Lohman brought in forty ten inch trout last week and they were beauties.

September 9, 1904 – Oxnard Courier

NEWS FROM THE FAMOUS MATILIJA – Saturday Sept. 3 Messers. Curtis and Hazeltine brought in 83 trout, the result of a days catch. For this time of the year the fish are in fine condition.

October 6, 1904 – The Republican

WITH THE POPULACE – The Ventura river is to be stocked with trout, which fact will bring joy to the hearts of all lovers of angling. There will arrive from the State fish hatchery Monday morning, 20,000 trout, and under the personal direction of Mark Bogart and H. M. Staire, they will be promptly distributed in the river, in such places best for them. An association has been formed here, with Dr. H.M. Staire president, M.E.V. Bogart secretary, for the purpose of protecting the trout, and the law will be enforced to the letter. It will go hard with anyone caught disturbing the fish in the streams in this county, except in accordance with the fish laws.

October 7, 1904 – Ventura Free Press
October 10, 1904 – Oxnard Courier

NOW GET YOUR POLES READY – Next Monday morning there will arrive in Ventura from the state fish hatchery at Sisson, 20,000 trout to be deposited in the upper waters of the Ventura river.

The anglers of Ventura have formed an association of which H.M. Staire is president and M.E. Bogart, secretary, and an effort is to be made to propagate and protect the trout in the Ventura river and its mountain tributaries. As an advertising feature of this resort section, well stocked trout streams will form a drawing card of incalculable value. The trout will be sent in cans—four in number—each containing 5,000, accompanied by full instructions for their care.

Messrs. Staire and Bogart will see to the planting of the trout, and some of them will be placed as far up the river as Matilija. It is now proposed to protect the trout of our streams to the full limit of the law, and in a few years the Ventura river will be as famous as the historical trout streams of Vermont.—*Democrat.*

October 8, 1904 – The Ojai

LOCALS – Among the visitors at the Matilija Springs this week are Judge Trask and Mr. Dunnigan, both of Los Angeles. Next week the chief arrivals will be a 25,000 trout fry from the government hatchery at Sisson, whose presence will doubtless improve the already excellent fishing.

October 14, 1904 – Oxnard Courier

October 21, 1904 – The Republican

FISH FOR THE MATILIJA – Twenty-five thousand of the Speckled Beauties Arrived Monday. Sim Myers of the Matilija Hot Springs came down from his resort Sunday evening to be on hand to receive a consignment of twenty-five thousand young trout which were shipped him from the State Fish Hatchery at Sisson for distribution in the sparkling waters of the Matilija Canyon in his vicinity.

They arrived on the morning train in charge of S. English of the state hatchery. They were in four large cans and ranged in size from one inch to 3 ½ in length, and were perfect beauties. As the train going to Nordhoff did not leave until four o'clock in the afternoon, and they had been in the can since Saturday evening, the gentleman accompanying them suggested that it would be a good plan to get some fresh water on them immediately, so they were brought up to town and a stream of fresh water from the city hydrants turned into each can but scarcely had this been done when they began to show signs of sickness and it was only by hard work and careful handling that any of them were saved. As it was Mr. Myers left on the evening train for the Matilija with scarcely one-half of the consignment alive.

Whether they were gone for want of fresh water when they landed or whether the artesian water was too much them Mr. Myers is unable to say, but he felt the loss of them more keenly than he would that of $100, and stated many times during the day, while he was working like a trojan to save them, that he would far rather lose $100 than those fish.

Mr. Myers is one of the county's most active sportsmen and is ever on the alert looking to the preservation of the fish and game of this section, and there is nothing that would have given him greater pleasure than to have planted the entire consignment in perfect condition in the waters of the Matilija. He had even gone to the trouble to prepare small cans and pack horses ready to convey them clear to the headwaters of the stream.

Mr. Myers intends writing the Fish Commission of his bad luck, and try to get another consignment, which he will meet at Ventura with a team and take them direct to the Matilija without delay, and we trust he may be successful.

October 14, 1904 – The Republican

FISH ARE PLANTED – The mountain trout arrived Monday morning on time—twenty thousand of them—and were at once taken out and placed in their new home in the Ventura river. They came by express from the State Fish Hatchery at Sisson, and arrived in first class condition. Messers. J.M. Staire, Frank E. Jones, Owen Boiling and Mowry, accompanied by Game Warden Morse of Nordhoff, did the planting. They started in about three miles up the river, and worked up, placing the last bunch at Matilija.

Five thousand fish are supposed to be the proper number to a mile. They are expected to grow an inch per month, so by next season there will be some fishing in the Ventura river.

It is reported that Sim Myers will soon get a consignment of twenty-five thousand more and place them in the river above his resort.

October 14, 1904 – Ventura Free Press

20,000 TROUT PLANTED – The 20,000 trout ordered by the local sportsmen from the state fish hatchery arrived by express Monday and were taken out to the Ventura river by Dr. Staire, F.E. Jones, Owen Boling and Game Warden Morse. They were placed in the stream at various points between the Casitas creek and the Matilija. An effort will now be made to have all open ditches leading out from the river screened, for it is a well known fact among sportsmen that one open ditch will destroy more fish than all the fishermen together catch in a year.

October 15, 1904 – The Ojai

LOCALS – The trout ordered for the Matilija Cañon arrived on Monday, but not in the best of condition. They were turned loose in the stream under the direction of Mr. Charles Morse, Fish and Game inspector.

November 3, 1904 – The Republican

WITH THE POPULACE – Deputy Game Commissioner, H.I. Pritchard, who has been keeping a watchful eye on this county this year for law breakers, was a visitor in town Friday. He stated that he had no special business, but was just looking around.

Sim Myers, proprietor of the Matilija Springs, was registered at the Anacapa Sunday. He came down to meet a second consignment of fish from the State hatchery, and this time brought a team and driver with him, in order to get the fish to their destination without unnecessary delay. This consignment consisted of twenty-five thousand trout, and no loss occurred in planting them. The first lot came to Oxnard, and in waiting for the evening train, only about seven thousand were saved out of twenty-five thousand. The fish came in on the morning train Monday, and were at once taken up to the Matilija and planted. There is now excellent fishing in the river above the springs, and next year it will be unexcelled. One trouble Mr. Myers has to contend with is the killing of many fish by the snakes. He has offered a bounty of five cents for every snake killed in the vicinity of the springs, and this summer hundreds of the enemy were destroyed.

November 4, 1904 – Oxnard Courier

BETTER LUCK THIS TIME – Twenty-five Thousand Trout Planted in the Matilija in Fine Shape. Word comes down from Sim Myers of the Matilija that he had succeeded in securing another consignment of fish from the State Hatchery at Sissons on Monday and that he landed them in the waters of the Matilija in fine shape the same afternoon. This will prove most pleasing news to Sim's many friends throughout the county, who are deeply interested in his efforts to replenish the waters of that famous stream with the

speckled beauties. It will be remembered that a few weeks ago the State Fish & Game Association shipped 50,000 fish to this county; 25,000 of which were consigned to Mr. Myers here at Oxnard, but the keeper who came with them ran out of ice at San Luis Obispo, and when they reached Oxnard over half of them were dead, and before Mr. Myers could reach the Matilija the balance succumbed. He immediately notified the commission of the fact and they consented to send another lot, which they did on Monday.

Mr. Myers informs us that this last shipment reached him in fine condition and that he had good luck in placing them along the stream from his springs clear to the headwaters of the stream. He reports that the late rains as having cleaned the creek of all debris, and that a finer time could not have been found for the planting of the fish, and that by next spring the Matilija will abound with speckled beauties.

November 5, 1904 – The Ojai

LOCALS – On October 31st the new supply of young trout to stock the Ventura river arrived from the government hatchery. Sim Myers, of Matilija, accompanied by Charles Morse, the County Fish and Game Inspector, met the newcomers and assigned them to comfortable quarters.

November 25, 1904 – Ventura Free Press

VENTURA VISITORS – For the protection of trout they recommend that the closed season be extended to May 1, instead of April 1, and that no trout less than one pound in weight be sold in market and that no trout less than five inches long be allowed to be caught.

1 9 0 5

Rainfall – 24.26 inches

Sparks' Catch – 165 Trout

January 20, 1905 – Oxnard Courier

MATILIJA IMPROVEMENTS – Sim Myers, the hopeful and energetic proprietor of Matilija Springs, was a visitor yesterday. During the short inter lull in tourist business, Sim is centering his time and industry upon new plans and improvements that will add greatly to the beauty, comfort and convenience of his model resort.

He says the weather is all that an Easterner could wish for, and before Mr. Myers has reached the full limit of his ambitious, it is safe to presume that winter tourists will be a prominent feature of the nook. He is receiving many inquiries, concerning the winter climate, and within two weeks he expects a number of guests who will personally test the merits of the springs as an abiding place at this time of year.

The coming season is full of promise, many people having already booked themselves as guests for the spring and summer months.

Sim says that the outlook for an abundant trout harvest was never better, which of itself will prove a great drawing card.

March 30, 1905 – The Republican

WILL OPEN MAY FIRST – Trout Season Will Also Open the First of May. Law Not Changed in this Regard. Sim Myers, proprietor of the Matilija Hot Springs, was a Ventura visitor Wednesday, having just returned from a business trip to Los Angeles.

In conversation with a *Republican* reporter Mr. Myers stated that the reports which have been spread broadcast regarding the damage done to his valuable property, were greatly exaggerated. He stated positively that he would be in an excellent position this summer to handle his trade, and that his regular Summer opening would be on the first of May. At this time he expects a great crowd. Already Los Angeles people, who have been to Matilija, and know what to expect, have signified their intention to Mr. Myers of being on hand at the opening, and several crowds are being organized to make the trip.

Mr. Myers had a large gang of men at work fixing up the paths and roads which twine about the mountain side, and repairing what damage was done by the unexpected flood of waters. By the time, and before, of his summer opening, all will be in readiness.

An important feature of an outing at Matilija this year will be the excellent fishing. The fish which have been planted in the creeks have thrived, and this sport will be better than it has been for year. There is some misunderstanding regarding the open season for trout,

but there has been no change in this law. The season opens May first in this county, the same as it has for the past two years, and there will be no fishing until May first.

March 31, 1905 – Oxnard Courier

NO TROUT FISHING UNTIL MAY FIRST – Due to the fact that the state law makers were reported to have changed the open season for fishing, many have gained the impression that April 1st was the day, but such is not the case.

The state law makers acted wisely by refraining monkeying with the fish law, and there being no amendments enacted infringing on the powers of Boards of Supervisors, where ordinances have been passed by them fixing the time for taking trout, Ventura County's restrictions will remain in force, and the time is May 1st.

Therefore those who had planned to go fishing tomorrow must forego the pleasure and possess themselves with patience until that time.

April 23, 1905 – Los Angeles Times

FINEST TROUT SEASON EVER KNOWN HERE AT HAND – The day of the beautiful mount-stream fish again draws nigh. (Conditions of streams and trails in Los Angeles County explained and noted that heavy rains may delay the season.)

…The Ventura streams all promise well, the Matilija and Sespe having been stocked again last year, with apparently plenty good-sized old fish left behind to make merry with the anglers. (Rest of the article about fishing equipment and techniques.)

May 2, 1905 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA TROUT SPORT GOOD – Streams Running High but Fish Plentiful. Ventura, May 1.—This is trout day in this county. A great number of the finny mountain beauties have been taken from the various streams. Not so many anglers go out as is customary, owing to the great amount of water in the streams. The true angler knows that the best trouting is not to be had in the highest water, for at that time there is plenty of feed afloat in the stream.

This year, because of the late and copious rains which visited Southern California, all the streams are carrying more water than in years before, while many streams with water enough in them to support trout this season have for years on May 1 been dry as a bone.

The main streams in the county, the Ventura River, Coyote Creek, San Antonio Creek, North Fork of the Matilija, Santa Paula Creek, Piru and Sespe creeks, each year saw its proportion of fishermen, and to the scientific trouters fell some pretty good baskets. But fishing was not so good for the ordinary run of fishermen as it will be a month later. The creeks are all full of fish, however, and with a few good rainy seasons the fishing will continue to grow better, as over 100,000 young trout were put in the various trout streams

in this county the past year. Some of these have been seen recently, and from appearances hold out the hope that all are in a thriving condition.

Probably the greatest number of fishermen were out along the Ventura River today. One of the resorts in the Matilija, that run by Sim Myers, had its opening today, and as Myers is himself an enthusiastic trout-catcher, he naturally draws the fishermen around him. It was noticed that most every man of those attending had his rod and basket with him. Some of these fishing sports went out last night, in order to be on the ground before sunrise. Mr. Myers is one of the men who took particular pains in the planting of the young fish obtained from the Fish Commissioners the past season.

Reports of catches from nearly all the creeks are coming in, and it is evident fine sport was had.

May 3, 1905 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA – The biggest trout taken from the Ventura River yesterday weighed nearly one pound, and measured 16 inches. Walter Bateman was the successful Nimrod. Many good baskets were taken by other citizens, the fish averaging well.

May 4, 1905 – The Republican

GRAND AT OPENING AT MATILIJA – Sunday and Monday were busy days at the Matilija, and many people from far and near participated in the grand opening of that popular resort. While the crowds did not come up to the former openings, Mr. Myers found plenty to do to take care of those who were there, and this he did in his usual happy manner.

Those who are familiar with the Matilija were surprised at the amount of work that has been accomplished since the great storm, and while there are changes noticeable to old timers, everything is in ship-shape, and the accommodations are up to the standard.

Fishing was one of the principal attractions, and good success accompanied those who tried their luck. The fish which were planted in the river have thrived, and the sport this year will be better than it has been in these parts for years.

May 5, 1905 – Oxnard Courier

OPENED IN SPLENDOR – The formal summer opening of the Matilija Hot Springs took place Monday as advertised, and from all reports was a faultless affair. There was a jolly gathering of the many friends of that prince of good fellows, Sim Myers, whose entertaining abilities are only exceeded by his open-hearted generosity.

During the early morning the anglers were out in force, and only few came back empty handed, catching various numbers. Dr. Lang of Oxnard managed to land a pair of

speckled beauties, while Phares Myers of Ventura hooked a fine string of 38. The trout were of unusual size, being from 8 to 12 inches in length.

May 13, 1905 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL – Two parties from the school spent Saturday in the Sespe. I. Bissell, Colby, Boynton, Gay, P. Pierpont, Graham and Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, camped at the mouth of the Piedra Blanca Creek, while Bowles, Dickey and Bliss were with Mr. Colton at Lathrop's Of the camping party, Bissell, Gay and Graham were unable owing to the storm to continue the homeward journey on Sunday and were sent to Lathrop's where they remained till Monday. The rest kept on through the rain and sleet and reached the school thoroughly drenched and drilled. The fishing was fair, one hundred and ninety having been caught.

May 20, 1905 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA OIL KILLS TROUT – Ventura, May 19.—State Fish and Game Commissioner Pritchard of Santa Monica has been in the county several days stirring up the oil well men about Santa Paula. The waters of Santa Paula and Seesaw creeks, the latter emptying into the former and making a beautiful stream through Santa Paula cañon, have for some time shown great pollution from oil.

The oil was rapidly killing off the fish with which these steams have always abounded, and especially were the small trout suffering which the State had planted there the past season. Pritchard a few days ago entered the cañon and followed the stream up to the headwaters, where there are a large number of oil wells in operation.

At the property of the Slocum company he found a stream of oil emptying into the creek and so impregnating the water that his horses would not drink it. He promptly served notice on the oil people, learning that at least half a dozen were allowing oil to run into the creeks. Mr. Pritchard has also served notice on the several water companies of the county drawing water from the running streams, that they must in future so arrange their ditches that no fish will be taken from the streams and run out into ditches and reservoirs.

May 25, 1905 – The Ojai

JOKE – Walton (to fishmonger) – Just throw me half-a-dozen of those trout.
Fishmonger: "Throw them?"
Walton – Yes; then I can go home and tell my wife I caught 'em. I may be a poor fisherman, but I am no liar.

May 27, 1905 – The Ojai

LOCALS – Mr. Garland, Miss Ruby Garland, and Mr. and Mrs. Hendrickson, spent a few days this week on the banks of the Sespe angling for speckled beauties.

June 10, 1905 – The Ojai

MAROONED – An automobile party consisting of A.L. Stetson, of Stetson, Preston & Company, wholesale grocers, Los Angeles; R.W. Barnham, manager R.G. Dun & Co; A.M. Edelman, architect; and Frank J. Spearman, noted author, arrived in Nordhoff Monday afternoon, being en route from Los Angeles to the Sespe trout fishing streams, in the vicinity of Lathrops'

They left Los Angeles that morning, made good time and were apparently in good spirits to within a few miles of Nordhoff. At the John Hobson ranch on the Creek road, the San Antonio had been dammed across the roadway, the water having reached a depth of about three feet; the object of this damming process being to furnish water for irrigation. Therein the auto plunged without the least evidence of being refractory, but overcome by the depth of the water that completely submerged its machinery, there was no other alternative but to balk in the middle of the stream with its impatient occupants. In this predicament, the Santa Barbara *Independent* goes on with the narrative in the following:

…"Water, however, could not dampen the spirits of that little band. There were out for fun and fishing. They found the former in anything that happened and immediately proceeded in search of the later. Securing horses at Nordhoff, though it was then well on in the afternoon, they went on over the mountain trails and struck the fishing grounds in the Sespe about 9 o'clock that night. When they returned over the trial in daylight one or two of them were glad they went up in the dark for the reason that in this case at least "ignorance was bliss." The fishing proved to be well worth encountering a few inconveniences, for sixty-five of the speckled beauties were caught in a few hours."

On shortsightedness, the above incident seems very funny; but seriously considered, it is the most unfortunate. Ventura county never got full title to the land along the Creek road, and nothing short of a dam, or other foolish obstruction can be expected now and then, until full right-of-way is secured. If the property owners object to deeding the necessary way, the sooner the authorities condemn, the better for all concerned.

July 22, 1905 – The Ojai

GREAT RESORT FOR MATILIJA – The famous hot springs of the Matilija canyon, Wilcoxon's, Stingley's and Lyon's have all been leased by Dr. G. L. Calmus of Los Angeles, who will at once begin preparations to improve and beautify the resorts and to install conveniences for tourists and campers.

The lessee holds an option to purchase all of the properties. He takes possession of Mrs. Lyon's springs October 1st and others immediately. The resorts will be under the management of J.J. Woodworth of Los Angeles, a man experienced in such work. It is the intention of the doctor to make the upper Matilija Springs the finest and most attractive resort in Southern California. To that end he will spare no expense. He will put in six new baths at once. Steel pipe lined with asbestos will convey the hot sulphur water to the baths. A reservoir on the mountain side will store water for drinking and

irrigating purposes; new cottages will be built and grounds will be improved; a great fish pond will be built; and an electric plant will be installed. In fact everything will be done to give quick prominence to the resort and to hold it in favor with those who seek the mountains in the summer time.

July 23, 1905 – Los Angeles Times

SANTA PAULA – Mountain Springs Notes. This season's record for trout fishing at Sulphur Mountain Springs was broken Thursday by Emil Kayser and H.J. Hertel of Pasadena. The Santa Paula Creek gave up eighty-four of its denizens for the sport of these anglers. Mr. Kayser having taken the limit of fifty in a few hours and Mr. Hertel drawing out thirty-four. The catch comprised speckled brook trout and salmon trout, the largest weighing half a pound and measuring twelve inches. The majority of the fish were about eight inches long and weighed a little over a quarter of a pound. The trout season in the Santa Paula is now considered at its height and each day persistent anglers have been bringing in some fish but yesterday's catch was considered noteworthy.

The oil which has seeped into the Santa Paula and Sisar from adjacent wells has had the effect of scattering the fish but this through the watchfulness of the fish commissioners has been stopped and the sportsmen are already getting results.

August 4, 1905 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA – Twenty thousand young trout have been received in the county and planted in the streams near Santa Paula.

August 4, 1905 – Ventura Free Press

The local Fish and Game Association will on Monday the 31st, received a consignment of 20,000 trout with to replenish the depleted streams in the vicinity.

August 12, 1905 – The Ojai

MATILIJA HEADQUARTERS FOR TROUT – Mr. Sim Myers, the genial proprietor of Matilija Hot Springs, received 40,000 trout fry from the State Fish Hatchery. With the assistance of Mark Day they were carefully transported into the Matilija canyon, where they were reintroduced to their native element. Doubtless they will thrive and multiply and be a drawing card for that already famous resort.

August 15, 1905 – Los Angeles Times

STILL SCARCE THE DEER – Santa Paula Man Has Great Trout Fishing. (Main thrust of article is deer hunting and scarcity of bucks, but not does.) …Fenton fished one day and had no difficulty in getting the limit of small trout. He was handicapped by his long rod. "A five-foot stick is long enough for the upper Sespe country," he declares.

Not all the fish in the section above Santa Paula are small, however. A Santa Paula fisherman the other day landed sixteen twelve-inches from the Sulphur Springs branch by picking his fish. Considerable oil seepage is slowly ruining these streams for trout. The water is skimmed over three or four hours a day and the fish are dying from it.

1 9 0 6

Rainfall – 17.83 inches

Sparks' Catch – 279 Trout

February 2, 1906 – Ventura Free Press

TROUT FISHING MAY FIRST – Sim Myers of the Matilija springs was in town today making inquiries as to the opening of the trout season in this county. He consulted with the District attorney, who holds that, despite opinion to the contrary, the date as fixed by the Board of Supervisors holds—that is, the 1st of May. The date for the opening of the trout season up to a short time ago was the 1st of April in this county. The date for the opening in Los Angeles county was considerably later than this, and for this reason Los Angeles fishermen were in the habit of flocking into the eastern end of this county and enjoying themselves while they were waiting for the season to open in their own county. This fact determined the board to change the date, which they did, making it the first of May, or a month later. And, according to the District Attorney, this is the date at which it will stand.

So trouters who have Ventura county in view will please bear the fact in mind that if they fish in Ventura county before May 1st will be in danger of being hauled before the courts and asked why.

February 9, 1906 – Ventura Free Press

WOULD HAVE KILLED TROUT – Until today and for the past three months there has existed a serious menace to the fish in the Ventura river and in fact to the fish that frequent the waters of the bay. Had not the menace been discovered and proper steps taken to abate and remove it, the fishermen who each spring go to the river from its mouth far up into the mountains would have caught few if any fish and would have wondered why the trout were becoming so scarce in the river and its tributaries.

The discovery of this menace to the fish was made in a peculiar manner. After the rains during January many people noticed that the ocean near the shore line was covered with a black oily, sooty substance which had never before been seen. Will Taylor one of our best known sportsmen determined to investigate. He believed that the scum and refuse came from the river and accordingly made several trips up the stream on both banks and for several miles. One day last week be discovered below the gas works of the Ventura Gas Company, that all the waste and refuse from the gas works was being carried into the stream. This fact was reported to the local fish and game association and H.J. Abels the patrolman of the state fish commission was at once notified.

Mr. Abels arrived Friday evening and this morning in company with Mr. Taylor and a *Free Press* representative, went to the place where the nuisance existed. Here it was found that all of the residue of the crude oil used in making gas was being carried off

from the tanks in a wooden sluice box. This sluice box was running about half full of water, oil and black scum and refuse. Several hundred yards from the plant the sluice emptied its contents in to the old river bed which was covered all about with the deposit. The water found its way down along the ditch which carries water from the irrigation system into a big pool not a foot from the bank of the ditch and his was overflowing into the ditch. It was easily seen that when the rains come this stuff is all carried into the river.

Mr. Abels at once expressed his disapproval of the negligence of the company and stated that steps must be taken immediately to prevent the further pollution of the river. Coming back to town he notified Manager Barker that something must be done at once. Mr. Barker assured the patrolman that he would set his men at work at once to construct a dam to contain the refuse and everything would be done to comply with the order of the fish commissioner.

The state laws are very strict in regard to this matter. There is a penalty of $250 for the violation of the statute which prohibits the dumping of refuse from coal, tar, gas, petroleum or any such factories. Mr. Abels will return to Ventura in a few weeks to ascertain what the company is doing. He says that had not the pollution stopped there would not have been a trout in the river this year. (Part of this news item also appeared February 4, 1906 in the *Los Angeles Times.*)

April 26, 1906 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SATICOY SHOTS – Messrs. Marple, Lincoln and Fitzpatrick returned from the Sespe last Saturday where they enjoyed a few days with the speckled beauties. They report catching about sixty trout.

April 28, 1906 – The Ojai

MAY DAY AT MATILIJA – Sim Myers announces the regular summer opening of the Matilija Hot Springs on May 1st by a cordial invitation to all. Bring your lunch baskets and fishing tackles and enjoy this May Day picnic in the scenic Matilija. Mr. Myers has made many improvements during the winter; has developed more hot water baths, and generally made the place more attractive. The Canyon is in its full spring garb; wild lilacs scent the air, and the road is in good condition. One can't keep from having a good time at Sim Myers' on May Day.

March 25, 1906 – Los Angeles Times

RIVER DESPOILED OF TROUT – Complaint is made that the Ventura River at this point is rapidly becoming cleaned of trout because of the unscreened ditches which are used to draw off the water from the stream by the water company. One fisherman states that during the month of February steelheads weighing six and seven pounds were taken from the ditches of the company along Ventura Avenue. He says that a mile from the dam there are some ten ditches leading from the river, including those in the several

forks, only two or three of which are screened, and these are screened too far from the dam and the mesh of the screens is too large, being one-half inch.

May 4, 1906 – Los Angeles Times

FISHING ON SESPE – Reports from Ventura county indicate that trout fishing is beginning to offer great inducements along the Sespe. The waters are clear and have reached good fishing level, and catches of the full quota of trout ranging from ten to fifteen inches are reported daily. The fishing grounds are about fifty miles from Los Angeles, and within easy access for a short trip.

May 5, 1906 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – THE SESPE TRIP – Last Friday afternoon a crowd of fishing enthusiasts watched the weather with baited breath. If it rained it meant no Sespe trip; and so every time the sun came through the clouds, it was hailed with loud cries of joy. Just as the party got ready to start, the rain came down in torrents, putting an end to the trip for that day. However, Mr. Thacher gave permission to such of the party as still wished to go the next morning. So at about four o'clock in the morning Charles Tutt, I. Bissell and Horace Boynton started off, after having had great difficulty in convincing the Lower School that they were not burglars. Immediately after breakfast Gay, McBride and Lawrence started, and they were followed about a half an hour later by Mr. S.D. Thacher, M. Allen and Ayerell. The party all had a most enjoyable time and they wish to state that they left the biggest fish (i.e. the ones they didn't catch) in the river. After doing full justice to one of Herb Lathrop's excellent suppers, the party went to bed. Mr. Thacher, Gay, Allen and Lawrence sought the "basky bulrushes" otherwise known as alfalfa, in the bar; while the rest of the party ensconced themselves in Herb's downy couches. Just as the party in the barn was settling down to sleep they heard the loud tinkling of a cow bell. The gallant Treddie being the only one who was up at the time, stepped forth and, armed only with a glim, proceeded to do battle with the cow and strip her of her spoils. In a few minutes he returned with the spoils and soon everyone was in the land of nod. The next morning a remarkable show was witnessed. I. Bissell gave a daring exhibition of riding a wild, unbroken calf without saddle or bridle. Amid the wild cheers of the assembled multitude he accomplished this dangerous feat and returned uninjured to his anxious friends. After a dinner of delicious fresh trout, the party returned to the school, and everyone declared the trip an unqualified success. Charles Tutt had the best luck at fishing on Saturday as he managed to bag about forty. The rest of the party got about nine apiece, everyone thoroughly wet and returned to camp in the best of spirits. There is a rumor afloat that Lawrence did not catch anything but a cold. Beware of libel! There is still some law in the land.

May 17, 1906 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FILLMORE ITEMS – Fishing is fine up Poll creek, they say. Several of the young people went up the creek to fish but were so unfortunate as to fall in-------love.

May 26, 1906 – The Ojai

LYON SPRINGS ITEMS – Mr. C.G. Burnett of Ventura, and Claud C. Needham of Kansas City, arrived Saturday night. At daylight the next morning they were wending their way riverward, returning midday with thirty fine trout. Espying a large tract of ground plentifully bedecked with red berries, they ordered some for dinner and later remarked that after a long tramp nothing in the way of a meal could beat mountain trout and strawberries and cream.

May 31, 1906 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Fishing in the Sespe has proven so very poor this season that some of the enterprising citizens here are making arrangements with the state fish commissioner to restock the streams.

June 8, 1906 – Ventura Free Press

Fred Hartman, Jr., of the Anacapa hotel, Geo. Montgomery and wife of Los Angeles, and G.E. Little and H.W. Hendrick of Whittier, returned Sunday from their fishing trip on the Sespe. The party was gone just a week during which time they caught 750 trout, most of which were taken to Los Angeles by the anglers to be used to back up the stories they are telling their friends.

June 23, 1906 – The Ojai

LYON SPRINGS ITEMS – Mr. Burt Cooper caught forty-one trout in the river here Wednesday. The water is right now and the fish are biting freely. Mr. H.A. Stinson of Los Angeles caught 47 nice trout in the last few days.

July 15, 1906 – Los Angeles Times

SNOWY WATER NOW CLEARING – Fly Fishermen Look Forward to Some Real Sport. (Beginning of the article is fishing news in Los Angeles county.)

…SESPE STREAMS. Accurate and reliable information regarding the state of the Sespe streams is not easy to attain. Bonded together by some apparently spontaneous agreement, the Ventura county anglers have succeeded in suppressing all but a few of the big fish stories that are ever expected of the Sespe and its tributaries at this season of the year. Local fly casters consider this silence the best of signs, and not a few are outfitting for trips to that section, which will carry them into the deer season. One familiar with the conditions of this banner trout stream avers the water is clear enough for fishing, and has been so for a month; that the fish are more numerous than ever, and of excellent average size, provided the anglers find the proper place. Charming and explicit data! So concise and delightfully clear; so straight to the point that one cannot fail to find trout by following it, even to the utmost recesses of the Agua Blanca's cañons! Why not say there are plenty of big fish in the sea, and let it go at that!

Even at Matilija some very respectable creeks have come to hand, and the fly is being employed on that creek with success commensurate with the ease of reaching it and the number of anglers—an inverse ratio well understood by the piscatorial fancy…(The rest of the article was about conditions in the San Gabriel river and Kern river.)

August 10, 1906 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA BREAKERS – Sixty thousand young trout arrived in the county this morning from the State hatchery at Sisson. Twenty thousand were for Sespe Creek, while 40,000 were brought to this city and delivered to Sim Myers, who immediately started with them for the Ventura River, in Matilija Cañon. Of the lot received by Mr. Myers, 10,000 were Scotch trout, known as Loch Leven trout, which attain a large size, while the other 30,000 were of the rainbow variety. All the fish were in fine condition when received.

August 10, 1906 – Ventura Free Press

TROUT FOR MATILIJA – Sim Myers has received from the state fish hatchery at Sisson forty thousand young brook trout to restock the Matilija. The young trout came in by express from the north and were immediately taken by Mr. Myers and an assistant to the headwaters of the Matilija where they were at once put into the streams. Twenty thousand were taken, beside this lot, to Fillmore, consigned to George Tighe and C.C. Elkins. Of those received by Mr. Myers, 10,000 were Scotch trout and 30,000 rainbow.

Mr. Myers has had especial success in planting trout in the Matilija and he is to be commended by all lovers of sport for the interest he has taken in the manner.

STATE GAME LAW – The state game law now is practically the only guide of the huntsman, as follows:
OPEN SEASON…Trout – April 1 to November 1.
BAG LIMIT…Trout – 25 pound weight, or 50 in one day.
PENALTY FOR VIOLATION. For violation of fish laws, $20 to $250 and imprisonment.
Smallest fine for using explosives to take fish, $250 and imprisonment.

August 11, 1906 – The Ojai

LOCALS – Sim Myers received forty thousand young trout by express from the state fish hatchery, which he and an assistant planted at the headwaters of the Matilija.

August 17, 1906 – Ventura Free Press

The enterprise of Sim Myers of the Matilija in stocking the head waters of Ventura river with trout should be a suggestion to true sportsmen hereabouts to stock this end of the river in a like manner. Mr. Myers certainly deserves credit for the part he takes in this matter, but the river is a long one and one man cannot do it all. Let Venturans get

together on this and get in a few thousand young trout and keep this end of the stream supplied and well stocked.

September 13, 1906 – Los Angeles Times

MORE FISH FOR ORANGE COUNTY – …Northern California fishermen have a decided advantage over local lovers of the willow switch and angleworm sport, form the fact that they are closer to the government hatchery, and not only get the first pick of the speckled beauties, but get them from the station every year.

Robert McFadden and E.M. Smiley who have been on a trip to the northern part of the State, paid an interesting visit at Sisson, and were shown through it by the government representative. The official told them that the wished it was in his power to give the fishermen of the south end other State more consideration in the matter of sending them fish, but that under the present system of distribution it was impossible to do so. The State has no regular fish car like the ones used for the purpose in the Eastern States, and it is necessary to send them out in cans. The cans have to be iced en route, and it is impossible to send the larger fish so far. Trout four and five inches long to the streams near by, and smaller ones, some of them not over two inches, come down here. It is necessary for a man to accompany the shipment and he has to give them his constant attention. Many of these little fish are eaten by the larger ones in the streams in which they are placed, and many of them die in transit. The trout placed in the northern streams one year are full grown by the next.

1907

Rainfall – 27.83 Inches

Sparks' Catch – 329 Trout

January 6, 1907 – Los Angeles Times

BETER CHEER FOR TROUTERS – Successive Wet Winters Are Guaranty of Water.

…Given the proper combination of climatic conditions/trout fishing in Southern California becomes a good sport. The trout always lurks in the upper waters of the principal Southern California "rivers" and is in evidence there even in bad seasons which, in trout fishing, as in most other things local, are synonymous with years of drought. Given a succession of seasons in which liberal rainfall is vouchsafed, the mountain streams again may be expected to teem with trout. The process becomes cumulative, and the last summer following, say the third successive rainy winter, as will be the case in the present year, should prove one of the best ever experienced by trout fishermen.

During such seasons as the trout can reach the sea, the fishing is generally at its best, and there is a the noticeable improvement in the sport following this natural re-stocking of the streams.

The presence of steelhead trout in local waters has been made note of at intervals during the past. At the mouth of such streams as the Ventura River they are at certain seasons the most prevalent of the trout kind, and many are known to ascend that stream a great distance.

In such seasons as the present promises to be, the State fish commission might accomplish a work of lasting benefit to Southern sportsmen by diverting the unstinted supply of fry that has gone to northern waters, where it is not needed, to local streams where the past has proved that such diversion can accomplish substantial good. If there ever was a fit time for trout planting in this end of the State it must be the present when several seasons of bountiful rains, and an unbroken period of pluvial prosperity have filled all the principal streams with so much water that the young fish could hardly fail to find the conditions they desire.

A hatchery in this end of the State would not be more than local sportsmen are entitled to, for they have always kept their need up in every movement that looked to the betterment of California's game and fish conditions, not stopping at spending their money liberally when need be, and taking the lead in such matters as voluntary reduction of the bag limit, not necessary legislative reforms in which certain sections of the north were somewhat recalcitrant. To this, and to other matters like import, the new fish commissioner from Southern California is asked to pay his particular attention.

The quantity of water in the San Gabriel, Sespe, Ventura River, and in fact all the principal trout steams, is so great even at this early stage of the winter that there seems almost no possibility of other than sustained high water conditions everywhere when the season opens, which is a matter of some months hence.

Such a state of affairs will bear with it many minor advantages to the trout angler, among which may be mentioned a general clearing of the creeks from the brush and other debris which has added unnecessary hazard to the pursuit of a sport that is at no time child's play in Southern California. Pools without number will be opened and cleared by the rush of waters and the rise of levels which the caster may find some opportunity to display his art. The sport will evolve from straddling an infinitesimal trickled in hope of a few measly troutlings to something more nearly approaching the splendid sporting conditions to be found in natural profusion a few hours' ride north.

March 29, 1907 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GAME LAW CHANGES – In the recent session of the legislature the following changes in the game laws were made:

…Trout season from May 1 to Nov. 15.

April 12, 1907 – Ventura Free Press

PROTECTION FOR TROUT – What the Legislature Did in the Way of Saving Trout Changes in Game Laws. Among other things the late Legislature did for the State's fish and game were several restrictions placed upon the taking of trout with which sportsmen all over California are in most hearty accord. (Paragraph about decimation of Kern River fishing.)

…The season for common rainbow trout, the variety taken in most mountain streams, opens May 1 and closes November 15. A limit of fifty fish per day, not to exceed twenty-five pounds in total weight, was imposed and all fingerlings, trout under the five inches in length, must be returned at once to the water. No trout can be sold that are under one pound in weight. A limit of fifty steelhead trout to the rod per day was imposed, also. Those fine game fish are plentiful in the northern streams and are occasionally found in such of the Southern California brooks as reach the ocean, being in such seasons as the present quite plentiful in Ventura river. (Rest of article concerning other fish and game.)

April 19, 1907 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Cal. Hardware & Tool Co. …May 1st means trout fishing to some of you, and to such we extend a special invitation to call and see our line.

April 26, 1907 – Ventura Free Press

A WARNING TO ALL HUNTERS AND FISHERS, TOO – Some Pointers on the Fish and Game Laws of the State Now in Effect. Chief Deputy Charles A. Vogelsang of the Board of Fish Commissioners has by authority of the latter body issued an abstract of the new fish and game laws in a very attractive form.

By a map of black and white shadings he shows the open and closed seasons for all sorts of game. At a glance at this map the following facts as to the open and closed seasons are readily adducted:

Trout – one less than 5 inches long—Open May 1, closed Nov. 15.
Steelhead Trout-Also closed above tide-water, April 1st to May 1st—Open April 1st, closed Sept. 17; open Oct. 23, closed, Jan. 31.

On the reverse side of the map is a series of "don'ts" on what is unlawful as follows:

To ship game or fish in concealed packages, or without your name and address.
To buy or sell trout less than one pound in weight.
To take or have in possession at any time golden trout, Sacramento perch, sturgeon, or female crabs.
To take trout, black bass, or steelhead, except with hook and line.

May 4, 1907 – The Ojai

LOCALS – Trout are plentiful in the Matilija. A number of long strings were brought to town on Wednesday, the first day of the open season.

May 10, 1907 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SULPHUR MOUNTAIN SPRINGS – The fishing season opened with a rush at the springs the first, and several fine catches are reported, several wielders of the rod getting the limit.

On the first Frank and Justin Petit and Ed Borchard of Oxnard landed 45 of the beauties, and Dr. Aplynne of Santa Paula took the limit, 50.

Messrs. Lippincott, Fadely and Franklin of Los Angeles landed 49 the first day. These are only a few of the records, as many other good catches have been made.

The Springs claim the best fishing in Southern California this year. There is plenty of water, pure and clear, with plenty of fish in it.

May 11, 1907 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIP – Last Friday the Middle School, with the exception of Slater Wilkinson, set out for Willets by way of Topa Topa. The party had Mr. Barnes for leader, while M. Allen officiated as manager of the packs.

Friday evening the lodge was reached in good season, and with little trouble except that one of the packs turned a little this side of the ridge.

By 6:30 the march was in progress. As a premonitory symptom Buckskin welled her pack abut two hundred yards from camp.

The trail was rather rough and a great deal of cutting had to be done to make it passable for the horses.

About seven hours of alternate creeping and waiting intervened before the party reached Willets. The latter wasn't able to accommodate them, so the night was spent on the opposite side of the river.

Lunch over, the party separated, some for fishing, others for swimming. About a dozen fish were caught, most of them large.

After a peaceful night the crowd again took the trail, and reached the school in time for dinner. In returning they took a trail along the ridge, from which a view of almost the entire slope was obtained.

May 18, 1907 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – A SESPE TRIP – Although most of the fellows embraced the opportunity for a trip to Los Angeles last Thursday, there were those who preferred to visit the Sespe valley, some of them for the first time. Consequently, after the two six-in-hands had driven off with a boisterous crowd of Casa de Piedrans, bound for gaieties of town, there still remained about a dozen who busied themselves in preparing for the trail. There were two parties, one for Willets and one for the Lathrop ranch. It is the fortunes of the latter that we are pledged to follow.

At about two 0'clock on Thursday, Mr. William Thacher, Slater, Nash and Lawson struck into the Senior Canyon trail, reaching the Mona Ranch by about five thirty. At perhaps half after two, Hertenstein, Appel and Strong left the school, an at the Pierpont Cottages met Miss Fulton, Miss Cobb, Miss De Forest, Miss McLeish, Austin Pierpont and Buffum. Thus reinforced, these ardent anglers, ably chaperoned by Mrs. Hunt, made Herb's via the Gridley trail, in about four and a half hours. On the following morning, even the Baron managed to rise in time for breakfast, after which the party descended upon the unsuspecting trout. Miss Cobb, Austin Pierpont and Mr. Thacher wrought great havoc amongst the finny tribe, but none of the others did much execution. So passed the

days with riding, walking and fishing, while the evenings were given over to bridge whist.

On Sunday, at about ten o'clock, the party left the Sespe, intending to go through the Matilija Gorge. This was, however, found impracticable, so Mrs. Hunt led the way to Sim Myers's for lunch, by the "Overland trail." In every way this trip was a success, and some, at least, of those who enjoyed the visit, would gladly spend many more such days in that lovely Sespe Valley.

SECOND TRIP TO WILLET'S – Owing to the report of the excellent fishing to be had at Willet's, Mr. Colton, R. Allen, Hill and Wheeler went there last week on a fishing trip. The party started Thursday, at the same time that the other fellows started for Los Angeles, and camped that night in Timber Canyon about five miles above Ten Sycamores.

Friday morning, by making an early start, they reached Willet's at about 8 o'clock; then they proceeded down the river about a mile and a half below Willet's house to a field where they camped.

As a result of the day's fishing, they had fried fish for supper that night. Allen distinguished himself by catching a fish fifteen inches long, of course it was fifteen inches long; didn't he measure it on his arm?

Next day they went up the river to Lathrops', stopping on the way for a couple of hours to lunch and catch fish. After one of Herb's good suppers they spent the night in the barn on the hay, which provided safer than the ground on which they had spent the two previous two nights.

On Sunday they all came back by the Gridley trail, with the exception of Wheeler, who came by way of Wheeler's and the Matilija with Mr. William Thacher and his party.

LOCALS – A party consisting of the Sinclairs, the Soules, Miss Leach, Miss Burton, Miss Lyon and Miss Lillian Smith, went to the Santa Ana fishing the first of the week. We understand they had "fisherman's luck," and were thankful for the lunch which they took along.

<u>May 19, 1907 – Los Angeles Times</u>

STREAMS HIGH; TROUT SCARCE – The present spell of summer, enthusiastic as it has made the marine anglers, seems to have missed striking a responsive chord in the trout fishermen. Indeed, a sorely disgruntled lot of fly-fishers have been condoling with one another during the week over the prospect of high, roily water indefinitely continued by the volume of snow now melting on the heights, as a consequence of the heat.

…Several local anglers have put in good days on the Sespe, and some of the Santa Paula streams. George E. Franklin, formerly weather forecaster here, and an enthusiastic all-

around sportsman as well, had some fine sport early in the season at Sulphur Mountain Springs, and writes as follows:

"I have just time for a few lines to tell the boys what a fine time they are missing by not getting in on the trout-fishing here.

"I have been out but a few hours only in the last few days, and have not worked the streams, the Santa Paula and the Sesar, systematically, but have caught seventeen speckled trout up to twelve inches and weighing three-quarters of a pound, besides plenty of smaller ones.

"Three gentlemen from Oxnard, Frank and Jesse Petit, and Edward Borchard, in a few hours captured forty-five. Mr. Lippencott and L.C. Fadely of Los Angeles, during the same day, brought in forty. Dr. App Lynne of Santa Paula got the limit, fifty, before noon, Wednesday. The water is clear and conditions just about right. A few days of this kind of work is fine, but a month will suit me better.

"This is a fine mountain camp with the Sesar Creek running through it, and joining the Santa Paula a little ways down."

May 23, 1907 – Los Angeles Times

PLENTY OF FISH – Ed Mitchell, Frank Childs and Bob Bungay, who returned a few days ago from a fishing trip to the Matilija Cañon in Ventura county, report that plenty of trout can be found, but that the water in the cañon is warm, and while the fish are from ten to twelve inches in length, they are not as hard as cold water would make them. They will not take flies or worms, but want spoons, and some of the amateur sports here think they would bite better if fed Mellin's food from these spoons one hour after breakfast.

May 26, 1907 – Los Angeles Times

LITTLE SUCCESS FOR TROUTERS – High Waters Continues in All the Favorite Streams. Trout fishing has been very poor to date. Everywhere the same fault is found—high water. Up on the Matilija, Sespe, Sisar and some other of the Ventura county streams a little scattering sport has been reported, but it is hardly of a class to justify a trip. A few fine big fish have been taken, however.

Bill Soper, who fishes in the Matilija, recently brought one to creel twenty-one inches in length and said to weight three pounds. This news was so encouraging to Louis Herzog, J.B. Proctor and Messrs. Reynolds and Sprague that they set forth the next day and fished over the identical ground, about a mile below Sim Meyer's place. For five days they stayed with the game, and totaled about sixty fish, most of which were of good size, Herzog estimating their average at about ten inches and a half. The stream is thirty to forty feet wide, up to a man's waist, and full of trout which rise freely, but do not seem to rise right. They make passes at the line and leader, anywhere but at the flies, Herzog

says. A careful caster aims to keep most of his gear out of the stream, and just flick it gently with his flies.

Bait takes well, the water being fairly clear as compared to that of the Sespe, which is very muddy just now and probably will continue so for some time. (Article finishes off with conditions in Los Angeles area.)

May 31, 1907 – Santa Paula Chronicle

– Several of the Japs from the packing house went fishing Sunday, up the Sespe. One of them caught the biggest fish of the season, it measured eighteen inches.

June 1, 1907 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NEWS – TOPA TOPA TRIP – Last week Lawson, J. Kerr, Ferris, Wilkinson, Visscher and Mr. Colton made a fishing excursion to the Sespe River via Topa Topa. The trail is good except that one is liberally threshed by the bushes. The snow that was still plentiful three weeks ago on the back of Topa Topa had disappeared. There is still some left however on this range. We reached the Rangers' Camping Ground about dusk, but preferred to continue our trip as there was a brilliant moon. The party camped Friday about two miles this side of the river, and Saturday about one and a half miles above Willetts on a sandy shore amid live oaks in the prettiest canyon for five miles up or down. The fish were fairly willing, but just a little delicate and fastidious as to the size of their bites. Visscher caught thirty-two.

The return trip was made in fast time from 8:30 to 1:30 p.m. As the party reached Topa Topa ridge a thunder storm came up very suddenly and gave the outfit the highest bathing record of the season.

THE SESPE TRIP – A week ago Friday a party of Upper Schoolers consisting of Tutt, Gay, Boynton, Starr, Whitall, Dana, Wheeler, Sperry, Simons and Mr. Dodge went over to Lathrop's. All rode with the exception of Starr and Boynton, who, scorning mounts, walked all the way.

Owing to a good start there was some time left after reaching the Sespe, and all eagerly set to work to fish; and when the party gathered at Herb's there were quite a number of fish to show. These were quickly cooked and eaten with much relish.

The evening was spent at cards, talking and singing, and most went to bed early to get some sleep.

In the morning some of the most ardent anglers got up at half past four, but the main body gathered for breakfast at about quarter after five. After breakfast the crowd broke up into several parties. Dana, Wheeler, Mr. Dodge and Simons going down the side of the river on horseback about five miles; Gay and Tuft walking down from Lathrops';

Starr and Boynton also going down, while Whitall, chaperoned by Sperry, tried Piedra Blanca Creek.

When at supper all came together there were a fine bunch of fish to show. Gay and Tutt did the best, each getting the limit of fifty; Mr. Dodge and Simons got eighty together; Dana and Wheeler got sixty; Boynton and Starr about thirty; and, as for Whitall, he proudly bore home a very large eight inch fish.

The largest trout was caught by Wheeler; it being fourteen and a half inches long. Gay caught one which was a close second.

In the evening all the favorite tunes were played on the phonograph, and some of the party played cards. It was easy to go to sleep that night, because Gay insisted on singing and Dana on snoring, so that between them there was a beautiful lullaby.

The return was made next morning without incident, and all pronounced the trip a great success.

LOCAL ITEMS – Mr. Robert Stephenson went to the Sespe this week to fish and visit the old familiar scenes before returning to the East.

Miss Burton, Misses Soule, Miss Leach, Miss Lyon and Miss Hobson went to the Matilija yesterday for a two-days' fishing trip.

Paul Lehman, an Oxnard business man, and Morgan Wallace, a New York actor, spent the week fishing at Lathrops' Camp.

June 2, 1907 – Los Angeles Times

FIND NEW BAIT FOR THE TROUT – …Steelheads have entered the Santa Clara River and are reported to be running at a great rate below Saticoy. In Ventura county, A.W. Elliott, W.L. Frey and A. Forbes of Santa Paula had some good sport with them last week, a small spoon being the most reliable lure, although bait, and even the fly on occasion, will tempt them. In the Ventura River the steelheads are also getting busy. These fellows are fine fish, big fellows of three pounds weight being met with every little while. Ten and twelve-inch fish are common as compared to the run of the common mountain variety.

W.F. Chandler recently returned from Sulphur Mountain Springs, above Santa Paula. He caught between fifty and one hundred trout during his stay, some of which were of large size, the average being better than seven inches. (Other parts of the article were reports from Los Angeles County.)

June 8, 1907 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – THE SESPE – Last Friday was the Lower School's turn to the Sespe, and they turned out in force. Mr. Barnes headed the party, which consisted of Stringham, Gally, Earle, Mosle, T. Tutt, with the additions of Newton, Wheeler and Simons.

The main party went over the Gridley trail and got over in good time. The evening was passed very enjoyably with Mr. Barnes reading from Kipling.

The next day was devoted to fishing, and wondrous stories of the large catches were brought in, but the fish were left behind. Altogether the Lower School caught about fifteen fish, Newton caught twenty, Wheeler eighteen and Simons fourteen.

LOCAL ITEMS – Messrs. Jesse Moddrell, Geo. C. Bartlett and H. Wolfe, Oxnard business men, stopped at the Ojai Inn Thursday on their way to Lathrops' Camp to spend a few days fishing.

June 9, 1907 – Los Angeles Times

BETTER SPORT IN THE SESPE – Ventura County Now Affords the Most Trout. Trout fishing has been at a standstill for the last week, and all the catches that have come into town could be told off on a pressman's fingers. …In some places the water is receding somewhat, and conditions about the streams show considerable improvement, but the fish are not rising as they should, and even the worm seems to have lost its power to charm.

Anglers returning from the Ventura county streams have met with better success by far than those who tried the San Gabriel and other near-by waters. The Matilija is too well patronized for the supply of trout, thanks to Sim Myers' hospitality, but nevertheless about as many trout are coming from that stream as anywhere else, and some of better size than the average are caught, too.

"Plenty of fish in the Sespe" is the verdict of all who return from that stream, but the creels as a rule would not indicate such to be the case. In the upper waters a few straggling catches have been made by Ventura county sportsmen, and some from Santa Paula have taken messes of steelheads from the river near that town. Not one angler in ten calls the game worth the candle, however. (Fishing tips given for the rest of the article.)

June 16, 1907 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT LIMITS FOR TWO WEEKS – Sport Gets Better. …The sport is becoming better all over Southern California. In the Ventura county streams several good catches have been made during the last week. Parties from Santa Paula and Ventura who have gone up to the head waters of the Santa Paula country report quite enough sport to repay them for their time and trouble.

It was not difficult to get into the head waters of the Sespe as it was a month ago, and several parties have outfitted in this city for the trip, planning to start early in the week. Few have been over the trails as yet, but those who have reported say that the journey is certain to produce plenty of good-sized fish.

August 2, 1907 – Santa Paula Chronicle

AT THE SPRINGS – Mr. H.H. Youngken, the genial band-master of Santa Paula, assisted our musicians on Wednesday and Thursday, bringing up a collection of new music which was faultlessly rendered at sight. Before returning to Santa Paula he proved also his skill in the piscatorial art, catching seventeen fine trout.

August 17, 1907 – The Ojai

SULPHUR MOUNTAIN SPRINGS – Some of the sportsmen bagged the limit last week. Mr. H.H. Youngken, of Santa Paula, who is camping with his family at the Springs, is our most successful fisherman. Yesterday he brought in 33 fine fish. Sometimes only "the limit" puts a stop to his sport.

August 25, 1907 – Los Angeles Times

STILL CATCHING MANY BIG TROUT – (Article begins and finishes with fishing in the San Gabriel, San Bernardino and Bear Valley rivers.) …In the absence of definite information from those points in Ventura county, it is safe to argue from local conditions that good sport can be had on the upper Sespe and Agua Blanca now, and several parties of campers already are located in that section…

September 1, 1907 – Los Angeles Times

GOOD TROUT FISHING – Trout fishing in the Ventura River never was better. Fishing an hour and a half in the morning and about two hours in the evening, Fred Hartman, Jr., Will Connor and Mondo Revera caught fifty each, yesterday, mostly rainbows. The largest fish was a steelhead, measuring sixteen inches in length.

Unless one does not mind a wetting, wading boots are needed in fishing this stream. At present the trout seem to have no preference in flies, rising to the royal coachman, gray or brown hackle, scarlet ibis, and any other colored lure in the shape of a fly.

September 27, 1907 – Ventura Free Press

FISHING ON THE SESPE – If there be another enthusiastic trout angler who has not wet his line yet this season, there still is a place within easy distance of Los Angeles where a week's trip might still be taken with profit.

Some of the best fishing of the season is to be had in the later summer in such streams as are not fished out earlier, to which category belong the San Gabriel, and other waters convenient to the one day angler.

J.A. Coxe and a party of friends went out to the Matilija in Ventura county. It was decided to try the fishing far from the usual haunts of the angler, and to that end provision for a several day's trip was made. In the quintet was Sim Myers and one of the Lamb boys, who is familiar with the location of very big hole in any of the creeks that connect with the Ventura River or other similar streams in that county.

After packing up the canyon and over the range for many hours, good looking water was located, a small stream taking its rise on the Pine Mountain from a single large spring, and at the first cast, trout were found to be not only plentiful but of very large size.

The first afternoon, being keen with the lust of angling, the party kept three or four of the undersized fish, as viewed by the standard of size in that particular stream, but considered large on the San Gabriel. During the rest of the trip nothing less than ten inch fish were saved and when there was a plenty for the larder they had to be over a foot in length to get a berth in the well-filled creels of the anglers. An average of three dozen of these fish were taken each day, there being a number that would touch sixteen inches… (description of bait and flies).

Myers has angled for trout during many years of his residence in Ventura county and never saw the sport better. The only drawback to "Big Trout Creek" is its inaccessibility, and in the eyes of the determined angler that is its chief virtue as it assures some protection to the fish supply therein.

The state of the water in the upper Ventura county streams is excellent at present, the brooks being fairly high and very clear. There is considerable food for the fish in them also, and all told the conditions hardly could be better for next season's fishing.

<u>October 4, 1907 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

SANTA PAULA AND SISAR RESTOCKED – Last week R.L. Poplin, Secretary of the local fish and game protective association, received 20,000 trout from the state fish hatchery in Sisson for restocking the local streams.

Sunday they were deposited as follows: 15,000 in Santa Paula creek and 5,000 in Sisar.

<u>October 4, 1907 – Ventura Free Press</u>

TROUT FOR VENTURA – From the State Fish Commission a big consignment of brook trout, 20,000 in all, was received here Sunday to be placed in the Ventura river. Sifford's Transfer Co. met the morning train, took the trout from the express agent and conveyed them to the river near Matilija Springs. The efforts of Sim Myers and other enthusiastic

sportsmen in stocking Ventura river are having good results. There have been more fish during the past seasons than ever before.

October 7, 1907 – Ventura Free Press

20,000 young trout arrived Sunday morning from the State hatchery at Sissons and were planted in the Santa Paula and Sisar creeks by J.W. Guiberson, M. Forbes and Dr. R.L. Poplin. These streams yielded the biggest strings of trout this year than have been caught for years.

October 12, 1907 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – FIRST SESPE TRIP – The first Sespe trip of the year started out Friday, the 4th, under the leadership of Messrs. W.L. Thacher and Olds. The rest of the party consisted of Bindley, Eddy, A. Kent, McKisson, Newton, Wilkinson and Whitall.

Owing to threatening weather, we did not start until quite late in the afternoon, so that darkness overtook some of the party while yet three or four miles from Herb's and the rough places on the trail were rather unpleasant. Soon after supper we retired to the barn, where everybody slept the first night in spite of the lack of elbow room.

Early the next morning, a few of us took a dip in the river before going in to breakfast, much to the derision of the effeminate.

After breakfast, Mr. Thacher went down the river fishing, accompanied by Eddy, McKisson and Newton. The rest of us started for Pine Mountain, equipped with slickers and a generous lunch.

We reached the Lodge about eleven o'clock, after passing through a full fledged cloudburst. Leaving the horses at the Lodge, we struck out for the summit, which was supposedly about half a mile north. The view from the summit was worth the climb, for we could see a great stretch of country, including the Alamo and Sawmill Peaks; the Mutau, Mt. Pinos and Cuyama.

Returning to the Lodge and eating lunch, we rode back towards Lathrops', seeing a doe and two fawns on the way. On arriving, we decided to spend the rest of the afternoon in making cider, with which to drown the remembrance of our hardships.

Shortly before supper, Burkett Newton rode in and nearly gave us heart-failure by showing a string of twenty-four trout. The rest of the fishermen followed with more fish, bringing the total up to sixty-three.

October 19, 1907 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – SESPE TRIP – On Friday, Oct. 11th, a party of Middle Schoolers, consisting of Mr. Barnes, Mr. Fisher, Hayden, Tutt, Lawson, Mosle, Denegre, Morrison, Kerr, Gross, Gally, Sherman, Earle, Stringham, T. Kent and Kelly, went to the Sespe by the Gridley trail. Hayden, Tutt, Lawson, Mosle and Kelly went ahead. The rest got there after dark, having had some slight difficulty on the trail because of darkness. All slept in the haymow that night except Mr. Barnes and Morrison, who slept in the house.

Next morning, Mr. Barnes, Lawson, Gross, Kerr and Sherman went to Pine Mountain. The rest fished, with varying success. Hayden and Tutt went to Piedra Blanca but only caught eight fish, as they did not have time to fish long. In the afternoon, the boys swam, fished and made cider.

…Next morning, the party started out about half past eleven. Mr. Barnes took several pictures on the way back. The return trip was made via the Senior Canyon.

October 25, 1907 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – Bill Elkins went fishing and came back with a fine string of trout, including one that was twenty-one inches long.

October 26, 1907 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – OVER THE RIDGE – The Lower School party that went to the Sespe last week was one of the largest on record, having fifteen all told. We went over the Gridley trail and back by the Senior Canyon trail.

We got to Herb Lathrop's about eight o'clock. Saturday, Ball, Burns Kent and Jackson fished, catching a total of twelve trout. The rest of the party tried to find "Jeff's Cave," but were disappointed. We left Mr. Barnes in Piedra Blanca Creek and he turned out to be a fisherman for he caught thirty-four fish. We then tried to find the Piedra Blanca Caves, but were again disappointed.

We had a little excitement trying to find the last named caves. Mr. Lewis, who was leading, lost the trail (provided there was one) forded a stream, and finding it steep on the other side, got off to lead his horse. The horse, not being at all light, broke through the ground and sank into a spring, with the result that he rolled over backwards into the stream. He was extracted, however, with the help of Mrs. Hunt. The rest of the day passed without any excitement. On the next morning, we started at 8:30, arriving at school about 11:15.

1 9 0 8

Rainfall – 14.58 inches

Sparks' Catch – 605 Trout

March 20, 1908 – Fillmore Herald

IN AND AROUND PIRU – The Piru creek has been high this week on account of the snow melting in the mountains.

April 6, 1908 – Los Angeles Times

STRINGS OF TROUT – Sportsmen are taking many steelhead trout from tidewater in the rivers of this county. Some magnificent strings have been caught since the first of April below the railroad bridge in the Ventura River at this point.

April 17, 1908 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Opens May 1st. We have on hand as usual a full line of Rods, Hooks, Flies, Spinners, Baskets, Etc. Etc. Richard Stephens. Fillmore Warehouse Co. (Stephens & Walker). Wholesalers of Wheat, Barley, Beans and all kinds of Produce.—Highest prices paid. Fillmore, California.

April 22, 1908 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA – Trout fishing promises well for the coming season, which opens May 1. For several years Sim Myers has been depositing thousands of young fish in the streams of the county, and many have attained a considerable size.

April 24, 1908 – Fillmore Herald

SESPE CANYON ROAD – Open to Public During Fishing Season. George J. Henley has informed us that he will throw the Sespe Canyon road open to the public during the fishing season. This road extends as far as "Devil's Gate," and the news of the opening of it will be gladly received by fishermen.

Those using the road can go as far as Mr. Henley's in a buggy, and then go on horse-back over the government trail. Those who stop n the vicinity of "Devil's Gate" are requested to tie their stock, as the pasture is needed by those residing in that locality.

ADVERTISEMENT – Only 7 Days to Wait. Trout Season Opens May 1st. Are you ready for the BIG ONES? We are Ready to Supply Your Needs. Come in and inspect our line of Joint Bamboo Rods, Trout Flies and Hooks, Oiled Silk and Linen Lines, Spinners, Gut, Trout Baskets, Reels, Fly Books, and anything you need in Fishing or

Camping Goods. We are offering $20.00, $3.00 and $2.00 for the Largest Trout. Can you land him? G.W. Tighe. General Merchandise. Fillmore – Sespe.

April 24, 1908 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SANTA PAULA & VICINITY – The trout season opens May 1st, and every indication gives promise of a good season. The streams are full of water and the water is full of fish, and if the amount of fishing tackle that is being sold in Santa Paula cuts any figure, there will be plenty of fish caught.

April 26, 1908 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT FISHERS READY – Season Will Open Friday and Prospects Seem Very Favorable for the Best Kind of Sport.

The trout season opens Friday, May 1 with every indication for the best fishing in many years. Prospecting parties returning this week from favorite casting grounds report the streams fairly alive with speckled beauties, and it seems assured that with continued fair weather this week the opening day will witness an unusually large exodus of fishermen to the various streams.

The most popular streams this year with the fly casters are the Sespe, Ventura, Deep Creek and San Gabriel. The reports from these places are most encouraging, and in all probability the four streams will furnish excellent sport for all who may go out.

The late rains, coming at a period just to the liking of the trout enthusiasts, and ceasing before the opening of the season, have raised the hopes of the local devotees, and it is hardly likely that any adverse conditions as discouraged the Sportsmen last season will hinder the fun again. The streams are as clear as crystal, no roily water as reported, even in the brooks flowing from the higher Sierras, and the fish are eager for flies.

As to accommodations for the many visitors to the different locations, adequate preparations are already promised. At the Sespe a large camp has been established, with a number of tents, and provisions and stores may be obtained at the foot of the ridge on the creek side.

May 1, 1908 – Fillmore Herald

FILLMORE IN BRIEF – G.W. Tighe started on a trout fishing expedition last evening.

The trout season opens today, and many have already departed for the points that look most promising for this kind of sport.

Yesterday's morning train from Los Angeles brought to Fillmore a number of rod and reel sportsmen who will today try their luck in the waters of the Sespe.

May 1, 1908 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING SEASON IS OPENED – Today was the first day of the open fishing season, and scores of Santa Paulans have taken advantage of the occasion and gone forth armed with rod and other necessary equipment to try their luck.

The streams in this part of Ventura county are all noted trout streams and plenty of good catches are made every season. Anglers from all over Southern California are attracted here every year, and a number of Los Angeles and Pasadena sportsmen are out today, having arrived last evening to spend the night at the Springs.

Some months ago Dr. R.L. Poplin, secretary of the local game protective association, received twenty thousand young trout from the state association which were placed in the Santa Paula and Sisar creeks, part of them near the Anloff place, a portion in the Sisar near the Springs and the balance in the Santa Paula above Ferndale ranch, therefore the prospects for a season of good sport are excellent.

Aside from the large number who departed for the fishing grounds this morning, a great many went out last evening and camped out all night in order to be on hand bright and early. The greater part of them went to the Sespe, although a few chose the Santa Paula.

As an inducement to anglers to put for their best efforts, A.W. Elliott has offered a reward of $5 worth of fishing tackle to the person catching the largest trout during the month of May, and Fred Jenkins has offered cash prizes, $3 to the person catching the largest fish, $2 for the next largest and $1 for the next.

Next week we will endeavor to tell of a few of the catches.

May 2, 1908 – The Ojai

LOCAL ITEMS – Mr. W.C. Hendrickson made a catch of twenty fine trout in the San Antonio before 8 o'clock, on the opening morning of the season.

Lathrop's Camp, in the Sespe, is on of the most popular resorts in this section, among sportsmen. Captain Braddish and under-sheriff Hammel, of Los Angles, are among the guests who were there ready to get the first "whack" at the trout yesterday morning. Herb came in yesterday to escort Mr. Duvall and party of Ventura, over the hills, and a third party, which he will take over tomorrow, will swell the number of guests to the limit of the resort's capacity.

May 5, 1908 – Los Angeles Times

RECORD TROUT FROM VENTURA – A trout measuring twenty-seven inches in length, and weighing five and one-quarter pounds, was caught by the 16-year-old son of E.O. McLaughlin of this city, in the Ventura River about a mile south of Matilija.

E.O. McLaughlin's party of four, composed of Fred Schelding, Arthur Strickland and Edward McLaughlin, set out Saturday morning from Schelding's ranch for the Ventura River. Young Edward at one hooked a flashing specimen that with the first dart broke the fisherman's leader. Elder McLaughlin rushed to the assistance of this son, but the trout had already sought the safe depths of the mountain pool.

McLaughlin hurried to the ranch house and returned with a heavy surf leader. Again the big trout struck. A terrific struggle followed. Darting about and pulling every moment with tremendous force, the fish fought for an hour and a half before being brought to land.

Strickland, after almost as hard a fight, landed the mate of the record fish.

The rodsters continued their casting the rest of the day and succeeded in catching a fine string of sixty-five trout, all the fish being of good size, varying from ten to fourteen inches in length.

The sudden storm which set in Friday caught many of the fishermen unprepared, and numerous parties were forced to cut their trips short or else seek temporary shelter in adjacent ranch houses.

May 8, 1908 – Ventura Free Press

FILLMORE – .32 of an inch of rain fell Saturday making a total of 15.51 inches. It was very acceptable to all but the few fishermen. It dampened their ardor—at least.

A. Taylor, an old time friend of Wm. Froehlick's of San Diego, is visiting at the home of the latter. He came up to try his hand at fishing in these parts, and also to enjoy the beauties of Ventura county at this time of the year.

Mr. A. Walton, now of Redondo, but formerly of Fillmore, joined his friend E. Fremlin on a fishing excursion the beginning of the week.

The fishing season opened most auspiciously. The day was perfect and the sport fine. Standing room was sort of at a premium, as there was a man on every stone for miles up and down the river. Numerous camping parties went up toward the head of the Sespe and they report the fish so plentiful that they would catch them just for the sport and throw them back into the water.

Geo. Tighe and Mr. Johnson returned from a five days camping trip Monday evening. They brought back a quantity of fish and thus made glad their less fortunate neighbors.

May 8, 1908 – Fillmore Herald

IN AND AROUND PIRU – R.O. Belty and Charles Rehart were angling in the Sespe this week.

FISHING IN THE SESPE – We judge from the reports that are percolating in slowly, that the fishing season must have begun around there at midnight last Thursday night in fact, as well as the law. We are not insinuating that some of the enthusiastic fishermen sat up all night in order to be ready for the very earliest cast, but that there are those who do. Long before daylight pedestrians, carriages and automobiles made a steady procession up the Sespe Avenue, and it is estimated that at least fifty fishermen camped in the neighborhood of Devil's Gate in order to get the earliest casts. The catches were varied, being anywhere from one up, although nobody reports the limit. Richard Stephens made about the best catch on the lower Sespe on the first day, reporting thirty-seven trout and all very good-sized fish. F.W. Kennedy gets the largest one on the opening day (for the Sespe), it being eighteen inches long and a pound and three-quarters in weight. G.W. Tighe and Mrs. Tighe's father, Mr. Johnson started out Thursday morning, and were the first to drop a line in the vicinity of the Big Hot Spring. They report two and three trout at a single cast as being common there, and filled their baskets each day without much trouble. G.W. goes very much into detail as to the sport had on the upper Sespe, but—we wonder what the connection is between fishing and veracity, anyways! Still he brought back the goods, so let doubters beware.

The fishing promises to be good for a long time to come, as the fish are large and wary, a man on any of the lower reaches of the Sespe earning his catches.

A BIG ONE – Harry Carver and Frank Shipley, Santa Paula nimrods, captured the king of all steelheads in the Ventura river, near the old school house, this side of Matilija Springs. It measured 31 inches and weighed 7 pounds when dressed.

Some angler has missed the record-breaking capture and lost a good of leader and a fly, into the bargain, as the bit of tackle was dangling from its "lower lip." It was a bouncer and a beauty.—*Ventura Democrat*

FILLMORE IN BRIEF – State Fish and Game Commissioner Pritchard of Ocean Park, was in town Wednesday.

The rain of Saturday, made life temporarily unpleasant for those camping along the banks of the Sespe.

A fishing party composed of Mr. Johnson, G.W. Tighe and Carl Elkins started for the hills at an early hour Friday morning and returned Monday evening, with plenty of evidence that the entire party was composed of expert anglers.

Our popular merchant and post master, Richard Stephens, is so far one of the luckiest anglers of the season. He started for the Sespe about 4 o'clock Friday morning, and back to business by 10 o'clock, with thirty-three beautiful trout, as a reward for his early rising.

May 15, 1908 – Fillmore Herald

FILLMORE IN BRIEF – Anglers continue to line the banks of the Sespe, and all report more or less success in their favorite sport.

Fordie Pyle caught the largest fish that has been taken from the waters of the Sespe this season, Friday last. It was a steelhead and measured twenty-five inches.

A party of fishermen started for the Sespe this morning for a two day's stay. Those who made the trip were C.J. Elliott, J.R. Staples and H.R. Erkes of Oxnard and Mr. Kinnie, Bert Decker and Earl Viles of Santa Paula. Fishing in the Sespe canyon is great this year, as usual, and the local men expect big returns.—*Oxnard Courier*

May 15, 1908 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SANTA PAULA & VICINITY – Although fishing is not as good as it was the first few days of the season, good catches are occasionally reported, both in size and quantity. Several trout measuring 12 to 15 inches were caught during the past week in the Santa Paula.

May 16, 1908 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – SESPE TRIP – Friday afternoon Mr. Dodge escorted five would be fishermen to the Sespe, via Senior Canyon, namely: Harrison, Bindley, McKisson, Newton and English. All but McKisson and Bindley unloaded their surplus duffle at Herb's and rode on down stream to lure the elusive trout till dinner time. Saturday everyone took lunch, and the party divided in order to amuse as many fish at the same time as was possible. Newton went up stream with the Bissells. Harrison, Bindley and English went down stream to the Piedra Blanca Creek. Mr. Dodge and McKisson went several miles below the latter party. The luck varied considerably for different members of the party. Mr. Dodge headed the list with the limit of fifty, "Bucket" came next with forty-two, and English brought up the rear with two young, inexperience trout. McKisson, when asked about the number he caught, maintains a mysterious silence, which naturally leads one to the conclusion that, in the excitement of the sport, he caught more than the limit and wishes to conceal the fact, fearing prosecution. No poles were lost and, it seemed to be a contented party which returned Sunday morning, again via Senior Canyon.

THE MATILIJA – Last Friday Mr. McAndrew, Alex McAndrew, A. Kent, Pierpont, Denegre and Lord went up the Matilija Canyon for a short fishing trip over Saturday. The party went in McAndrews' auto, and camped about a half a mile above Mrs. Lyon's. The fishing was not very good. McAndrew caught the most fish, one fifteen and a half inches long

May 23, 1908 – Los Angeles Times

BUSY FISHERMEN – Sespe Streams Are Reported Full of Fine Trout—Klokke and Duff have Good Luck.

Karl Klokke and Duff Schwarz came back home Thursday from a fishing trip to the Sespe country, and report fine sport. Some of his friends could not catch anything but his own clothes when he cast a trout line, but now he is one of the best in this end of the State.

Johnny Cline will start tomorrow with his wife and two sons for a four days' trout-fishing trip in the Sespe country.

May 23, 1908 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – SESPE TRIP – Last Friday Mr. Wolfenden chaperoned a party of Middle Schoolers to the Sespe. The party was made up of Gross, Banning, Mosle, Morrison and Rathbun. They arrived at Lathrops before sunset, leaving the school immediately after lunch and going over via Gridley trail. Some of the boys went fishing before supper but did not have much luck. On Saturday, however, they succeeded in catching altogether about eighty trout that were over size. Next day they left Herb's at eight o'clock and came home via Rose Valley trail to the top of the ridge, then down Senior Canyon.

A TRIP TO THE SESPE GORGE – Friday a party consisting of Mr. Dodge, Hill, Ferris, J. Kerr and Bindley, left the school for the Sespe Gorge. The party got under way about 2:15. From the ridge back of Topa Topa a beautiful view was enjoyed by all. Here they overtook Mr. Lewis and the Middle School party. They were very proud of Rim, their pack horse, because it was not necessary to lead him. Mr. Dodge's party, not to be outdone, turned Chapo loose and, much to their joy, found he would drive also. The descent into Red Reef Canyon was very steep for a short distance, but the trail was good, and an hour's traveling brought the party well down into the canyon proper.

Here Tom Kent suddenly awoke to the fact that he had left his fish pole on top of the ridge. This was a good thing for the Sespe trout, but hard on Tommy. A short way from Ten Sycamore flat Mr. Lewis and party stopped to tighten up their pack, while the upper School party kept on its way. The rest of the journey was down the bed of the Sespe River, scrambling over rocks and splashing through fords. If the moon had not been kind, the last part of the trip would have been a hard one. Passing Willett's the party continues down stream for about two miles and camped on a large flat. After a hurried supper all were glad to turn in. The fishermen were up early next morning and soon returned with a supply of fine trout for breakfast. After a heavy meal all started for the Gorge. The horses were picketed on a flat about a mile from Alder Creek and the party divided, Mr. Dodge fishing near where the horses were tied, Hill and Ferris going well down into the Gorge, while Kerr and Bindley went just to the entrance. The sight of the great, red, rock walls with here and there large pines clinging to the ledges and the wild

rush of the river over great bowlders well repaid for the hard scramble over the slippery creek bed. Mr. Dodge, Bindley and J. Kerr returned to camp about seven o'clock and the other two came in a little later. As to the fish, Mr. Dodge caught the limit, one being 17 ½ inches long. The rest had various success, Hill catching about 40 and the others 10 or 12 apiece. All got under way for the school about 9:30 the next morning and after an uneventful but beautiful trip, arrived at the school tired but happy.

June 4, 1908 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – ANOTHER SESPE TRIP – The last fishing party of this year from the school, consisting of Mr. Lewis, Gross, Lawson, Mosle, Ingraham and A. Kent, left for the vicinity of Willett's last Friday afternoon, taking the phlegmatic Kim with them as a pack horse. We got started at five minutes to two and came to where one leaves the rail for the summit of Topa Topa by four. An hour later we passed the shale bank and started down the mountains for the Sespe, which we reached by seven. This quick time was largely due to the splendid hitch with which "Father" fastened the pack on. It didn't have to be fussed with or altered at all, so were able to go right along.

We camped in the sand by the river, a couple hundred yards below the mouth of Timber Canyon. After a weirdly cooked supper, we retired to rest. By half past eight the next morning the last fellow was ready to leave camp, and the energetic Mosle and Gross had already caught over twenty speckled beauties between them. Then Mr. Lewis, Ingraham, Gross and Kent went down stream, while Mosle and Lawson went up. There were many fish in the river, but over half of those caught were too small to keep. Nevertheless, they were good fun catching and it gave one's conscience a pleasant feeling to let them go, even with malediction. About two o'clock Ingraham, Gross and Ken found a dandy swimming hole and used it to the best advantage. Gross and Kent continued fishing down stream with slightly better luck and Ingraham, returned to camp, stopping on the way to take a hot sulphur bath at the shot spring. About half fast five Gross and Kent met Mr. Lewis coming back with about twenty fish to his credit. As they both had plenty of fish for supper, and as it was getting late, they returned with him. At camp they found Ingraham, but Lawson and Mosle had not yet got back. Preparations were speedily made for supper and a good many fish cleaned. By the time the fire got going well, Lawson was back and a few minutes halter a joyful whistle was heard and Mosle appeared with a well filled creel and a delightful countenance, having caught the limit. By the time he had showed us his best fish and had taken his rod apart, supper was ready and we were ready for it, sand or no sand in the food. After supper we retired and slept early the next morning, when we got up and got ready to leave. Kim, the packhorse, escaped somehow in the meanwhile, so we had to cache the kyacks and dishes, as we could not track the runaway. The last of us left camp at about eight thirty and got back to school in good time for Sunday dinner, which we thoroughly appreciated.

June 12, 1908 – Fillmore Herald

HUNTERS LICENSE MONEY – A Sacramento dispatch says that the grand total of receipts from hunter's licenses in the state is $114,199.75, more than twice the amount

estimated when the law was passed. All licenses will need to be renewed shortly, so local hunters take notice.

With all this money available for use in looking after the game interests, local sportsmen should see to it that streams about here are stocked even better than usual before time for next season's fishing.

June 19, 1908 – Fillmore Herald

FILLMORE IN BRIEF – *Ventura Free Press:* Reuel Lewis, Henry McGonigle, Collins Flint and Walter Argabrite have retuned from a trip of several days into the Sespe country. They caught all the trout they wanted and had a good time.

June 26, 1908 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Our Trout Fishing Contest Closes June 30th. Can You Beat These Entries: Fordie Pyle…..25 inch trout, Julius Baldischwiler……18 5/8 inch trout, Hess Elkins…..18 ¼ inch trout, Al. Frye…..17 5/8 inch trout.

We are offering Cash Prizes of $20.00, $3.00 and $2.00. Only four more fishing days. You will have to hurry. G.W. Tighe. General Merchandise. Fillmore – Sespe.

FILLMORE IN BRIEF – Tighe's fishing contest closes June 30th.

The fishing at the lower end of the Sespe is now very poor, but it is reported that in the vicinity of the Hot Springs the "limit" can be caught in a few hours.

July 10, 1908 – Fillmore Herald

CALIFORNIA GAME AND FISH LAWS 1908-1908 – OPEN SEASON.

Trout and whitefish—(hook and line only) May 1st to Nov. 15th; limit fifty fish (not to exceed 25 pounds), no fish less than five inches in length.

Steelhead trout—(hook and line only) May 1st to Sept. 17th and Oct 23rd to Feb. 1st. (April is also an open month in tide water;) limit fifty fish not less than 5 inches in length.

PENALTIES.

…violating any fish law, $20 to $500 or imprisonment; using any explosive for killing fish, $250 or imprisonment…

August 11, 1908 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA STORIES – There have been severe rain and electrical storms in the mountains the past few days. In the Sespe country, there was a regular cloudburst in the

cañon through which that creek flows. So great and swift was the downpour that the stream was raised quickly to enormous proportions, and thousands of fish were found high and dry along the banks and among the rocks when the waters subsided, which they did almost as quickly as they arose. The cloudburst seemed to have occurred near the Sespe Hot Spring, some miles back in the mountains. Those who passed along the banks of the stream after the flood had subsided describe the odor from decayed fish as something to be avoided. There was a little property damage, but the loss of trout will be seriously felt by sportsmen.

August 21, 1908 – Ventura Free Press

TO LICENSE FISHERS AS WELL AS HUNTERS – Santa Cruz, Aug 15. The California Fish and Game Association will ask the legislature to license fishermen like hunters.

September 11, 1908 – Ventura Free Press

ANGLERS WILL FIGHT PROPOSED LAW – At a largely attended meeting of anglers held at San Francisco at the California Anglers' Association steps were taken to fight the proposed trespass law which it was understood will again be submitted to the next legislature for passage, after having been defeated once before through the efforts of the anglers. Committees were appointed to systematize the opposition, and the followers of Walton pledged themselves to turn politicians.

The opposition which they say anglers have to the proposed measure is, that it will make it possible for certain parties, who are in a position to do so, to preserve the best streams in the state and freeze out the poor anglers who do not happened to be included in the clubs or organizations. The establishment of preserves on streams in Superior California, has aroused the indignation of the club-free nimrods who feel that they have as much right to fish on streams stocked by the state with money furnished by them as have anyone. The proposed measure to include fishing in the trespass law pertaining to hunting has roused the nimrods to action.

September 18, 1908 – Ventura Free Press

STATE FISH CARS COMING SOUTH – During the last week of this month one of the state fish cars will be in Southern California distributing trout fry in the various streams. In October the Federal car will arrive with several varieties of Eastern fresh water fish which are to be introduced, and following this car the State car will return here with a consignment of black and striped bass.

J.M. Connell, the State Fish Commissioner for Southern California, will go to San Francisco next Wednesday to attend the monthly meeting of the commission, when definite arrangements for the visit of the fish cars will be made. The State car is a new one and is now on its third trip for the hatchery at Sissons, covering Northern and Central California territory. It has proved to be a great success. From twelve to fifteen

applications for fish are fitted on each trip, with no loss of the young fry. The output of the hatchery is increased 50 percent by the use of the car, with no additional expense. The use of a special car-cooling process saves a big item on ice.

On its first visit the State car will be kept on the steam roads, but on the second, if arrangements now under way are successful, it will be transferred to electric roads as well. In this way Newport, and Balboa will be visited, for the planting of striped bass at the mouths of the San Gabriel and Santa Ana rivers.

The Federal car will bring Eastern perch, sunfish and other varieties, and will take back California fish, among the varieties most desired being salmon.

The output of the California hatcheries this year is 11,000,000 trout fry. These are divided among the following varieties: Rainbow, 3,000,000; cut throat, 3,000,000; steel head, 3,000,0000; Eastern Brook trout, 1,250,000; Loch Leven, 750,000.

The eggs are stripped from the spawning fish in the spring at the hatcheries at Wawona, Tailac, Tahoe City, Glen Alpine and Eel River. They are transported to the Sisson and Glen Alpine hatcheries, where the young fish are cared for until ready to be transported to the streams all over California.

<u>September 24, 1908 – The Ojai</u>

VENTURA COUNTY STATE GAME FARM – The interest shown by the sportsmen of Ventura county in establishing the Ventura County Game Preserve on the coast south of Oxnard, has attracted the attention of the State Game Commission, and may result in the establishment of a State Game Farm in this county.

J.A. Argabrite, says the *Oxnard Courier*, has been called to San Francisco to confer with the State Game and Fish Commission, with which body he has been more or less associated for the past few years. He has been the most successful man in the state in caring for Japanese pheasants and other birds, and on account of his success along this line has achieved a position of confidence with the state board.

The state organization is considering the possibility of arranging for a state farm for fish and game to be carried under the care and protection of a thoroughly reliable keeper.

It is for the consideration of this matter that Mr. Argabrite has been summoned at this time. It will also be of interest to know that the Ventura County Game Association, who have made an offer to the state board for a location of such a farm near their preserve, and reports have it that such a location would be very acceptable.

The state is prepared to spend considerable money in the proper fostering of game and fish. The State Game and Fish Commission, as the state's representatives, of course desire to secure a location for the same that will be ideal for the raising of different

varieties of game birds, the propagation of fish, and general experimental work. The local farm would certainly be just the thing.

October 15, 1908 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIPS – Friday afternoon Mr. Dodge led an expedition against the trout of the Sespe river around Willett's. He was assisted by Bliss, Crandall, Newton and Judson. Camp was pitched by the soft light of a Sespe full moon, about two miles below Willett's. The casualties among the fish were few, considering the sharks in the party. Mr. Dodge, be it whispered, caught but twenty, George Bliss managed twenty-seven, and of the rest we will not speak.

Herb's was also invaded Friday. Mr. Fisher, Mr. Stoddard, Denegre, T. Kent, Lawson, Taylor and Visscher navigated the Gridley trail and descended on the "Hotel Lathrop" a little after sunset. T. Kent took the fishing honors with twenty-nine fish, while Mr. Fisher took the batting honors with one bat. This batting contest was a feature of the trip, the bats appearing on the field Saturday evening. Everyone turned out armed with fishing poles and assailed the invaders with Quixotic zeal. As was recorded, Mr. Fisher earned the laurels of the battle.

October 30, 1908 – Los Angeles Times

FORTY THOUSAND TROUT – Forty thousand more trout have been received by Sim Myers of the Matilija. He has planted them in the Ventura River.

October 30, 1908 – Ventura Free Press

STATE FISH CAR – Reaches Ventura With Large Consignment for Ventura and Matilija Rivers. One of the new fish cars recently built and equipped by the State Fish and Game Commission came in from the north on the south bound overland on Friday and was left on the siding until four o'clock when it was taken south.

The car was met by Sim Myers and to him was delivered by the attendants in charge of the car a big consignment of young trout fry for the Matilija and Ventura rivers.

1 9 0 9

Rainfall – 25.90 Inches

Sparks' Catch – 241 Trout

March 19, 1909 – Ventura Free Press

GET YOUR LICENSE IF YOU WANT TO FISH – Sacramento, March 15.—By a vote of 45 to 33 the Assembly today passed Senator Willis' bill making it necessary for persons who desire to angle for protected fish of the State to first secure a license. The opposition to the measure was very great. A call of the House was necessary. Cattell of Pasadena gave notice of reconsideration and the battle will be renewed in the House tomorrow.

The bill aimed to increase the revenues of the Fish Commission to improve the hatcheries.

Polsley read a report showing that the Fish Commission had now in the treasury $132,000, and this Legislature had appropriated 40,000. He said the estimated receipts from hunter's licenses for the next two years would be about $240,000 and at least $40,000 additional in fines would be collected.

Cattell argued that the law would keep tourists from the state.

The law provides that a citizen of this state shall pay $1 a year, of other states $10, and a foreigner $25 a year for a fish and hunting license.

April 1, 1909 – The Ojai

TROUT SEASON – A dispatch published in the *Los Angeles Times* is sure to cause considerable confusion in regard to the date for the open season for trout. The *Times* stated, several days ago, that the Governor had signed a bill changing the opening season for trout from May 1st to April 1st. The next day, however, the dispatch was corrected, stating that the bill referred to covered steelhead trout only, and that the date for brook trout still remains as heretofore, May 1st. Fishermen should get this clear in their minds, thus saving themselves any trouble with game wardens. Remember, the season for brook trout opens May 1st.

LOCAL ITEMS – There is still much confusion over the opening of the fishing season. The State Fish Commission now announce that all native trout in California Coast streams are steelhead trout, and that the only brook trout in these streams are those that have been planted there. With this decision, the *Los Angeles Times* advises sportsmen to go ahead April 1st and whip the streams for trout, being careful to keep within the bag and size limit.

April 2, 1909 – Fillmore Herald

GAME LAW CHANGES – The game laws have been changed somewhat by the legislature. The fund from fishing and hunting licenses, it was also provided, should be used solely for the propagation of fish…*Elsinore Press.*

April 2, 1909 – Ventura Free Press

GAME WARDEN SAYS THERE IS DANGER – Fishermen going out to the mountain streams today for trout will be looking for trouble, according to a statement made by Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner H.I. Pritchard yesterday, and the wielder of the rod and tackle who thinks it fun to come in this evening with a fine string of trout of any kind will find that he has played an expensive April fool joke on himself, says the Times.

"It seems that there has been a good deal of misunderstanding about the law which allows the fishing of steelhead trout during April," said Mr. Pritchard yesterday. "The fact of the matter is that the law allows the fishing of steelhead trout in April only in tidewater. This law was calculated mainly for the benefit of Northern California, where there are large streams.

"In Southern California, steelhead trout this month will only be found in the mouth of the Ventura river at Ventura city, from the beach to the Southern Pacific Railroad bridge, a distance of about 200 or 250 yards, and in the mouth of the Santa Ynez river, at Surf station. There the steelhead trout may legally be taken in April. But these are the only two places of which I know in which trout may be fished in April. The general trout season does not open until May 1.

"Some of the papers have been printing stories about the coast streams. There is not a stream in the country that does not run to the coast and empty into the ocean somewhere, and this reference to coast streams may be misleading.

"Some of the sporting goods houses have been telling the fishermen that they could fish for trout tomorrow and some have been telling them not to, so that, altogether, the fishermen are at sea as to what they may and may not do with steelhead trout.

"During the summer months, steelhead trout may be found in the various streams; sometimes as far as fifty or sixty miles inland, and during these months, they may lawfully be taken. But in April all trout, including the steelhead, as well as the rainbow, the brook, Loch Leven, and other trout, must be let alone, except where the steelhead trout may be found in tidewater, as I have already explained.

"This is covered by Senate Bill No. 763, introduced by Senator Black, January 29, last amended February 12, and again February 19, passed and signed by the Governor and now in full force and effect, according to instructions given me in a letter from Charles A. Vogelsang, the chief deputy of the State Fish and Game Commission. The law provides

a penalty of from $20 to $500, and imprisonment of from ten to 150 days either or both, at the discretion of the court.

"You might also say that I will not be in town tomorrow. There have been a number of people saying that they were going fishing for trout tomorrow and I am going to try to meet as many of them as I can. Offenders may depend upon it that they will be prosecuted but, owing to the mistaken statements that have been published about the opening of the season, I wish to give them warning. This is the last word, however."

Having used the term "inland waters," the game warden when questioned explained that it was that part of a stream which was not affected by the backing of the tide.

April 4, 1909 – Los Angeles Times

PLENTY OF TROUT – A party including Bernal Dyas, Billy Boyle and Ed. Elliot returned yesterday from a two days' fishing expedition at the mouth of the Ventura River, where each man landed the limit of steelhead trout.

The men fished in the tidewater up and down the banks for a distance of about one mile and a quarter from the mouth, and although the water was muddy, Dyas says the stream was never before so full of trout. About half of the catch was thrown back on account of their small size, and the 150 fish that formed the real catch averaged about nine inches in length. The largest was fifteen inches long.

April 8, 1909 – The Ojai

THE TROUT SEASON – As far as we have been able to learn, it is a very good policy for sportsmen to wait till the first of May to begin fishing, regardless of the various "dispatches" in the *Times* as to steelheads, etc. When the truth of the matter is learned, there seems to be no difference in the fishing law this year and last, and game wardens have already made some arrests in the southern part of the state on account of persons who were "muddled" by the numerous conflicting statements made by the *Times.*

April 14, 1909 – Fillmore Herald

FILLMORE IN BRIEF – W.G. Cornelius, the efficient manager of the Piru Co-Operative Association, was a welcomed caller at the *Herald* office Tuesday morning. He was bound for the Sespe, which stream he hope to rob of all the largest trout.

Ed. Newman holds the record for catching the largest trout so far this season. He has landed one that measured twenty-three inches. George Sutton, the barber, brought home one that measured twenty-inches last Sunday.

April 16, 1909 – Fillmore Herald

SEASON OPEN FOR STEELHEAD FISHING – A letter from Chas. A. Vogelsang, chief deputy of the state Board of Fish Commissioners, to H.H. Elkins of Fillmore, should make plain the fact that it is now lawful to fish for steelhead trout in all streams in this section.

The letter follows:

Mr. H.H. Elkins,
Fillmore, Cal.

Dear Sir:

We have your favor of the 1st inst. And beg to leave to say in answer to your questions that Steelheads can be taken in any waters this month. The old law permitted the taking of Steelhead in tide water in the month of April, and the law was changed at the recent session of the Legislature so that these fish can be taken above tide water as well during April.

This change of law relates principally to the fish which are found in all the Coast streams, or those streams which empty directly into salt water, and in all the counties from San Diego to Del Norte. The trout season proper was not changed at all, and the law remains the same as last year, providing for the open season commencing only on May 1st, and does not affect fishing in any of the inland or mountain counties. We hope this information will be satisfactory.

Yours respectfully,
California Fish and Game Commission.
Chas. A. Vogelsang,
Chief Deputy
San Francisco, April 3rd, 1909.

April 22, 1909 – Los Angeles Times

FISHERMEN BEWILDERED – Ventura county fishermen have about come to the conclusion that somebody has "done" them out of the fishing on their trout streams for the benefit of Los Angeles and Santa Barbara anglers. Ventura county streams are fished by strangers and the home people have been confined in their fishing by the threats of the game warden to the mouth of the Ventura River. The inability of anglers to discriminate between steelhead, which can be taken, and other trout, which cannot be, is partly responsible. Local fishermen were warned on April 1 to stick to the mouths of the streams, in tide water. Other fishermen went where they desired, and nobody has been arrested. Now, the State Game and Fish Commission has given out a statement in Santa Barbara that it will construe the law liberally and rule that all fish in the coast streams are

steelhead. And District-Attorney Bowker says he will not prosecute anybody for fishing in the streams.

April 22, 1908 – The Ojai

GRAND MAY DAY OPENING AT THE MATILIJA HOT SPRINGS – Preparations have been made for one of the grandest May Day openings at Matilija Hot Springs that has ever yet been given the public. Mr. Myers has been continually improving the resort in an effort to making it one of the most popular mountain resorts in Southern California. Each year shows added amusements and sports so that now guests may amuse themselves in trout fishing from the rushing Matilija river which Mr. Myers keeps stocked with speckled beauties from the State Fish Hatchery. (The rest of the article detailed the amenities of the resort.)

April 23, 1909 – Ventura Free Press

LAWFUL TO CATCH TROUT IN VENTURA COUNTY STREAMS – District Attorney Bowker Says That Nobody Will Be Prosecuted Who Obey the Law as to Limit and Size of Fish Taken.

Official Advice. Being desirous to know exactly the position of the State Fish and Game Commission with reference to the interpretation of the law as to trout fishing, the Santa Paula Gun Club sent the following dispatch to the commission on March 31st:

> Are fish in Ventura county streams classed as steelheads? Is fishing lawful April 1st? Is fishing lawful April 1st in those streams?
> R.L. Poplin, Sec.

The answer, sent on the same date, was decisive:

> R.L. Poplin, Santa Paula.
> – Yes. All Ventura County streams lawful tomorrow.
> California Fish Commission

Have the fishermen of Ventura county been buffaloed out of the sport on their own streams for the benefit of predatory fishermen from the counties of Santa Barbara and Los Angeles?

And, if they have been, who has done it?

“My opinion is that the trout in the Ventura river should all be classed as steelhead,” said District Attorney Don Bowker, Wednesday. “I hold, consequently, that it is entirely lawful to fish in the river. And there will be no prosecutions for fishing, unless the law is violated as to the number taken, or the size.”

Mr. Bowker has received the following dispatch from the State Fish and Game Commission in reply to a telegram sent by him:

"The open season for steelhead taken with hook and line begins in April, wherever found."

There is the law from the District Attorney, and from the State Fish and Game commission. What the law is what Ventura fishermen have been trying to find out. In view of the law, those questions about being buffaloed out of the fishing will be asked with deeper interest by the fellows who have not gone fishing.

In the beginning, it will be remembered that there has been some confusion, this year, as to when the trout fishing season really opened. The legislature bungled the law so that nobody seems to understand. At first it was lawful to fish for trout on and after April 1st. Then it was announced that it would be, and that the open season would be on May 1st as last year.

Experts said that it was only the steelhead that could be taken on April 1st. and that the streams were full of fish of diverse kinds that it would be unlawful to take. The ordinary fishermen could not, of course, tell a steelhead from any other trout. The only sure way, it being allowed at last on all hands that the steelhead could be taken after April 1st, was to fish only in tide water, where the fish were sure to be steelheads and nothing else.

Comes then Mr. Vogelsang, in authority, with the pronouncement that all the tout in the Ventura and Santa Maria rivers, high or law, were steelhead, and could be taken on April 1st—subject only to the law as to the limit of the bag and the size of the fish.

Comes immediately afterwards Game Warden Pritchard, with the published statement that whoever fished in the Ventura river above tide water before May 1st would better enjoy his fishing to the full, for the chances were he would be arrested when he got home. Mr. Pritchard even came to Ventura himself, and it was said that he came to enforce the law as he understood it.

Maybe he did. He came to Ventura anyway. Nevertheless, it is notorious and that there has been fishing up and down the Ventura river ever since the first of April, and if nothing but steelhead were taken—well, that is because there are nothing but steelhead in the streams. As a matter of fact, in years agone there were nothing but steelhead. It is said in behalf of Mr. Pritchard, that he wanted to keep outside fishermen out.

The only effect of the Game Warden's pronouncement, so far as anybody has been able to see, is that most Ventura fishermen have staid off the streams, out of respect to the law, while fishermen from Santa Barbara and Los Angeles county have come crowding in. It is even reported that fishermen from Los Angeles have been fishing the Sespe too. And the only regard they have paid to the Game Warden has been to confine themselves to the creel limit every day, and throw back all they catch under five inches.

And there you are! There hasn't been a soul arrested. Ventura county fishermen have been the only ones who have refrained from fishing the Ventura county streams. And, what ever else it may be, this is not a square deal…

The *Santa Barbara News* of Tuesday prints the following letter, which puts the Fish and Game Commission of the state on records again:

"Editor News: When the new laws passed by the legislature this year were sent out I learned that the trout law was unchanged but that the steel head trout law was changed so that steel head trout might be taken after the first of April in all waters and streams.

"As it is somewhat difficult for fishermen to determine what are steel head trout and what are trout, I have communicated with the Board of Fish and Game Commissioners at San Francisco and asked for their constructions as to the taking of steel head and trout and received their reply:

"'We beg to say that the policy of this board will be liberal in the construction of the law and allow fishing in the coast streams which empty directly into salt water or bays or lagoons adjacent thereto. The fish taken will be considered steelhead whether they are or not. There are but very few fish in the whole coast waters which are not steel heads and we would prefer to give fishermen the benefit of the doubt. Of course we desire to maintain strict construction of the law with reference to size of fish and bag limit, the law providing not more than 50 fish or 50 pounds can be taken in one day, while the fish themselves must not be less than five inches in length.'

"The foregoing letter is signed by Charles A. Vogelsang, Chief Deputy of the Fish Commission, and as far as this office is concerned must be considered as authority. For I must confess that I do not know a steel head from any other trout, and I doubt very much whether Mr. Crab, the Game Warden does. The Fish Commission of California is vitally interested in this matter and it appears to me that local authorities should be governed in a great measure by its opinion.

"I noticed in one of the local papers that a Mr. Pritchard, who claims to be an employee of the Fish Commission, has placed a different construction as to the taking of trout in coast streams, but I feel that I must be governed by information from the head office and not by a mere officer whose duty it is to make arrests and not to construct the law.

Very respectfully,
William C. Day
Deputy District Attorney."

WHAT IS A STEELHEAD – Game Commissioner Pritchard Explains Difference in Trout and Gives Accurate Description of a Steelhead.

Allowance has been made in favor of anglers who have fished in the coast streams since April 1 and no particular attempts have been made to enforce observances of laws that

discriminate between steelhead or brook trout, many anglers claiming that there is no difference in the varieties and that all coast stream fish are steelhead.

In relation to the controversy as to the differences between the steelhead and other trout, is the following statement of Fish and Game Commissioner G. Pritchard, who was a visitor in Santa Barbara today, says the *Independent*.

"In the coastwise streams of California and especially in the vicinity of Santa Barbara, is found a fine large trout known as the steelhead. Its scientific name is *salmon rivularis.* It is sometimes called the salmon trout. The steelhead is best distinguished from the other trout by its short head, its length along the side being contained four and a half to five times in the length of the body.

"The scales of the steelhead are rather small, averaging about 150 in a lengthwise series from snout to tail. In salt water the steelhead is silvery. In fresh water spots appear, and in small streams it is almost as much spotted as the rainbow.

"It reaches a weight of from six to 20 pounds, rarely exceeding the minimum in streams where it is a resident. The steelhead ranks high as a game fish, takes the hook freely and vigorously, and responds to the trolling spoon in the bays and estuaries." …(Rest of the article is about fishing conditions in Santa Barbara county.)

<u>April 23, 1909 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

MARVELOUS UPHEAVAL AND GIGANTIC LANDSLIDE – Huge Mountain Moves Into the Canyon Pushing Up the Creek Bed 200 Feet. BEAUTIFUL LAKE IN SCENIC CANYON. Series of Cascades and Water Falls 400 Feet in Length Formed by the Upheaval.

A week ago last Monday users of the city water noticed that it was colored, that it seemed to contain a bright reddish sediment. The Water Company has been questioned frequently as to the cause and until Wednesday could give no satisfactory answer. Then M.L. Steckel, who as charge of the company's reservoir, flumes, ditches, etc., decided to investigate. He drove to Ferndale Ranch, unhitched his horse and mounting up without saddle continued to follow up the canyon in sight of the soiled waters. At Oak Flat, where the creek forks, he discovered that the water from the left fork was entirely clear of sediment but that the water from the right fork was very full of it. Three miles from the forks up the right branch he came to a barrier of earth, boulders and uprooted trees which is some 200 feet high and which effectually cuts off the trail. Mr. Steckel after a thorough investigation was unable to tell what had caused the condition, but came back to town and told what he had seen. Thursday morning the Editor had the pleasure of accompanying Mr. C.C. Teague and Mr. Steckel to the scene of the upheaval, for such it is. In Mr. Teague's machine we rode to Ferndale, where we continued the journey on horseback.

Arriving at the place where the canyon is blocked we left the horses and climbed the dam which has filled the canyon, and worked our way up. Over great boulders and giant pines, and maples, and clumps of cottonwoods which have been pushed up by the roots from underneath, some falling in one direction and some another, we clambered for nearly a mile. When we finally came to the upper end of the upheaval a most beautiful picture was spread out sill on above and before us. The waters of the creek have backed up for a distance of perhaps a thousand feet forming a lake or reservoir of that length, some 200 feet wide and apparently thirty or forty feet deep in the deepest place. The tops of large pine trees wave a few feet above the surface of the water, the lake is surrounded by stately pines and other trees, a pretty oak flat lies to the northeast of the lake, an ideal camping spot. A great mountain has literally moved toward the canyon, crowding the bottom of the same until the creek bed has been lifted up 200 feet or more and the water rushing to the south and lower side of the upheaved part falls in a series of steep cascades and cataracts some 300 or 400 feet, being the outlet of the pretty lake above. For a half mile at least, and probably much father, to the north, the mountain has moved down and southward, great portions of it topping over her and there, and other portions seeming to have moved some considerable distance, but to remained intact.

It is a sight that is a marvel to all who have seen it, and though the trip is a strenuous one, it is worth the time and trouble. The Sulphur Mountain Springs management has the opportunity of a lifetime to run excursions from Los Angeles to see this wonderful landslide and upheaval. The lake is a permanent institution and will doubtless be stocked with trout. There is not the slightest danger in the world of the "dam breaking" and flooding the valley below, as the canyon is filled with a mountain for half a mile in front of the lake.

The city water will be dirty probably for some weeks to come, but as there is absolutely nothing to do but to wait until the sediment settles, users should prepare to make the best of the situation. In the long run the lake will be an advantage, holding as it will be a large reserve supply in dry seasons.

Ranger Bald states that on Saturday, April 10, there occurred an earth quake in the mountains which it is believed is responsible for the sudden shifting of the mountain.

The *Chronicle* will take a party including an expert photographer to the scene tomorrow and secure some views of the place for publication next week.

April 27, 1909 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA – County Game Warden Kuhlman will at once proceed to make arrests of land owners and corporations that neglect or refuse to screen the heads of irrigating ditches to keep trout out.

April 28, 1909 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Sulphur Mountain Springs. Opening Day May 1. Trout Season Opens May 1. Basket Picnics, Croquet, Tennis, Bowling and Pool, Swings, Burro Riding, May Pole and Lawn Parties….Santa Paula, Cal.

April 29, 1909 – Ventura Free Press

MOOTED PROBLEM ON TROUT LAWS – It is said that the state fish and game commissioners are not satisfied with the present law for protecting trout, in that it is inferred that the law which formerly read "steelhead in tide water only during April" was not amended according to the idea of the commission.

The Commissioners have issued the following, outlining their official attitude in regard to enforcing the law applying to trout fishing.

"Section 632 of the fish and game laws says that all trout, except steelhead, may be taken between May 1 and Nov. 1.

"Section 632 1-2, relating to steelhead says that they may be taken wherever found during the month of April.

"The law formerly said 'in tide water only during the month of April.'

"Professor Jordan's book, written four years ago, entitled "Fishes," says the rainbow and steelhead are two different varieties of fish, and the law as quoted above so regards them.

"The majority of fish in the San Gabriel, San Antonio, Santa Ana and all its tributaries in San Bernardino are rainbow.

"The state fish and game commissioners will enforce the law as it reads, feeling that the enforcement of the law is the quickest way to have it repealed if it is not satisfactory to the public, and has instructed the state officers to arrest and prosecute any fishermen with trout other than steelhead in their possession."

Local anglers are somewhat in a quandary in reference to the disposition of the commissioners but inasmuch as there are no trout but steelheads in the nearby streams it is safe to catch any fish hereabout between April 1 and November 15. The laws says only steelhead trout over 5 inches in length may be caught in April and of these only 25 pound or 50 fish may be caught.

From May 1 until November 15 all varieties of trout may be caught anywhere in the state, with the same number as a limit, excepting in the case of golden trout, the season of which is only the months of June, July and August, with a limit of twenty in one day. Steelheads may be caught in tide water with the same limit attached all the year round

except during February and March. Salmon may be caught all the year, except from September 17 to October 23. Above tide water, the season extends to November 15.

April 30, 1909 – Ventura Free Press

RIGHTS OF FISHING – It is not the fact, although many suppose that it is, that the legislature enacted laws making all waters, whether stocked or not by the state, free to fishermen. What was done at Sacramento was to pass the following amendment to be voted on by the people at the next election:

"The people shall have the right to fish upon and from the public lands of the state and in the waters thereof, excepting upon lands set aside for fish hatcheries, and no land owned by the state shall every be sold or transferred without reserving in the people the right to fish therefrom, and no law shall ever be passed making it a crime for the people to enter upon the public lands within this state for the purpose of fishing in any water containing fish that have been planted therein by the state; provided that the legislature may by statute provide for the conditions under which the different species of fish may be taken."

April 30, 1909 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Comes Fishing Time Again. Trout Season Opens May 1st. Can You Catch the Large One this Year? Largest Trout last season, 25 inches, caught by Fordie Pyle. Second largest Trout, 18 5/8 inches, caught by Julius Baldeschweiler. Bring in Your Big Ones and Have Them Weighed and Measured. …G.W. Tighe, General Merchandise. Fillmore – Sespe. Every Monday is Bargain Day at Our Store. Watch Our Windows—It Will Pay You. Monday's Special, $1.25 BAMBOO TROUT RODS FOR $1.00.

April 30, 1909 – Santa Paula Chronicle

VIEWS OF STECKEL SLIDE AND EMERALD LAKE – Many People Visited Scene of the Remarkable Phenomena.

The *Chronicle* this week presents three views of the upheaval, landslide and lake in the right fork of Santa Paula creek, the story of which was told exclusively in this paper last week. The pictures cannot give a fair conception of the magnitude of the disturbance. No one can realize the amount of earth, boulders, trees and debris that have been not only moved from what has been their resting place for generations, but which have been forced to completely change the appearance of the landscape. The bed of the creek is 200 feet south of its former location, it flows down a series of cascades and waterfalls instead of over the bottom of the canyon as before, from the point whence the mountain slid now appears a high precipice, the old canyon trail is buried from 200 to 300 feet and the canyon effectually blocked except for pedestrians for a distance of half a mile by a mountain of loose chalk or cement rock. The party last Saturday was composed of Duane H. Jaques of Los Angeles, Wm. Reese, Dr. A. Lynne, Geo. Young and D. W. Webster. The party took soundings in the lake and found that twenty feet from the short it was

twenty feet deep. In the center of the lake in the broadest part the water is sixty feet in depth. The water is now almost clear and tree tops are seen waving beneath the surface of the water.

John E. Kulman, County Game Warden and State Deputy Fish Commissioner, was in Santa Paula Thursday and will make a trip to the scene of the slide and lake next week with a view of ascertaining conditions there. If, in his judgment, the lake is a permanent one, he will endeavor to secure a large shipment of trout and other fish for stocking Emerald Lake and the creek above.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED – We have been frequently asked the same questions concerning the big landslide and will try to answer some of them here as best we know how.

Where is it?

Ans. About twelve miles from Santa Paula, and about six miles from Sulphur Mountain Springs in the right or south fork of Santa Paula creek and about two and a half or three miles above the forks.

What do you think caused it?

Ans. In company with several other gentlemen, the opinion of every one of who coincides with our own, we climbed all over the upheaval and a half mile or more north of it discovered the place where the earth sunk away from a high mountain peak or ride leaving a precipice some 80 or 100 feet high. The pressure of this half mile of mountain against the mountain of almost solid rock south of the creek pushed the loose formation in front of the slide and under the creek bed up into the air.

Will the lake be permanent?

Ans. We believe it will. If there is any doubt about it, measures should be taken to make it so. Much of the loose, chalky formation will be washed away, but as this is washed out the mass of rocks and gravel will settle making a solid and permanent dam a half mile thick.

Is there any danger in making the trip to the lake?

Ans. Very little, if reasonable precaution is taken on the narrow, shaley trails and in climbing the face of the upheaval, which is surmounted by many huge, loose boulders.

EARTHQUAKE CHANGES SANTA PAULA CANYON – Mountain Slides Forming New Lake and Lofty Falls.

Los Angeles, April 24.—A special dispatch from Ventura says an earthquake, causing the slide of a great mountain of the Sierra range, has changed the entire surface of Santa Paula Canyon, dammed the Santa Paula creek and made a lake in the South Fork canyon that, in the wild beauty of its surroundings, is said to rival Tahoe…(Description and dimensions of lake given.)

A BUILDING BOOM – A building boom has struck Sulphur Mountain Springs. It is this week the busiest place in the county and the sound of the hammer and saw is reverberating throughout the canyons and mountains. It is the chief topic discussed by the trout and the birds and beasts of that section… (Names of new site owners.)

RECORD TROUT – Earl Viles holds the fishing record of the season thus far and it is one that will be hard to beat. He caught a pair over in the Sespe last Saturday that weighed seven pounds and measured twenty-three inches in length. They were steel-heads, of course. The largest weighed 3 ¾ pounds. Mr. Erkes accompanied Mr. Viles on the trip. The fish were caught in the Sespe near Devil's Gate. Earl present the largest to Mayor Driffil of Oxnard.

ADVERTISEMENT – Matilija Hot Springs. Regular Summer Opening. Saturday, May 1. Amusements and Sports. Trout Fishing, Hunting, Riding, Camping, Children's Warm Plunge, Large Swimming Pool……Magnificent Scenery and Sublime Climate. Everybody Come! and Enjoy the Opening Day. Sim Myers, Prop.

<u>May 6, 1909 – The Ojai</u>

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIP TO WILLETT'S – The first camping and fishing trip of the term went to Willett's in the Sespe Friday. The party, in charge of Mr. Barnes, included A. Kent, T. Kent, Hayden, Kelly and Gross. They left the school with the pack mule in tow immediately after lunch and arrived at their destination about seven. The only excitement of the trip over was in trying to persuade the mule belonging to Harrison's party to cross the river. In crossing the unusually high river it was necessary to pass over a slippery rock ledge, which did not look good to the mule. With the characteristic stubbornness of his race he decided to stay where he was. Tub had to use all his persuasive powers, both vocal and otherwise to get the gentle beast over the rock.

Saturday all the members of the party tried their skill at trout fishing, with very good results, it seemed so at least at Sunday night supper. The two Sespe parties brought back about two hundred fish. Everyone says that the fish are very plentiful this year, but that they do not seem to be anxious to take the fly. When the fishing lagged and the day grew warmer, the courageous members of the party went in swimming. We do not wonder that the fishing was poor for the rest of the day.

LAKE UP SANTA PAULA CANYON – Some few days ago, about a week to be exact, there was quite a distinct earthquake shock in the environs of Topa Topa. A wild rumor pervaded the valley that up Santa Paula Canyon a beautiful lake had been formed that rivaled Tahoe in its scenic beauty. Last Saturday a party composed of Powers and Taylor

went up the canyon and examined the lake. From their account it is pretty and fascinating. If we can believe the latest reports from Santa Paula, their intention is to have the lake as a permanent water supply for that metropolis.

THACHER ITEMS – Mr. and Mrs. Dodge went up to Mrs. Lyon's in the Matilija canyon Friday afternoon and spent the night returning Saturday. Mr. Dodge brought back a string of twenty-five good trout. He found the stream so popular with other ambitious fishermen that he was unable to bring more fish back.

May 7, 1909 – Fillmore Herald

FILLMORE IN BRIEF – A party of nimrods composed of our successful merchant, G. W. Tighe, John Johnston of Santa Ana, and Herbert Levy of Los Angeles, spent Saturday and Sunday in the mountains from where they returned with a fairly good catch of speckled beauties.

Mr. and Mrs. Swift of Santa Paula, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Montgomery of Los Angeles and J. E. and M. Franklin of Los Angeles, all representatives of the Pacific Telephone Company, composed a party that spent Saturday along the banks of the Sespe endeavoring to coax the trout from their watery home. However, we regret to say that they were not very successful.

May 9, 1909 – Los Angeles Times

MONSTER STEELHEAD CAUGHT BY POTTER – (The focus of the article takes place on the San Gabriel River, where the "monster" steelhead measuring 23 inches long was taken.) … "Billy" Boyle made the best catch of the season at Matilija Springs last week, landing a limit creel, which included twenty-nine trout that averaged twelve and one-half inches in length.

John Clarke went up to the head of the Sespe River Friday night for a two days' outing. The fishing in the Sespe is reported to be good, although the water is said to be higher than it is elsewhere.

May 13, 1909 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – SESPE – Willets seems to be the most popular camping place this term as two more parties, and Upper School and Lower School ,were there last Saturday.

The Upper Schoolers all say that they had a fine time although they did not have much luck in fishing and suffered various other mishaps. On Friday night while fording the river Mr. Dodge's horse decided that he would rather swim than wade so promptly jumped into a deep hole. His master did not wish to be drowned so got off and by dint of much pulling got "Danny" safely ashore.

Saturday was devoted to fishing. Much was expected of Mr. Dodge as he is our best angler but he only caught twenty-two and then broke his rod. He also had a headache so that may account for his bad luck. The party returned safely to the ranch on Sunday.

The Lower School party also had a fine time. They camped in the canyon this side of the river Friday night. Saturday was spent in fishing in which they were luckier than the other party. Mr. Trotter killed a large rattlesnake. These reptiles seem to be very plentiful this year as an unusual number have been killed.

LOCAL ITEMS – Trout fishing seems to be the order of the day around Nordhoff. Some good catches are reported but we haven't heard of anyone getting the limit.

May 21, 1909 – Fillmore Herald

SESPE HAPPENINGS – Ed. Young and Bert Colbeck took from the waters of the Sespe a trout measuring 33 inches last week. This is an absolutely true fish story, and if anyone can tell one to beat it, let them go to it.

May 21, 1909 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PIRU – W.G. Cornelius, Charley Rehart, the two McGarvin boys and others took a couple days outing on the Sespe fishing with fair success. At least they all returned home and none of them complained of being bitten by the fish.

May 27, 1909 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – WILLETTS TRIP – The same party that went to Willets' three weeks ago, Mr. Barnes, "Tub" and Tom Kent, Gross and Hayden and Kelly, hit the trail again last Friday afternoon. Of course they had a fine time, they always do, and caught a large number of fish.

May 28, 1909 – Fillmore Herald

SESPE HAPPENINGS – Quite a number of trout have been caught in the Sespe during the last two weeks.

June 3, 1909 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – WILLETTS' TRIP – Three camping parties went to Willets last Friday. There were sixteen in all making one of the largest expeditions that has every gone from the School. The Upper School party was composed of Mr. Trotter, Boynton, Denegre, Morrison and Newton. A notable incident of the trip occurred when Burkett saw two "rattlers" and beat a hasty retreat instead of killing the reptiles and capturing the rattles. The Middle Schoolers in charge of Mr. Barnes, were Banning, Beaver, and Rathbun, with Powers as guest. Mr. Dodge led the Lower School, Merrick, Moffat, W. Kent, Ball and Partridge. Mr. Dodge caught fifty fish as did also Banning.

June 4, 1909 – Fillmore Herald

FILLMORE IN BRIEF – Bill Elkins claims to have caught a trout thirty-six inches long one day last week. However, Bill was unable to show the goods, as the mammoth member of the finny tribe got away from his capturer.

June 10, 1909 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – CAMPING TRIPS – The last two camping parties of this school year hit the trail for Willets last Friday. The first party was Garstin, Tutt, Cooksey and Watson headed by Mr. Fisher. The others were Mr. Wolfenden, Gally, Kellog, Tilton and Sherman. The fishermen of both parties were not particularly successful and had nothing to show for their pains although much to say about fishing in general, and their luck in particularly, which we cannot repeat here. On the return trip the travelers enjoyed a fine view of a sea of fog covering all of Ojai and reaching far out over the ocean.

June 11, 1909 – Santa Paula Chronicle

NEWSY PARAGRAPHS OF LOCAL INTEREST – Supervisor Herb Henderson, his son Edwin and Bert Hedrick packed their broncos Tuesday morning and hied them away to the resort of the frisky trout in the Sespe near the Piedra Blanca. Mr. Henderson will endeavor to entirely forget about bad roads and depleted county funds for several happy days.

PIRU – Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich and little Dorothy in company with friends from Sespe went up to Devil's Gate fishing a few days ago. Mr. Aldrich caught three fish but sitting quietly on the bank was too tame for Dorothy so she proceeded to perform a few stunts the most thrilling of which was when she plunged headlong into the stream. Whether Dorothy was practicing high diving or trying to catch a fish we did not learn nor whether Mr. Moore recognized the fact that it was Dorothy or thought it was a mermaid never-the-less he jumped in after her and brought the litter maid safely to shore.

June 13, 1909 – Los Angeles Times

SOFER CATCHES GREAT TROUT – One of the biggest trout catches of the season, a daddy steelhead, twenty-three and one-half inches in length and weighing four pounds, was taken last Sunday at Matilija by William Sofer. This trout is a half-inch longer than the specimen taken May 1 by McDonald Potter in the San Gabriel. Sofer took his record trout on a No. 5 hook, baited with a "barn yard" hackle fly.

Trout fishing in the Southern California steams has been unusually productive during the last two weeks, and limit catches have been more numerous in that time than heretofore this season. The water in the mountain passes is settling to a more normal level, is less

roily and is much easer to cast in than earlier in the season. The next two weeks should furnish excellent sport for the fresh-water anglers.

…On the more distant streams in the Sespe tributaries the trout have been biting much better. The rangers have opened up the trails to the northern fishing stream, and quite a few limit catches were taken last week. Bert Brady, Kenneth McCready and Upton Reed packed over the mountains and picked up four limits in three days' sport. The fish run a larger size than are being taken in the southern streams, and are caught almost altogether by casting.

June 17, 1909 – The Ojai

TROUT RECORD BEATEN – T. Mc.D. Potters twenty-three inch trout, which has stood as the Southern California record ever since the season opened, has been beaten at last. Louise Breer of Tufts-Lyon received from Matilija Hot Springs, Thursday, a steelhead trout, caught by William Soper, in the Matilija which measure a strong twenty-three and one-half inches. The trout must have weighed at least four pounds when taken from the water.

June 18, 1909 – Fillmore Herald

FILLMORE IN BRIEF – J. W. Everett, a former contractor and builder of this place who now has a prosperous business at Glendale, is here enjoying a trout fishing trip along the Sespe.

June 18, 1909 – Santa Paula Chronicle

NEWS PARAGRAPHS OF LOCAL INTEREST – A fishing party consisting of Al. Atmore, Mac Harvey, D. T. Beckwith and Chris Elliott left Sunday for the Sespe, where they will enjoy themselves with their favorite sport for the week.

We are under obligations to Earl Viles for a splendid mess of trout, caught by him in the Sespe. Mr. Viles is one of the local fishermen who always brings home the limit and remembers his friends and it is surprising how many friends a successful fisherman has.

June 24, 1909 – The Ojai

LOCAL ITEMS – Lorin Edgerton caught a trout in Senor Cañon which measured 21 inches. It weighed three pounds. It is the third biggest trout caught this season.

June 25, 1909 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Our Trout Fishing Contest Closes June 30th. Can You Beat These Entries? Ed. Newman…..23 inch trout, Douglas Critton…..21 ¾ inch trout,

G. Cudhy….20 ½ inch trout, Wm. Froehlich…..19 7/8 inch trout. We are offering cash prizes of $20.00, $3.00 and $2.00. Only five more fishing days. You will have to hurry. G.W. Tighe, General Merchandise. Fillmore…..Sespe

FILLMORE IN BRIEF – Earl Carr, Matt Carr and George Bartlett of Oxnard, Mr. Rangan of Ventura and Earl Viles of Santa Paula composed a fishing party that left Fillmore Wednesday morning for a few days' sojourn along the banks of the Sespe.

June 27, 1909 – Los Angeles Times

SESPE OFFERS EXCITING SPORT – Limit Catches of Trout Are Rewarding Anglers. Heavily-Stocked Streams in Unfrequented Territory Yield Good Returns to Waltonites Who Are Willing to Scale Steep Mountain Ridges—A True Fish Story.

From the remote fastnesses at the headwaters of the Sespe River come glowing reports of the catch of speckled trout. Starting from Wheeler Springs, headquarters for the fishermen in that region, a trip of eight or ten miles over a stiff mountain range brings the anxious angler to the fishing grounds, of which there are several choices.

Tulare Creek, which runs into the Sespe, and on the east branch, Lathrop, are the favorite locations. As a central rallying point after leaving Wheeler's Cold Springs, is the camping spot, and it is from there that the Waltonites sally forth in quest of their favorite prey. In whichever direction they elect to go, big catches are the order of the day, ranging from thirty or forty in a few hours angling to the limit bag of fifty.

The first party to come back in Wheeler's last week was composed of a number of Oxnard people. They had been away just three days, and, although at first anxious to get all they could, found it such easy work that they soon took it easy, fishing only early in the morning and late at night, desisting from useless slaughter all through the hot hours of the day. Even with this wise precaution they had to throw back a great many fish to keep from exceeding the limit, although they reported the taking of anything under six inches a rarity. After feeding entirely on the dainty morsels during the three days, they still came back with the full limit and vowed they had experienced the keenest fishing delight of their lifetime.

"Capt." Goodrich of San Monica had, perhaps, the most remarkable experience of all. A natural sportsman and loath to take any unfair advantage of his finny opponents, yet wishing to get all the sport he could out of his journey over the stiff trail, the captain vowed he would throw back everything under eight inches that he caught. This he did throughout his four days of fishing, yet he came back to Wheeler's with his creel full of the cream of his catch, none of the fish being under ten inches, and the largest one measuring exactly fourteen and a half inches.

I.M. Poggi of Oxnard and John R. Van Pelt, a well-known young Los Angeles sportsman, were the next to take the trip over the mountains. Their luck was similar to that of those who had preceded them. They took it easy at the Cold Spring camp all the first day after

their arrival, and did not start fishing until night, when they said the fish were so greedy after the bait that they jumped clear out of the water after it, often getting a strike the instant the fly struck the water. They fished again a short while before starting on the homeward journey the following morning, figuring that altogether they had actually fished about three hours. They came back with the usual limit catch, the largest of which was just a shade under thirteen inches.

(Paragraph about a mistaken rattlesnake.)

A number of parties from Nordhoff, the present railroad station, and other near-by points, come through Wheeler Springs every day with creels full and glowing accounts of their experiences "up river" every day. The camp is gradually filling up, and the season will be in full blast within a couple of weeks. The waters are at their best level, and will remain so indefinitely, being mountain fed and in no danger of falling off, while the fish bite more voraciously as the season advances.

If there is a place to beat it as a fishing ground for the speckled beauties, it has yet to be discovered, and, considering its accessibility, beautiful scenery, and the comforts found on the way, it is literally a "sportsman's paradise."

August 22, 1909 – Los Angeles Times

WHAT FILLMORE MAY WANT FILLMORE USUALLY GETS – Shall Fillmore Become an Incorporated City?

(Main body of the article is about Fillmore, her schools, oil fields, and other assets.) …Hunting and Fishing. About 30,000 trout have been planted in the Sespe River, from the government hatchery at Sisson, and they are thriving. Trout twenty inches in length have often been caught. There is also good hunting in the mountains.

October 14, 1909 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – SESPE TRIPS – As camping trips are one of the features of school life the first trips of the new year are especially important. It is always planned that the three schools shall have at least one camping trip before baseball becomes all ingrossing and there fore the first three week ends are allotted to the Upper, Middle, and Lower Schools in turn. Perhaps our readers will be pleased to know that it is not the custom of the "Notes" to write up each and every camping trip, but at the beginning of a year it is thought best to make an exception. Last week was the Upper School week and a party composed of Mr. Dodge, Boynton, Denegre, Crandall and Judson left for Ten Sycamore Flat. Saturday was spent for the most part in fishing, both Mr. Dodge and Boynton catching the limit. An early start was made on Sunday morning in time for dinner and so start off the week with a good meal.

Some of the new fellows were invited into the charms of a Sespe trip last week when the first trip of the year to Herb's was taken. Those who went were, Weston, Kneedler,

Woodruff, Gross, Newton, Starr and Lawson. The fishing was quite good. "Bud" caught the limit and most of the others had a fairly full creel.

October 26, 1909 – Los Angeles Times

CATCH TROUT LIMIT – Catching the limit in trout in any Southern California stream at this period of the season is rather a rare occurrence, yet two Los Angeles anglers. D.W. Flanagan and S.B Weil, both hooked the legal allowance Sunday, in the most frequented of all local trout streams, the main San Gabriel.

…In another three weeks the trout season for 1909 will close, and the fish of the mountain streams will be unmolested wherever the protection of the law, effective till May 1, 1910.

The open season, about to close, has been productive of some fine sport. A large number of limits have been secured, the Santa Ana and San Gabriel streams and tributaries contributing perhaps better returns than any other Southern California streams.

Good fishing has been had this year on the Sespe, where the trout run to a larger size than in the more local streams. The Sespe district is hardly accessible to the ordinary fishermen, as it takes a couple days of pretty stiff clambering over mountain trails to put the angler in desirable camping country.

October 28, 1909 – The Ojai

CORPORATION TO CONTROL MATILIJA SPRINGS – There is now good reason to believe that before the opening of another tourist season, Sim Myers' justly popular resort will be controlled by a corporation, backed by ample capital, and the reserve fund will be devoted to the development of water and general improvements about the grounds comprising over 20 acres.

Last year the present owner inaugurated plans to the above end, but postponed further promotion of the enterprise till the close of the season. All the papers preliminary to incorporation with the agreement as to the purchase and transfer of the resort have been prepared and subscriptions for stock have been secured to the extent of nearly 30,000 shares.

Several Los Angeles capitalists, who are familiar with the resort from the frequent visits, and recognize its great possibilities, have subscribed liberally. A few of the business men of this city are on the list, but there are many more who their willingness to boost the enterprise in a substantial manner, as this place would receive benefits both coming and going commensurate with the magnitude of the resort.-*Ventura Democrat*

November 4, 1909 – The Ojai

LOCAL ITEMS – William Herbert and James Fordyce returned home last Thursday evening after spending October on Pine mountain on a hunting and fishing trip. A large number of fine trout and two good bucks apiece was the reward of their outing

November 5, 1909 – Ventura Free Press

STEELHEAD FISHING FURNISHES SPORT – Fishing is affording a great deal of sport at the mouth of the Ventura River just at the present time. A number of Ventura fishermen were out early Sunday morning and several good catches were reported. James Ewing hooked a twenty-four inch steelhead that was ahead of anything else caught. Seven big steelheads were caught in a short time.

November 6, 1909 – Ventura Free Press

MANY TROUT COMING – More Than Half-Million Fry Due to Arrive Any Day for Streams in Southern California.

Trout fishermen of Southern California need not worry over a possible shortage of fish the coming year for a fish car is en route here from the State hatchery at Sisson, that is expected to bring almost 600,000 fry for the streams in this end of the State, the schedule number being 590,000. This car has been delayed in one place on account of a wreck and again owing to a caved-in tunnel, but may reach here Monday.

Rainbow, Loch Leven and steelhead are the varieties consigned here this time and the car contains nothing but trout. A shipment of black bass will be sent later and those to whom these have been promised will be notified in due time of their expected arrival. The fry will be given to responsible men to be placed in public streams in the various southern counties. The county, consignee, stream and number of fish are:

…Santa Barbara—H.J. Abels, Santa Ynez River; 40,000 rainbow and 20,000 steelhead.

Ventura—Santa Paula Fish and Game Protective Association, Santa Paula and See-Saw (Sisar) creeks, 30,000 rainbow and 20,000 Loch Leven; H.H. Elkins, Sespe, 20,000 rainbow and 30,000 Loch Leven.

The fish car is in charge of R.W. Requa and four assistants an on its arrival here these men will be joined by H.I. Pritchard, deputy fish and game commissioner for this district.

December 3, 1909 – Fillmore Herald

TO STOCK SESPE WITH TROUT – H.H. Elkins has received word from the State Board of Fish Commissioners that eight cans of trout will arrive from the State hatcheries at Sisson on tomorrow evening's south-bound train. There will be four cans of Rainbow and four cans of Loch Leven trout. Immediately after their arrival they will be conveyed

to Devil's Gate and planted in the Sespe. H.H. Elkins, Carl Elkins and the Fillmore Stables have agreed to furnish rigs in which to convey the little members of the finny tribe to the upper end of the stream.

December 6, 1909 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA – A large number of young rainbow trout have arrived in this county for the stocking of the Sespe and Santa Paula creeks.

December 31, 1909 – Ventura Free Press

STATE LEADS IN FISH CULTURE – The California fish hatcheries at Sisson, Eel River, and Lake Tahoe represent the finest examples of fish cultural work and artificial propagation in the United States and the salmon propagation in carried on by the California Fish and Game Commission leads the world according to the reports of the national fish commissioners.

The output of the California hatcheries this year is ten times greater than it was ten years ago. Owing to the expeditions and advanced methods of propagation the salmon supply on the Sacrament and San Joaquin rivers has been increasing at a greater ration than the demand, whereas fish authorities predicted that the supply would have been depleted five years ago. The Sisson hatchery turns out more young salmon than any other single establishment in the country.

In 1898, the State had four hatcheries, one at Sisson, one at Eel River, and two insignificant ones on Lake Tahoe. Through the increased appropriations acquired by the commission, the hatchery at Sisson has been quadrupled in equipment and output through the erection of for hatchery buildings. Three new hatcheries have been constructed at Lake Tahoe giving the lake a plant a capacity of over four times the out put of 1898.

A striped bass and steelhead hatchery have also been established, making a string of nine hatcheries which the State actually owns. In addition, the commission oversees and disposes of the output of two other hatcheries. The method of disposing of the output has been greatly facilitated by the construction of a distributing car, and heavy losses formerly incurred in the crude manner of transportation have been eliminated.

The appropriation from the State for the maintenance of the hatcheries has practically been doubled. Formerly the commission was given $47,000 for two years. This year the commission gets an appropriation of $40,000 for the single year. The remainder of the resources of the commission is derived from hunting and fishing licenses. It is estimated that less than 20 per cent of the inhabitants of the State contribute to the license fund. (Article finishes with the establishment of a game farm for pheasants.)

1 9 1 0

Rainfall – 13.94 Inches

Spark's Catch – 1,521 Trout

March 24, 1910 – The Ojai

STEELHEAD SEASON OPENS APRIL 1ST – The following is an extract from the minutes of the regular meting of the State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners, held March 7th, 1910:

"Commissioner Connell brought up for discussion the present steelhead law with the view of having an interpretation placed upon it by a unanimous action of the board, so that instructions could be issued to all deputies in accordance therewith. It was the sense of the meeting that commencing April 1st, steelhead should be allowed to be taken wherever found, irrespective of the distance from tide water—calling attention of the sportsmen, however, to the fact that the interior range of these fishes was clearly understood and they would be expected to observe faithfully the general provisions of the law relating to all other varieties of trout."—*Fillmore Herald.*

ADVERTISEMENTS UNDER LOCAL ITEMS – We have fishing lines of guaranteed strength from 10 to 17 lbs. F.P. Barrows & Sons.

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If you would see the best assortment of Fishing Tackle, call at our store. F.P. Barrows & Sons.

You will be interested to see the new Fishing fly that we have in stock. F.P Barrows & Sons.

March 25, 1910 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL, PERSONAL AND GENERAL HAPPENINGS TOLD IN BRIEF – The steelhead season opens next Friday.

Geo. Henley authorizes us to inform our readers that the road above Devil's Gate is no longer open to the public.

March 31, 1910 – The Ojai

LOCAL ITEMS – Ed. Bailard and Billie Martin drove over from Carpentaria the 2nd to visit their friend W.E. Hook and try their luck at trout fishing.

April 1, 1910 – Oxnard Courier

KUHLMAN SAYS MAY CATCH ALL KINDS OF FISH – John Kuhlman, game warden for Ventura County, was in Oxnard today and stated in answer to the questions about the kind of fish it will be possible to catch after April 1, that fishermen will be allowed to catch any kind of trout on that date, steelhead others alike. This will come as good news to sportsmen of Oxnard, who had expected to go out after the fish in large numbers on April Fool's Day.

District Attorney Don Bowker was asked for an opinion and decided that the sportsmen would be given the benefit whatever doubt there may be in the matter.

April 2, 1910 – Los Angeles Times

STEELHEAD TROUT SEASON OPEN; LOCAL FOLKS LUCKY – The steelhead trout season opened auspiciously yesterday with many fine strings reported from the anglers who fished in the Ventura and Santa Barbara streams, and main river and forks of the San Gabriel.

Deputy State and Fish Game Commissioner L.W. Pritchard rambled up and down the main stream of the San Gabriel in the interest of rainbow trout, but so far no trouble has been reported with over-anxious anglers who haven't the heart to throw a toothsome rainbow beauty back into the water when the fish basket is empty.

Pritchard wants all the fishermen to know where he is located, so they'll let him alone. He would like to do a little fishing on the side himself. There are more rainbow than steelhead trout in the San Gabriel by long odds, and the novice anglers had better be able to tell one variety from the other, for the fine imposed on guilty parties is a big slice out of a week's salary.

Many parties who were unable to go out yesterday and planning to limber up their lines and give the trout a taste of the worms today and tomorrow. Ventura seems to be the rendezvous of a majority of the local fishermen, for the sport there is excellent.

FINE STRING TAKEN – Angelenos On Sespe. Ventura, April 1.—This was fish day in Ventura county. Everybody could rustle up a pole and a string and a can of worms was out early at the several streams, and in most (not legible) of the day netted the (not legible). (Not legible) River, Sespe, Piru and Santa Paula creeks were all lined with fishermen who had generally reached the fishing grounds before daylight, though a good many parties went out the night before, so as to be as early at work as possible.

All the streams are filled with fish and there was little trouble in landing a string in most any location. The fish have been well cared for for several years, and besides, the streams have been restocked with system for several years past.

Among the out-of-town fishermen were some fifty Los Angeles people who put up in this city last evening. Most of these headed for Myers' placed in the Matilija Cañon, which is the center this season for anglers, the place having been opened a month earlier than usual for the special accommodation of fishermen. The trout taken today averaged well in size, while several real big fellows were taken. James McDonald landed a seventeen-inch steelhead, while W.P. Lincoln hooked a nineteen-inch beauty.

April 3, 1910 – Los Angeles Times

FINE FISHING FOR STEELHEAD – Anglers Report Good Catches in Southern Streams. Local Fishermen Breathe Easier After Getting Decision of Ventura Attorney Touching the Catching of Rainbow Out of Season—Conditions Favorable for Limits.

Trout fishing seems to be better than usual this year, at least during the opening days, for plenty of good-sized steelhead have been caught in a dozen favorite streams throughout Southern California. From Santa Barbara county south the first day's results have been quite satisfactory.

Local Anglers are freed from a whole lot of useless worry about hooking a rainbow this month, which, in a literal interpretation of the fish laws, is an offense punishable by fine or imprisonment. Dist.-Atty. Bower of Ventura has gone on record as giving a liberal interpretation of the law, and his action is taken as a precedent of considerable value.

The law, in its strict wording, appears foolish to most fishermen, for an angler has never found a bait which will attract one variety of trout and repulse another kind of trout. Unless the angler could shoo away the hungry rainbow, which are not supposed to be legal prey until after May 1, the permission to catch steelhead on or after April 1 is either a malicious mockery or snare.

To teach a patent fly the difference between two varieties of fish seems no more difficult than to throw back into the stream a record rainbow that has been caught by accident a month too soon. The construction put upon the State law by the Ventura attorney allows a man to catch a rainbow by accident supposedly, but enforces the regulation when an angler becomes so infatuated with the rainbow as to keep it in his possession or make a meal out of the toothsome fish. (Finishes with conditions in San Gabriel.)

FAVORABLE CONDITIONS – …For those who have more time at their disposal, the Santa Ynez and Sespe streams will afford even better sport than the San Gabriel, for the northern streams are better stocked with steelhead and many of the fish run from eighteen to twenty inches in length. The Matilija Cañon, the Piru and Ventura and Santa Paula streams are all productive fishing places, an it is well worth a trip to fish on one of these streams for a couple of days.

Back in the Santa Monica range on the Matilija the sport is more exclusive because the place is more inaccessible and some fine strings were taken there last year. Quite a few local anglers hiked off to that location yesterday, but reports of their success have not yet

been obtained. The Sespe is probably the better known of all the northern streams, and can accommodate a large squad of anglers and insure good baskets for all. (Finishes with fishing with a worm.)

April 5, 1910 – Los Angeles Times

BREER CATCHES BIG STEELHEAD – Twenty-eight Trout is Hooked in Ventura. Limit Creels Up North Excite Anglers. Hundreds of Fishermen Whip the Streams.

Louis Breer brought home yesterday a steelhead trout measuring twenty-eight inches in length, hooked in the Ventura River Sunday afternoon. Louis and his brother, Bill, were only two of the two hundred or more anglers who fished from the banks of the northern stream Saturday and Sunday, and Louis confessed that one other angler at least caught a steelhead fully as large as his own prize beauty.

Take it from Breer, for one, that the steelhead trout season, which opened last week, gives promise of being the most productive for the fishermen the southern streams have furnished the anglers for several years. The waters are just about right, the trout are plentiful and are running a larger size than in the last three years. This applies not only to the Ventura and Sespe, but to the San Gabriel River also.

Surely the timely judgment of the Ventura District Attorney in defining the State fish laws regarding steelhead and rainbow limitations quieted the consciences and melted the fears of the southern anglers, for, according to the local casters who visited the Ventura streams, there were never more fishermen out for a limit than on last Saturday and Sunday. And the wonder of the fishing was the uniform luck. Limits were plentiful.

BETTER THAN EVER – Jude Rose and C.H. Conger fished from the Ventura Sunday, and each got about as fine a mess as they have ever caught. They fished about three miles from the mouth of the river and hooked several fish measuring eighteen to twenty inches in length. The fish seem to run larger toward the mouth of the streams, though the meat of the big fellows lacks the exquisite tenderness and sweetness of the rainbow brothers.

According to President Jordan of Stanford University, the steelhead and the rainbow are one and the same variety, with the sole difference that the larger fish, or steelhead, are those which run into the ocean to feed and grown into larger dimensions, while the rainbow stick to the upper reaches of the streams. This opinion is held of considerable value by the local anglers. (Last paragraph about the San Gabriel River.)

April 8, 1910 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Sportsman and Telephone. Every time a man wants to get away from all connection with the busy world, the telephone is an important helper. The Local Service is useful in arranging his affairs at home, and the Long Distance Service of the Bell System helps him to decide where to go and what to take. By means of his Bell

Telephone he can find out whether the fish are biting or whether the birds are flying, and whether guides or horses can be secured. After he has been out awhile, if he wants to get word from the city, the nearest Bell Telephone is a friend in need. The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co.

April 15, 1910 – Fillmore Herald

TO SHORTEN FISH AND GAME SEASON – Deputy Fish and Game Warden John E. Kuhlman has taken up the matter of shortening the season for hunting deer and doves in this county with District Attorney Bowker. …The matter of shortening the season for trout fishing will be taken up at the same time.—*Ventura Democrat.*

April 15, 1910 – Ventura Free Press

LAW IS ABSURD. OPEN SEASON FOR TROUT – Fishermen Say That Law is Defeating Itself—April 1 Too Early for all Trout—Can't Tell Steelheads from Rainbow.

The best of the sportsmen around Ventura are disgusted with the present trout law which permits the taking of steelhead after the first of April and of rainbow trout not until after the first of May, even in the same stream. The law is defeating itself: Small fish are caught in the stream and are unhooked and thrown back only to die. The average fisherman does not know the difference between a steelhead and a rainbow trout. April 1st is too early for either kind of trout. Ventura fishermen will advocate a change of the law.

Referring to this matter, the *Times* says:

…All are unanimous in disparaging the present law, as it is impossible to discriminate between the two varieties. All admit that a far greater number of rainbow trout than steelhead can be found in Southern California streams…

The best chance to find steelhead and steer clear of the rainbow is of course near tide water—where the water clears last of all.

But when the fishermen think that the rule should be made uniform, they agree for the most part that the whole trout season should begin on the first of April; the saner plan, however, would keep the waters closed until after at least May 1 for all trout as the spawning, which the law seeks to protect is in full swing in April.

April 21, 1910 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – CAMPING – The camping season has come on with a rush, and last Saturday Willett's was almost overwhelmed with the number of Thacherites who took the trip. The season was inaugurated by Lawson, Powers, Starr and Allen, with Mr. Stoddard as chaperon. Every one who fished caught the limit and consequently all returned happy. The following Saturday was more of a children's week,

as no upper schooler was seen in the vicinity of Willett's. Two large parties of middle and lower schoolers (assorted) took the trip and enjoyed themselves. There was also another party, as their destination was Shepard's.

April 24, 1910 – Los Angeles Times

LOCAL ANGLERS CATCH LIMITS – Sport on Sespe Furnishes Trout Limits. One of the best trout strings taken this month was pulled from the upper waters of the Sespe last week by D.W. Flanigan and S.D. Weil. Two limits of good fish were secured before the anglers returned to Los Angeles.

Owing to the extremely low water, unusually favorable fishing conditions prevail at present in the Sespe, according to Flanigan and Weil. Instead of entering the smaller tributaries of the river as during other seasons, the trout this year appear to have gone straight on into the upper waters of the main stream.

Ordinarily the trout, going upstream during the weeks of the spawning season, turn aside whenever the tributaries present attractive spawning conditions. This year the low water has in many instances shut the branch streams away from the main bed of the Sespe entirely, necessitating the continuation of the trip upward. With the water law, fishermen plenty and good scarce, the rush to the head waters has been accentuated.

Many fishermen were met along the lower Sespe fishing grounds, but nearly all reported having had poor luck. Flanigan and Weil went further up the river than the others and found good sport. One morning the limit was taken before 9 o'clock, there being twenty-eight fish a foot or more in length in the two creels. The average of the entire catch was large.

Starting in from Fillmore, the two fishermen covered more than eighteen miles along the course of the Sespe before the best fishing was struck. In places the going was exceedingly rough and difficult, both sportsmen agreeing that a better way to reach the good grounds would be to start in from Nordhoff.

The water was found to be lower for this time of the season than in any year since the dry three winters of about a decade ago, and something like 30 deg. warmer than last year. In some places where during ordinary years the river at this time is hardly fordable, the men could cross without wetting their knees. The big trout holes were not particularly affected, but except in the upper waters the fish were very wary. Big fellows could be seen in the holes on the lower reaches, but would not be tempted from safety with any kind of tackle.

April 29, 1910 – Oxnard Courier

VICTOR MELCHOIR CATCHES ENOUSMOUS STEELHEAD – Now comes Victor Melchoir with a 29-inch steelhead trout, weighing 71/2 pounds. This trout was caught

yesterday afternoon in the Ventura River, about one mile above the county bridge at Casitas.

Melchoir tells a most interesting and exciting story as to his experience in the handling of the fish. The sportsman played with his catch for thirty minutes before he was able to land him. The fish was strong and put up a plucky fight. Melchoir was fishing with a light rod. From the time the trout took hold of the hook until the finish there was something doing every second. Up and down stream, over the mossy boulders, in the water, both deep and shallow, letting out and pulling in the line, all of which kept the fisherman on the anxious seat. On several occasions Melchoir received a ducking. After a hard fight the trout was guided into shallow water and landed.

The steelhead is on exhibition at Sherburne's.

May 5, 1910 – The Ojai

SIM MYERS HOLDS OPEN DAY AT SPRINGS – Nearly a thousand people partook of the hospitality of Sim Myers Sunday at the May Day opening of his celebrated Matilija Springs resort. Automobiles, buggies, carriages, wagons and horsemen were coming and going in and out of the Matilija canyon the entire day. Families took their dinners and enjoyed a day in the romantic stretches along the plunging river, and many partook of the excellent dinner served at the springs hotel, which lasted well into the afternoon in order to accommodate the hungry. The plunge was full the entire day, of course, and the various swings and sports provided were kept busy. Trout fishermen were scattered along the river for miles up and down stream, and everybody caught trout. Altogether it was a great day and a great crowd and Host Myers was everywhere needed and made everybody comfortable. The springs opens under the best auspices in its history and the season promises to be better than ever before.

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – SHACKS AND CAMPING – Last week Willets belonged to the Middle School for camping purposes. Led by Mr. Dodge, Ball, Kellogg, Rogers, Tutt and Kauke, set forth in search of pleasure and fish. Everyone caught the limit.

May 6, 1910 – Fillmore Herald

OIL SPREAD ON TROUBLED WATER – By the bursting of the Big Sespe pipe line Thursday several hundred barrels of crude oil found their way to the clear waters of the beautiful Sespe, and the stream was so defiled for a few hours that the nimrods who were Enjoying the day with rod and reel had to forsake their pastime.

May 13, 1910 – The Ojai

LOCAL ITEMS – Harry Fordyce of the valley acted as escort last week over the mountains to Piedra Blanca for a fishing party from Ventura consisting of his brother,

Constable Fordyce, the latter's son Ned and Frank Bates. The party secured the limit easily and report fishing good.

May 21, 1910 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – CAMPING TRIPS – This week, the destinations of the many camping parties included almost all of the customary places where the Thacher parties are wont to go. It was to be the Lower Schoolers turn to choose what they wished in the way of camping places, pack horse, outfits, etc., but man other besides the smaller members of the school enjoyed the benefits which come from a few days spent in the wilds. Willets as usual was the favorite destination; two parties going there. Mr. Dodge led over Denegre, Judson and Boynton and as Mr. Dodge is sure death to anything that becomes in any way transfixed to his hook, it is needless to say that the made an inroad on the finny population of the Sespe to the extent of fifty trout.

VENTURANS ENJOY OUTING IN OUR MOUNTAINS – Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Gray and Mrs. Effie Strickland of Ventura with R.S. Gray of Los Angeles were a party of visitors at Nordhoff Tuesday. They were returning from a fishing trip on the Sespe and were enthusiastic in their praises of conditions there and as evidence both of the plentifulness of fish and their expertness in catching them they were carrying home of the limit of trout from 10 to 15 inches in length. They secured horses here and rode over the trail to Lathrop's place where they found everything in the greatest abundance and had a splendid time. Mr. Gray is contemplating making the trip again in a short time.

May 22, 1910 – Los Angeles Times

BEAUTY FOLLOWING IZAAK WALTON'S FAVORITE SPORT – (Picture of Mrs. William A. Alderson fishing for trout in the Ventura River, in which she caught a creel of forty-three trout in one day, the last week.) Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Alderson found no difficulty in bringing in trout limits during a three days' stay last week at Matilija Springs, Ventura county. Although the water was reported lower than for several seasons, they found the fishing extremely good, both above and below the springs.

Mrs. Alderson is almost as enthusiastic sportsman as her husband. She handles a rod with the skill of a man. Dressed in khaki, with rubber wading boots, she takes streams with assurance, wading currents that would throw a novice off his feet. Once during the stay at Matilija, she slipped after attempting a difficult cast, and went head first into a deep pool.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Alderson failed to get any very large trout, they reported that big fish were plentiful near the springs. The Aldersons did fly fishing only, and their take averaged slightly under eight inches in length. The largest fish were about a fish long.

Billy Boyle of Los Angeles, who was also at Matilija during the Alderson's stay, put in his time fishing for the big fellows and succeeded in pulling several fine fish from the stream. Boyle's fishing was done mainly with worms on large hooks. The largest fish of

the week's catch was reported to be twenty-seven and one-half inches in length, and five others were measured as over twenty-two inches.

May 27, 1910 – Oxnard Courier

MAY AND JUNE ARE BEST MONTHS AT MATILIJA SPRINGS – May and June are the best months at the Matilija. The writer can testify to that fact after having spent a very enjoyable two weeks with Sim Myers, the former Oxnarder, and his very fine sons as hosts. (The rest of the paragraph selling the merits of the Matilija Springs.)

There has been some great fishing in the old Matilija during the present month. Big ones and little ones among the steelhead and rainbow fraternity have been brought in by the thousands. The limit is easy within a stone's throw of the camp, although the fishing is better father up the canyon, near the Ortega homestead.

The crop of big fish was a good one. Thus far during May there have been some very fine catches. During that short time there have been the following catches which have come to our notice: "Billy" Boyle of Los Angeles caught five big ones as follows: 28 ½ inches, 26 1/3 inches, two 24 inches and one 18 inches; Mr. Elliott of Long Beach: 27 ½ inches, 19 inches and others that were slightly smaller; (al of these fish caught by Boyle and Elliott were within a quarter mile of camp); Charley Myers: a fine 27-inch steelhead near Soper Ranch and one 18-inch trout; F.H. Sheldon, one 30-inch steelhead, one 28 inches and many others earlier in the season, he and Wren Cannon securing five on the opening day of the season that ranged between 18 and 22 inches in length; Alexander Reynolds of San Diego, one 18-inch steelhead; J.R. Gabbert a 23-inch trout, H. Cowell of Santa Monica hooked a 20-inch trout yesterday and lost his line.

The fishing between the Matilija Springs and Ortegas has been fished more than the territory between Ortegas and Flatrock and farther on to the head of the canyon.

Mr. Cowell of Santa Monica has been the prize fisherman of the camp during the past few weeks. He found it no trouble to catch a seven-inch limit any day in the week and is credited with having secured an eight-inch limit on Tuesday of this week..

(Article finishes with encouragement to stay at Matilija Springs.)

May 27, 1910 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT FISHING AT MATILIJA – Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Alderson of Lexington Street found no difficulty in bringing in trout limits during a three days' stay last week at Matilija Springs, Ventura county. Although the water was reported lower than for several seasons, they found the fishing extremely good, both above and below the springs.

(Repeat of Billy Boyle story from previous article.) …The largest fish of the week's catch was reported to be twenty-seven and one-half inches in length, and five others measured as over twenty-two inches.—*Los Angeles Times*

June 4, 1910 – The Ojai

MANY AT THE SPRINGS – There is a large crowd at Matilija Hot Springs. Saturday a large party of automobilists came up from Los Angeles, many of whom remained over to Monday and Tuesday enjoying the fishing. Monday there were more automobiles parked there on the opening day May 1st.

June 10, 1910 – Santa Paula Chronicle

NEWS PARAGRAPHS OF LOCAL INTEREST – A fishing party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kreene, Mr. and Mrs. Charley King, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brooks and Mrs. And Mrs. Sparks spent Saturday and Sunday in Sespe canyon.

June 12, 1910 – Los Angeles Times

GOOD FISHING FOR CLIMBERS – Trout Anglers Willing to Hike Get Limits. There is still good fishing in the Sespe, in spite of the extremely low water. But it is good fishing only for the anglers who are willing to work hard for their sport.

Last week a party of six Los Angeles fishermen tramped into the roughest portions of the canon and pulled out nice strings. D.W. Flannigan, Frank Hudson, F.O. Engstrum. Paul Engstrum, John Vaughn and S.D. Weil were in the party and each succeeded in hooking the limit.

In order to get their fish the sextette had to do some rough climbing, and go farther in to the wilds than most of the anglers who have brought back only hard luck stories from the Sespe. One day Flannigan started out at 1 o'clock in the morning, tramped until dawn and fished until noon, and again, in the later afternoon, before getting his full creel. He went where he believes only one other angler has penetrated this season.

When farthest from civilization he hooked some pretty twelve-inch fish. Near the usual fishing grounds the catch ran smaller and the fish were harder to hook. Big fellows could be seen in many of the pools, but showed no disposition to rise at the tackle used.

The number of Anglers who have been driven to the Sespe this season by the lack of fish in other streams probably accounts for the extreme difficulty that is experience in getting a rise out of the wary old fellows of the deep pools.

Flannigan has fished along many of the streams since the season opened, but has found nothing as good as the Sespe. On the San Gabriel there were signs of many fishermen, but few fish. Everywhere the extremely low water has driven the fish above their

customary haunts. In many instances the small side-streams are now entirely cut off from the main bed.

One result of the low water this spring may be a big trout season next year. This is because of the restriction of the spawning grounds. A far greater proportion of the fish have spawned in the protected waters near the head of the main stream than last season, so that the young fry should have a better chance than usual of getting safely through the first year. In the heavy rains of the wet season a big proportion of the fry is usually washed from the streams.

June 18, 1910 – The Ojai

MATILIJA NOTES – Charles D. Myers, C.E. Groat and W.A. Mays were out fishing near camp yesterday and each brought in the limit of speckled beauties.

A few days ago C.E. Groat of Long Beach, caught a nice 26 ¼ inch steelhead trout. Mr. Elliott, also of Long Beach, brought in two fine trout last week, one measuring 26 ¼ and the other 22 inches.

Master Rogers of Ventura caught a dandy rainbow trout, 20 ½ inches long yesterday.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL – Fishing continues good and the company large at Matilija Hot Springs. There are a number of campers in the various camps and all are having a good time. One of the guests caught a rainbow trout 28 inches long early this week and a number nearly as large have been caught.

June 25, 1910 – The Ojai

PAYS TRIBUTE TO BEAUTIFUL OJAI – The *Santa Barbara Independent* has the following tribute to the Ojai Valley:

Santa Barbara people have always been partial to the Ojai as a place in which to rest and play and there, domiciled at the Ojai Inn, many man, woman or child, may live close to nature while enjoying an ideal house, built in the heart of live oak groves, with mountains towering on one side. By the way, from these same mountains little brooks run down, enabling the disciple of Izaak Walton to catch his breakfast food and at the same time whet an appetite already sharp from the crystal air. (The rest of list amenities of the area.)

MATILIJA NOTES – Messrs. C.L. Smith and B.H. Maddox of Los Angeles had a pleasant fishing trip Monday. Both brought in the limit of nice trout.

June 26, 1910 – Los Angeles Times
July 1, 1910 – Ventura Free Press
STREAMS TO BE WELL-STOCKED – Three-Quarter Million Trout for Southland. Allotment of Young Fish for Southland Waters Doubled by Fish Commission—Special Car to Be Sent Here in September to Supply Forty-seven Creeks.

About 775,000 rainbow, Loch Leven and eastern brook trout are to be distributed in the streams of Southern California in September. M.J. Connell, Fish and Game Commissioner for the Southern District, has been notified that the fish will be shipped from the Sisson hatchery in the special fish car the latter part of August.

The allotment made to the south this year is nearly twice as large as that of last year. Three years ago 250,000 small fish were sent south and last season the number was slightly over 400,000.

R.W. Requa is in charge of the fish car. The fish allotted to Southern California are to be distributed in forth-seven streams, as follows:

…Ventura county: Ventura River, Coyote Creek, San Antonio, Matilija and north fork, See-Saw, Santa Paula, Santa Clara and Sespe.

July 1, 1910 – Oxnard Courier

FROM THE MONDAY'S DAILY – Dr. Ralph Avery went to Matilija Sunday to meet Mrs. Avery, who had gone to the Springs on Saturday. They returned home last evening. The doctor is anxious to go back with an artificial frog and try to capture a big steelhead trout that is frisking about in one of the big pools near the camp.

July 2, 1910 – The Ojai

GOOD SPORT AT LATHROP'S – Mr. Paul Lathrop, o Lathrop's Springs was here Tuesday. He says his place is doing a fine business and that there are usually as many people there as they can take care of. The trout fishing in the vicinity of Lathrop's is the best in the state and there is no trouble at any time to catch the limit of fine large fish. The trip over the trail is somewhat tiresome to lazy people, but the true sportsman enjoys even this, giving as it does frequent change of wonderful mountain scenery. (Remainder of article is about deer hunting.)

July 9, 1910 – The Ojai

MOST SCIENTIFIC OF THE ANGLERS – Fred Hartman Demonstrates How to "Catch 'Em" by Landing Many Fine Trout. Everybody who knows anything about trout fishing in California knows that in the streams of Ventura county the fishing is better than elsewhere in the state. It is natural under such circumstances that some very expert anglers should occur, and hence those of Ventura county could easily take the palm from any other section of the state. But easily the most expert of Ventura's anglers is Fred Hartman of Ventura. He never fails to bring in the limit when he goes after it, even in the waters where others fail.

Early in the present season Fred distinguished himself by bringing in frequent and fine baskets of trout in incredibly short time. On one occasion he undertook, with a friend, to

catch the fish for a dinner party of 14, in about two hours. As soon as the cook saw Fred walk toward the river he commenced heating the grease in which to fry the fish. True to his word in two hours Fred returned with 100 as fine trout as were ever taken from any waters, the combined catch of the two, of course; and there was a fish dinner long to be remembered by the participants.

It is needless to say that none of Fred's friends from Los Angeles who come up for a day's angling ever return home with empty baskets.

Last Friday Fred came up to Matilija and all were glad to see him, in the first place, personally; and in the second place, they knew the question as to whether the stream adjacent to the Springs had been fished out, as had been alleged would be settled. He demonstrated that there were still plenty of fish for expert anglers by bringing in 40 fine trout after two and a half hours on the stream. And he continued to catch them when he wanted to for several days. His last catch, made in a few minutes, close to the Springs included two extra fine rainbow trout, one 20 and the other 21 inches long.

No one knows how he does it, but there is certainly something winning in the way he "flecks his fly," for the trout always rise to his bait. If you happen to be in Ventura go to the Hotel Anacapa and ask Fred how he does it, maybe he can tell you—I can't.

July 15, 1910 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL, PERSONAL AND GENERAL HAPPENINGS TOLD IN BRIEF – Roy L. McCollum of Coalinga, where he is largely interested in the development of oil, spent several days on a fishing trip in the Sespe canyon this week. Mr. McCollum said that he found that it was not a difficult matter to get the limit in a couple of hours when fishing away up the canyon.

A special car loaded with trout from the state hatcheries at Sisson was attached to the southbound train last evening. Fifty thousand of the juvenile speckled beauties were unloaded from the train her and taken to the Sespe by Hess Elkins in a rig provided by the co-operative association.

July 21, 1910 – The Ojai

NOTES FROM MATILIJA – Messrs. Lawrence and Craft of Los Angeles were out fishing Tuesday and each brought back the limit of trout.

July 22, 1910 – Ventura Free Press

SIXTY THOUSAND FISHLETS FOR VENTURA COUNTY WATERS – The state fish car, attached to the 3:50 train on Thursday, delivered 12 cans of trout fry to Game Warden John E. Kuhlman, who proceeded at once to "plant" the many thousands of little fellows in the waters of San Antonio, Matilija and Coyote. Each can was supposed to contain 30,000 fishlets—360,000 in all.

July 23, 1910 – The Ojai

MATILIJA NOTES – Mr. Wm. Soper spent the day fishing and brought in the limit of nice trout Friday.

July 29, 1910 – Ventura Free Press

TENDER CARE MUST BE GIVEN MINNOWS – Game Warden Kuhlman successfully "planted" 360,000 young trout in the streams of Ventura county Thursday afternoon, the same have being delivered to him from the State Fish Commission's car at the depot at 3:50 in the afternoon. Following out the rules of the commission for the handling and care of the troutlets, Mr. Kuhlman hurried the consignment consisting of 12 cans of 30,000 each, into his vehicle and lost no time getting to the streams where the little fish were given permanent homes—permanent until such time as they may be foolish enough to nibble at hooks tossed them by some game hog, whose sole idea is to "catch the limit."

It will interest readers to take note of the rules set forth by the Commission for the proper handling of baby fish. Those received by the local game warden are in part:

"You will require a thermometer, a large dipper, holding not less than a quart, and about 50 pounds of ice. Take the temperature of the water every 30 minutes. Keep it between 50 and 55 degrees. In moderately warm weather, six to eight pounds of ice to the can will hold the temperature for an hour. Place the ice in the cans gently; do not drop it.

When not in motion, the water in each can should be separated every ten minutes. This is done by raising it with a dipper about two feet, and then pouring it back into the can. Do this five or six times for each can. When in motion, take the temperature and aerate every half hour.

"On reach the waters to be stocked, take the temperature of the water, both in the cans and in the stream, then remove half the water from the cans and refill from the stream until the temperature is equalized. This will avoid a sudden change which is dangerous to young, delicate fish.

"Plant the fish in shallow running water. Avoid pools. Scatter them well, about one can to the mile."

August 10, 1910 – Ventura Free Press

ARREST OF DYNAMITERS MAY POSSIBLY EXPLAIN MYSTERY OF DYING FISH – For some time, or since several thousand young trout were planted in the waters of Matilija Canyon, reports have been coming to the ears of Game Warden John Kuhlman of the mysterious finding of dead fish in the Matilija neighborhood. There was so much talk about it that Warden Kulman went up Monday for the purpose of making an investigation.

It resulted in his finding evidence sufficient to warrant him in arresting Harry Rothwell and Ivy Stingley on charge of exploding dynamite charges in the neighborhood of Vickers' Springs. Rothwell and Stingley were brought to Ventura and taken before Justice L.A. Ortega, who placed them under bonds of $250 to appear for their preliminary hearing August 29.

Kuhlman stated that he found 65 or 70 trout of good size in the possession of Rothwell and Stingley. If found guilty and sentenced to pay the lowest fine the may be assessed these men will be obliged to dig up about $250 each, the minimum under the law.

August 20, 1910 – The Ojai

CAUGHT! – Frank Sangendorf Lands Giant Rainbow Trout After Desperate Struggle and a Good Wrestling. A party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Stagil and little girl, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sangendorf and family, and their guests Mrs. Green and Family of Venice, went on a Fishing trip to Sawtooth Canyon last Saturday. They remained over Saturday night returning Sunday evening.

Mr. Sangendorf has heretofore had a considerable reputation as a fisherman, but this expedition landed him on the top shelf of achievement in the fish catching line. Sunday, after catching a number of rainbow minnows measuring ten to fifteen inches in length he went after the grandfather of them all and hooked a big fellow, which he thinks was twenty inches long. After considerable fighting the fish tore the hook from its mouth and got away. Frank was so exasperated that he sat down on a rock and "cussed." His ambitions soon returned, however, and he went at it again with the result that in less than six minutes he had hooked a larger trout than the one that had gotten away. Then came the fight of the occasion, the *piece de resistance* as it were—foam and mud and things splashed half up the sides of the canyon in the terrific struggle that occurred. Finally Frank, despairing of land the big fellow, jumped into the water and caught him with his hands. It is said the trout surrendered because no self-respecting fish could more than half fight under such rules as that. The fish when landed proved to be worth the fight and the wetting Mr. Sangendorf. It was a rainbow trout and measured 21 inches—one of the finest that has been caught in this vicinity this year. It is suggested that the next time Mr. Sangendorf goes after fish he take a bathing suit with him or a diving bell.

August 27, 1910 – The Ojai

HUNTING AND FISH NEAR THE OJAI VALLEY – While the people of Nordhoff and the Ojai Valley have never plumed themselves on the records of citizens and visitors as big game hunters this sport has been in vogue in the mountains nearby for many years. In this village are to be found some fine trophies of the chase, among them superb heads of antlers of the black-tail deer, paws of silver tip grizzlies, skin of mountain lions, etc.

The borders of the national forest reserve are the northern boundary of the Ojai Valley and within twenty miles of the village many kids of big and little game may be found.

There are bear, lions, lynx, coyotes, wild cat, foxes in considerable numbers and of the lesser game such as mephitis, rabbits, squirrels, mountain quail, and valley quail there are thousands. There are also rattle snakes and other dangerous reptiles—in fact it is an ideal hunting country. All of the big game however, is well back in the mountains of the coast range and with the exception of deer none have been seen in the Ojai valley for several years.

The forest rangers come in frequently with interesting stories of exploits of hunters who have the hardihood to penetrate the mountain fastnesses in search of dangerous sport. These form a theme of interesting conversation here at all times, and among the exploits are some of the most thrilling experiences of western life. As tragedy seldom occurs and there is more or less humor in all of these narratives they are of particular interest to the sojourner, of who there are hundreds here every year. There are a number of wealthy young men from the East who, as lovers of nature, devote much of their time riding the trails and studying animal life at first hand. Prominent among these is Mr. Loring Farnham, of the prominent Massachusetts family of that name, who derives his chief pleasure in the contemplation of nature, in its wildest form and participating in the life of the forest rangers and that of the rancheros. Mr. Farnham is not sanguinary and prefers the camera to the rifle as a weapon when he hunts big game, though he can "lay them out" when he feels so disposed. He is thoroughly posted in the lore of the trail and is a welcome guest at all of the ranger camps and ranch houses in the district. We trust Mr. Farnham, who is extremely modest, will pardon this direct reference which is made for fear some one would confuse him with the Barnham who with his friend Zell are at this time raising the dickens in the Cuyama country.

For the information of the outside world it may be well to give a brief description of the "hunting and fishing country" to which so frequent reference will be made in these columns in the future. Lying north of Nordhoff is the Sierra Pinal, or Pine mountain range, the tallest peak of which is 6,660 feet. In this range, to the east are the headwaters of the Piru that flows into the Santa Clara river. This stream while difficult of access, well repays the effort necessary to reach it, for it is a fisherman's paradise and there is plenty of big game, in the western reaches of the range rise the waters of the Cuyama, that flows in a westerly direction and then north finally emptying into the Santa Ynez. Near the headwaters of the Cuyama is situate "fair Ozena." Ozena is the name of the U.S. postoffice that is maintained at the ranch house of the Reyes brothers. There is no village but visitors are entertained with true old time hospitality by the Reyes brothers who come from one of the oldest and most respected Spanish families of this section. Ozena is about 25 miles north of Nordhoff and is reached from this village by trail only.

On the Sespe, a river that flows through the lower gorges of the Pine mountain range, is to be found scenery of marvelous beauty and the fishing and hunting is exceptionally fine. On the south bank of this stream, about 15 miles from Nordhoff, is located Lathrop's Camp. The way to the camp is over the trail and hundreds pack out from this village every year to enjoy the unexcelled fishing and good cheer to be found there. The fish are mountain, rainbow and other trout, and within easy distance is fine big game hunting. On the top of Pine mountain is a lodge that was built several years ago by

private parties but which is now the property of the government and is used by the rangers. It is also used by campers, as there is plenty of good water. It is a famous stopping place for those going to the headwaters of the Piru or further on to Frazier and other mountains of the Santa Medio range that lies further on and north east of the Sierra Pinal. There are a number of mountains of considerable altitude in this range, among them being Frazier, 6,100 feet, Mill, about the same, and several others of slightly less altitude. In these mountains are bear, mountain lions, lynx, Pacific and black-tail deer and other game.

The rangers have built trails over the forest reserve and it is now possible to traverse most of the distances with pack animals and ponies. There are plenty of such to be hired at reasonable cost in this village and riding the trails is a favorite amusement of visitors to the Ojai Valley. There is no danger to the trail riders from wild animals as these hide in the mountain fastnesses. Grizzly bears the only ones that are at all dangerous are to be found only in the more rugged regions, that are inaccessible to the ordinary trail rider. You must go after the bear if you want to find him—and then probably you won't for they are very cunning.

All of the streams in the territory mentioned are full of trout and rare sport is enjoyed every year by many in angling for them. No finer or more healthy outing can be imagined than a few weeks along the streams in the Sierra Pinal.

<u>September 2, 1910 – Ventura Free Press</u>

DYNAMITERS HELD FOR COURT – Ivy Stingley and Harry Rothwell who were arrested in the Matilija country some time ago on warrants issued by Game Warden Kuhlman, have been held by Justice of the Peace Ortega for arraignment in Superior Court upon charge of exploding dynamite in the creek near Vickers' Springs, for the purpose of killing fish.

<u>October 7, 1910 – Ventura Free Press</u>

ROTHWELL PLEADS GUILTY TO KILLING MATILJA FISH – Harry Rothwell, who was arrested some time ago in company with a young man named Stingley, on a warrant sworn out by Game Warden Kulhman, was arraigned in Superior Court Monday afternoon at which time he refused to have an attorney appointed to represent him. To the charge of killing fish in Ventura river, with explosives, he pleaded guilty. The Court interrogated the young man and ascertained that he is an electrician living at Los Angeles, and that at the time of the commission of the crime was working at his trade near Matilija. The court was also informed that the young man's wife, in Los Angeles, is expectant, and in view of that fact and the further fact that Stingley, his partner in crime was not present, deferred sentence until Monday of next week at 2 in the afternoon. Effort will be made to have Stingley present at the time.

Under the statues the fine may be anywhere from $100 to $350 and the jail sentence, in lieu of the fine, 125 days.

October 15, 1910 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIPS – Friday, October 7th, was the day on which the two first camping parties of the year set out, one bound for Herb's in the Sespe and the other for Piedra Blanca.

The party which went to Herb's was composed of Mr. Dodge, Mr. Williamson, Ball, Mills, Merrick, Marrison, F. Andrews, H. Andrews and W. Barnhart. Partridge started for the Sespe with others, but his horse got badly cut by barb wire when he was near the Gridley's house and he had to give up the trip. Mills and Ball went over foot, climbing the ridge by way of the steep trail which runs along the line of telephone poles. On Saturday Mr. Dodge caught the limit of trout, but the rest of the party were not so successful, chiefly because they found swimming more pleasant than patiently fishing while the flies made life unenjoyable.

In the other party were Mr. Twichell, Mr. Blake, Starr, Olcott and Denegre. They did not go all the way to Piedra Blanca on Friday, but spent that night in the Sespe just on the other side of the ridge. On Saturday the journey finished, and on Sunday the return was made to school. Both parties passed a yellow jackets' nest on the return trip and some of the horses and fellows were stung by them. This week the Lower School expects to invade the domains of Herb Lathrop and to do their duty by his hot cakes and apples.

1911

Rainfall – 22.00 Inches

Sparks' Catch – 674 Trout

March 17, 1911 – Fillmore Herald

TROUT SEASON OPENS APRIL 1 – Although a petition had been prepared by Sim Myers and signed by hundreds of residents of the county requesting the supervisors to enact an ordinance making the date of the opening for the trout season in the county May 1st, the knight of the rod and reel will not be breaking the law be commencing his sport with the speckled beauties on April 1st. The petition was to have been considered by the supervisors, but upon investigation the district attorney gave the opinion that it would be difficult to enforce such an ordinance after the state fixed the date of opening of the trout season as April 1st.

WHAT IS UNLAWFUL – (Taken from *West Coast Magazine*.) …To fish for any trout of white fish from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise. …To buy or sell trout less than one pound in weight. …To take trout, black bass, or steelhead trout except with hook and line, or to ship or carry trout out of the state.

March 17, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

CHANGED LAW DOESN'T SATISFY – Ventura, March 16.—The trout fishermen of this county are indignant at the action of the Legislature in changing the limit of legal length of trout taken from the streams.

Under the old law the limit was five inches. All below that length taken from the water had to be thrown back in the stream. The new law makes it illegal to hook and keep a trout less than six and half inches in length, which fishermen declare is absurd. As a fact, they say not many fish are taken over six inches in length and further, than a fish once hooked, even if hooked but lightly and immediately thrown back into the stream, stands a poor chance of survival. The result will be that many trout in Southern California streams will be killed which cannot be eaten. It is also insisted by a majority of the sportsmen that April 1 is too early to open the season, and it is not possible to do much fishing. The season, they say, should not open before May 1, or at any rate not before the middle of April.

March 17, 1911 – Oxnard Courier

POWER MAN TELLS OF MANY EXPERIENCES – F.W. Hunter, manager for the Ventura County Power Company, arrived in Oxnard this afternoon, after having again walked over the railroad bridge across the Santa Clara. He told a number of interesting experiences about conditions at the gas plant of the company.

The plant was under thirteen feet of water for twenty-six hours. It was necessary to build a bulkhead and syphon the water into the river. When it has been cleared out of the building, there were dozens of steelhead and river trout found in the place. Hundreds of the dead bodies of the fish were found in different places along the river where the high waters had been.

March 18, 1911 – The Ojai

NO CHANGE IN SEASON – Trout will be "Ripe" on April First, The Same As Usual. (From Ventura *Democrat*) There will be no change in the trout season in this county, so sportsmen may prepare their reels and rods for use on April 1st, the same as of yore.

Sim Myers, of Matilija fame, whose laudable efforts to have the opening date delayed to May 1st were seconded by true sportsmen the county over, is sorely disappointed. In good faith and backed by legal advise Mr. Myers prepare and secured signatures to a petition which was presented to the Board of Supervisors requesting that the county game law be amended to make the open season begin May 1st instead of April 1st.

The Board expected to take action at the current meeting, but it transpires that under the present order of things the trout season is governed entirely by the state law, and the county authorities can make no change.

Consequently Mr. Myers withdrew the petition and the open season begins at the old date, April 1st—just one month too early according to the judgment of experience and competent fishermen.

March 24, 1911 – Ventura Free Press

SCARCITY OF TROUT ACCOUNT OF FLOODS – Scarcity of mountain trout for the next few years, is the prophesy of the local rod and reel enthusiasts, who claim that the recent floods undoubtedly have swept vast number of the small fish down the stream, says the Los Angeles Times fish editor:

No definite knowledge as to the present fishing conditions has been obtained but many of the old timers remember the great scarcity of trout that followed the flood of 1891. Fishing was practically a waste of time for several years following this downpour. In fact, there were few trout to be caught until ten years ago when the San Gabriel was restocked.

Those familiar with the conditions say the water was too deep and violent for the trout to find shelter and that they were so bruised and battered as to be unable to contend with the current. A few of the gamesters may be found near the head waters, but it is likely that the trout limits along the San Gabriel during the coming season will be few and far between.

Should the predictions of the devotees of the rod and reel prove correct it is likely that steps will be taken immediately to have the streams replenished and especially strict local laws passed to protect the fish for a year or two, until they get well stocked again.

There are a number of clubs as well as individuals in Southern California who are ready to have a part to be in this as the trout fishing has come to be an important factor in vacation outings.

March 30, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT SEASON MUCH MUDDLED -- Fish Bill Remains Unsigned by the Governor. Troublesome Amendment to Be Removed First. Sacramento, March 29—{Exclusive Dispatch} Gov. Johnson will sign fish measure No. 965. He requested Assemblyman Jasper to permit recession from amendments in order that he could sign the bill as originally drawn.

The trout season will open Saturday, very likely under the provisions of the new law, which will permit the taking of both rainbow and steelhead trout on April 1.

One of the many amendments plastered over the new bill removed the present restriction against taking trout less than five inches long.

If Gov. Johnson carries out his present intention, this restriction will remain in force and it will still be illegal to hook the little fellows.

The following telegram was received yesterday by Chief Deputy H.I. Pritchard, in charge of the southern district.

San Francisco (Cal.) March 29. Pending signature of bill passed last week, trout law in State remains same as last year.

J.P. Babcock
Chief Deputy, Fish and Game Commission.

At present trout fishermen may fish for steelhead trout in tidewater only from April 1, and must wait until May 1 to catch the rainbow variety. This law was generally objected to because of the difficulties of defining tidewater and the opinion expressed by the ablest ichthyologist in the State, Dr. David Starr Jordan, that the steelhead and rainbow are one and the same fish. Dr. Jordan is one of the State Fish and Game Commissioners. The difficulty in defining the limits of tidewater operated against the effectiveness of the old law, in that many deputies did not attempt to enforce it.

The new law makes sweeping alterations by opening up fishing for steelhead trout to hook and line methods in tidewater the year around; and opens the rainbow trout season April 1.

WHERE THE ELUSIVE TROUT MAY BE FOUND – By Edwin L. Hedderly.

The changes in the law will not make much difference of a practical nature to local fishermen. The San Gabriel River is in eminently unfishable condition at present and bids fair so to continue, for several days at least, and much longer if rain or very hot weather should occur.

The San Gabriel no doubt will have restocked itself in considerable measure with fresh-run steelheads from the sea, although these do not enter this stream to the extent that they do the Ventura River and other northern streams.

The Topanga or the Malibu, and in fact any of the streams which ever are fishable, should show plenty of water this spring, and conditions in general are favorable enough, although the beds of all the rivers and creeks will be found very greatly changed owing to the floods of the storm waters that have coursed through them for two months past. The brush has been entirely cleared out of many stretches along the Sespe, Agua Blanca and other higher waters in Ventura county where brush always has been a serious obstacle to the angler.

(Paragraph about San Gabriel River.)

The steelhead fishing at the mouth of the Ventura River will, no doubt, be excellent, and several local anglers plan to try it early this month.

Some heavy plantings of fish are to be made in Southern California this season, and it is thought the water conditions will be more favorable for their flourishing than usually is the case.

A few steelheads have been reported in the rivers of San Diego County, although this seems farther south than they care to range. (Article finishes with type of bait to use.)

March 31, 1911 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL SPORTSMEN ARE SUCCESSFUL – Fillmore can boast of two local sportsmen who are as enthusiastic and successful as can be found anywhere in the persons of Ray Ealy and George Sutton.

Following is the record of the fish and game they took into their possession between May 1st of last year and March 15th of this year: Trout, 510; doves, 321; quail, 138; rabbits, 139; squirrels, 47; grey squirrels, 2; ducks, 33; mud hens, 30; crowns, 3; jack rabbits, 1; wild cats, 1; coons, 1; chicken hawks, 2; jack snipes, 18.

March 31, 1911 – Oxnard Courier

EDITORIAL "FISH LAWS" – (Editor's note: The microfilm is unclear and the part of the first sentence is not legible.) …the full effect of the new fish and game law. Most of

the fishermen are of the opinion that conditions will be about the same as last year, although it is understood that steelhead and rainbow trout fishing will be proper by April 1. Last year it was improper to catch rainbow trout on April 1, although steelhead might be captured. The result was that everybody took everything in sight and called the result steelhead before May 1 and after that date, there were many fine "rainbow" caught. As it took an expert to tell which was which, the law didn't have much effect. This year the fishermen will be lucky to catch either one, if the conditions are just as reported.

April 2, 1911 – Los Angeles Times
April 7, 1911 – Oxnard Courier

THE TIMES PINK TOUR TO NORDHOFF AND RETURN – Pink Tour to Trout Streams. By Volney S. Beardsley. Into a county where the streams are well stocked with trout and where the roads are good again after the heavy rains, Volney S. Beardsley has driven a Firestone-Columbia on a route-marking tour, a trip of 160 miles, with Mrs. Beardsley and Mr. and Mrs. C.D. Young. The Conejo grade is good and the road is almost every foot of the distance.

At a season of the year when the sports and the fishermen are anxious to know just how to reach certain points, the Warren-Detroit and Firestone-Columbia man has chosen a road that will take the rod and reel men to the Matilija or into the Sespe country beyond.

The route is one of the interesting tours. It skirts the ocean in a different direction and then plunges into the hills. It touches Ventura and Nordhoff and Santa Paula and return by way of the Santa Susana grade to Chatsworth Park and San Fernando.

Now is the time to take a trip into the Ventura country. The Conejo grade is open and the hills are beautiful. If you know how, you can catch some of those steelhead trout. I enjoyed the trip to Nordhoff. If you wish to go beyond you can take the Matilija or Wheeler's Springs road.

…After passing through El Rio and Montalvo we reached Ventura, seventy-six miles away. Then we took that drive up the creek road to Nordhoff. The Matilija looks great. There has been plenty of water in the stream and the natives assured us the fishing would be excellent this year…

April 3, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

FISHERMEN ARE HAVING LUCK – Hordes Whipping the Streams of Neighboring County. Big Catches Are Reported and the Size of the Trout Run Unusually Large. Ventura, April 2.—Despite muddy and high waters and rainy weather, the trout season here opened well today and the sportsmen made some good catches. The showing of big fish was a feature.

A great many parties went out from this city and had an early start. While some fishermen took Coyote Creek in the Casitas, which is always considered prime water for

early trouting, others tried the San Antonio. Most of the anglers, however, confined their operations to the Ventura River, which is one of the best trout streams in the State, and nearly its entire length from sea to mountain fastness in the Matilija Canyon.

Walter Isensee was the first fisherman home this morning with a four-pounder measuring twenty-four and a half inches to his credit. W.P. Lincoln brought in a salmon trout twenty-eight inches long and Mel Clover rounded up a steelhead of twenty-four inches. The fishing for small fish was not so good as flies could not be used successfully, owning to the muddy condition of the water. Some splendid sport is anticipated as soon as the waters of the streams subside and clear.

April 6, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

SEASON OPEN FOR ALL TROUT – New Fish Law Effective From April First. Fishermen Will Make for the Streams.

A rush of fishermen for the trout streams will follow the announcement by Gov. Johnson that the trout bill has been signed.

Many trout fishers who were waiting for May 1 before wetting their lines have decided to make for the streams Saturday or Sunday before the streams have been pounded to death.

It is now lawful to take all kinds of trout from April 1 to November 1. The limit on steelhead is fifty fish during any one calendar day. The limit on other trout is fifty fish or ten pounds and one fish on any one calendar day. There is no limit as to size.

This law as to open seasons applies to the district which embraces Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino.

Most of those who go forth will be disappointed. One party returning from the Sespe said the stream was so full of snow-water that it was of about the color of an asphalt-paved street. They caught a few trout but hardly enough either in point of size or number to warrant them their trip.

April 7, 1911 – Oxnard Courier

SIMI ANGLERS TAKE RECORD FISH OF SEASON – Simi Anglers took the largest trout this season. Undaunted by the dubious looking weather, a party of fishermen left Simi for the Big Sespe on Friday afternoon, so that they might be among the first on the ground Saturday morning, and they were amply repaid for their trouble. Besides a nice lot of speckled beauties, they caught one large steelhead that measured 28 inches and weighed six pounds, which was the largest trout caught. Another was also landed measuring 23 inches.

The members of the party were Frank Runkles, M. Stones and W. Willard. Their fishing was done in Pine Creek and Sespe River, near the Devil's Gate.

April 7, 1911 – Ventura Free Press

GRAY CAPTURES THE FISH THAT GOT AWAY – "The biggest fish" that "got away" usually stays away. But this time it didn't.

It will be remembered by *Free Press* readers that R.S. Gray of Los Angeles said Saturday that he "hooked a big fellow" who broke the hook after a hard fight and got away. "I will try him Sunday if the weather is right," declared Gray to the *Free Press* fish editor and that made the editor believe that Gray had really and truly gone up against a trout that was too weighty for ordinary tackle.

Sunday afternoon the fish editor got a bite on his telephone and sure enough there was Gray at the other end. "I tried for the 'big one' again today and landed him" was the message that came over the wires in an excited tone of voice. "He is a salmon trout just 30 inches long, and his weight eight pounds," said Gray.

Later Gray brought the fish to the newspaperman's residence and in company with W.H. Sholes, one of Los Angeles famous athletes, exhibited it and told the story of its capture. "I went after him with the same copper spoon with which I caught three trout Saturday and I have never in all my life had such a fight with a fish. Sholes will take him to Los Angeles tonight and exhibit him and the ones I caught yesterday, to the *Examiner's* sporting editor. I hope no one else succeeds in catching one any larger—I want those prizes that are offered for the prize fish, and I believe I'll get them."

The prize-winner fish and the man, who captured it, were photographed by the *Free Press* artist.

THAT'S RIGHT; LIMIT OFF ON BABY TROUT – Los Angeles, April 4.—That it is lawful to take any and all kinds of trout from April 1 to Nov. 1, because of the fish law, is the statement of H.I. Pritchard, of the Fish and Game commission, today.

The limit on steelhead is 50 fish on any one calendar day; the limit on other trout is 50 fish or 10 pounds and one fish on any calendar day. There is no limit as to size.

According to the interpretation of the office of the fish and game commission in regard to the 10 pounds and one fish limit, it means that if the angler catches unusually large trout, he must be careful to see that he does not get more than one fish beyond the 10 pound limit.

The law as to the open season applies only to District No. 6, which includes Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino and Inyo counties.

A bill in regard to the changes in the game law, which includes animals and birds, now is before the governor, awaiting his signature.

This new trout law is one which pleases fishermen throughout this section of the state. Many claim that rainbow and steelhead trout are the same fish and because of this claim there has been some mix-up in regard to the law. It now is believed that everything is simplified.

Governor Johnson signed the bill Saturday and it went into effect immediately.

April 8, 1911 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIPS – Last Saturday being the first day of April, it was the opening day of the fishing season. To take advantage of their first opportunity a party composed of Mr. Blake, Garstin, von Holt, Stuart and Morrison, packed up and went over towards Willett's on Friday. They left school shortly after dinner and arrived at Horse Thief Flats in Reef Canyon, a short distance from the Sespe, in time to make their camp before it became too dark. On Saturday they went down to the Sespe to try the fishing. The party caught about 80 trout which is a very good number when one considers the condition of the Sespe since the recent rains. The river was so high that Stuart was unable to keep his feet in crossing, and was forced to swim. It rained somewhat during the day Saturday, but this caused them little inconvenience.

April 13, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

PRIZE FISHING STORIES; PLEASE TAKE YOUR PICK – Bill Reuss, the automobile man, says that the following story is positively proved to be true by the fact that he ate the fish through his own face.

A week or so ago he went trout fishing in the vicinity of Ventura. He didn't have much luck himself, but standing next to him was a little Russian boy called Russie for short. Russie got a bite that nearly pulled him off the bank.

The boy struggled hard with the fish, but Bill Reuss saw that the trout was too much for him, so Bill whipped out his revolver—he is a crack shot—and began shooting at the fish.

Bill didn't hit the fish, but his first bullet cut the line and his troutship slipped back into the water and disappeared.

Last Sunday Bill went up again and went fishing. This time he had better luck. He had hardly cast his line before he got a fierce bite. After a hard and exciting struggle he landed the big trout. Attached to the fish's mouth was Russie's fish hook and the end of Russie's shot-in-two- fish line.

April 15, 1911 – Los Angeles Times
April 21, 1911 – Ventura Free Press

April 28, 1911 – Fillmore Herald

AUTHENTIC DOPE ON BLANKET GAME BILL – Deputy Game Warden John Kuhlman is in receipt of a communication from the Sixth District Fish and Game Commission, giving him authentic information about the restrictions contained in the "Blanket Game Bill" passed by the last Legislature and now in effect. The letter to Mr. Kuhlman is as follows:

We are informed that the Governor has signed the game bill known as "Substitute for 377", better known as the "Blanket Game Bill."

The following is a list of the open seasons on fish and game, 1911-1912, for District No. 6, which includes the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino and Inyo:

…Trout—Steelhead (No limit as to size)—April 1 to Nov. 1, 50 fish in one day.
…Trout—Rainbow (No Limit as to size)—April 1 to Nov. 1, 50 fish or 10 lbs. and one fish.
…Trout—Golden—June 1 to Sept. 1, 20 in one day.

April 21, 1911 – Oxnard Courier

BRIEF MENTIONS – A fishing party composed of M. Stones, C.F. Williard, G. Perea, Jno. Ecroyd and W. Williard left Friday for the Big Sespe. They returned Sunday afternoon and reported having had a fine time. The largest trout caught was a steelhead measuring 21 inches.

April 21, 1911 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCAL PARAGRAPHS – Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor left yesterday morning for a fishing trip in Sespe canyon. They will be absent several days.

April 28, 1911 – Fillmore Herald

HINTS FOR FISHERMEN – Don't forget to hold your rod up. Don't fish too fast. Take your time. Don't use any line other than enamel waterproof. Don't use flies larger than No. 12 Sproat hook. Don't try to run a foot race with the other fellow. Don't get discouraged. Patience will bring reward. Don't shuffle your feet if wading. Proceed slowly. Don't forget to study the insect life upon the water. Don't get excited when you hook a fish. Keep cool. Don't fish with more than one fly. It is more natural. Don't forget to take up slack line when playing a fish. Don't use too heavy a leader, feet tapered is the thing. Don't use too heavy a rod, 4 ½ to 5 ½ ounces is the weight. Don't be a fish hog. Be satisfied with a limited number. Don't forget to strike as soon as you see the flash of the fish. Don't try to be in the lead always. Let the other fellow do that. Don't claim there are no fish in the river, if you do not catch any. Don't forget to fish up stream. Fish lay with their heads up stream. Don't forget to throw your tip slightly

forward when the fish jumps. Don't fish the center of a riffle first. Fish the outer edges close to the bank. Don't forget to cast your fly ahead of you, allowing it to float down to you. Don't splash your fly on the water. Let it flutter down like the natural insect. Don't forget to fish all dead water carefully. Don't strike too hard. The mere raising of the tip is sufficient to send the barb home. Don't forget to remember these instructions—don't, and you will be successful.—*Santa Cruz Surf.*

May 1, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

APRIL SHOWERS POSTPONE SPORT; STREAMS TOO HIGH FOR FISHING – by Edwin L. Hedderly. (Article begins with how stream conditions are not good.) …Steelhead fishing along the coast in the various river estuaries is said to be improving somewhat at present. It has been poor for a month. The fishing in Ventura River, which is considered as favorable a point for this class of trout angling as any accessible to the Los Angeles angler in a two-day trip, has been indifferent. A competent caster with the proper spoons and equipment, stands a chance to land several good fish in a day and a number of small ones; but the average-size trout that breaks the monotony and keep up angling interest will be missed, the result being a rather tedious form of sport. The big steelheads are full of fight and lively enough; but one likes to hang a fish oftener than at the end of every third hour of hard, painstaking work.

May 5, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

WILL RAID TROUT IN THE MOUNTAINS – Dave W. Flanigan led a party of local trout experts into the headwaters of the Sespe yesterday morning to be gone four or five days. The party expects to penetrate to the wilds where few if any other fishers have been this spring, and where the large trout are to be found. Flanigan expects to experiment with smoking trout and hopes to bring some out preserved in this way.

May 7, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

FLY-RODSTERS GROW ANXIOUS – by Edwin L Hedderly. (Article begins with the clearing conditions in the streams of Southern California.) …Very few reliable reports have been brought down from the heights, and these have not given much encouragement. The Sespe and its tributaries were full of snow water when last heard of, and about the color of an asphalt street. Opinion seemed to be that he stream also was full of good-size trout, as in spite of the forbidding outlook, the party took all the fish it could use, although few were brought out on the return trip.

…Streams about San Jacinto have been productive of limit catches of fish this year. Local anglers thereabouts have told of several good days. In fact, trout have been caught, and have figured as a sporting possibility this year in several places, where, prior to planting with State fry contributed by the Fish and Game Commission, there was no sport worthy a man's time at all. These plantings have done more to popularize and familiarize the work of the commission with sportsmen generally, than almost any other feature of its public service.

Henceforth, it will be up to Southern California anglers to see that they get their full share of the trout fry for local planting. The value and the success of this work is no longer classed in the experimental stage, the fishing has improved noticeably in every stream that has been stocked, and since Chief Deputy Babcock laid down the policy of the commission as against the stocking of any private waters, it may be assumed that at least nine-tenths of the planted fry will go where they do the average angler good.

May 17, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

REPORTS GOOD SPORT ON VENTURA STREAMS – Wilbur E. Cummings returned recently from a several days' fishing trip on the upper Sespe, making his headquarters, as usual, at Lathrop's Camp. Trout fishing is Cumming's favorite form of sport, and he has achieved quite a reputation for getting 'em where the others failed. The last morning's fishing yielded him nearly the limit of fair-size fish, nothing being saved under seven inches, and a number of good ones being brought to creel. Mr. Cummings can see no difference in the average size of the fish this year and last, although most other anglers think they run smaller.

Both bait and fly were used, but on the streams he visited, which were off at one side of the beaten path of sportsmen, Mr. Cummings had no difficulty in getting all he wanted in a few hours with a fly, and without need to work over much water either. He found the fish rising well to the lure and taking hold in fairly brisk style.

The fishing conditions were favorable, the nights were very cold and fish kept in splendid shape. They would be quite still in the morning.

A number of Los Angeles fishermen were met going in as Cummings was coming out, some bought for Matilija, others for Lathrop's or the other places where fishermen are looked after and directed to good placed for trout.

Where it is possible to take the limit of trout in a morning's fishing and save nothing under seven inches, the average fisherman should feel at home, well content with his trip. This sums up Mr. Cummings's views on the Sespe trout situation.

May 20, 1911 – The Ojai

LOCAL ITEMS – W.H. Stuart and Frank Deline returned from their fishing trip in the Sespe country last Saturday. They report a most delightful trip and scads of fish. As an evidence of their truthfulness they brought the limit home.

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIPS – Three parties went to the Sespe last week; two to Willett's and the other to Lathrop's. Mr. Williamson, Tutt, von Holt, Cooksey and Garstin camped at Cottonwood, while Mr. Dodge, Partridge, Ball, Ballard, Barnhart, Kent and Stuart camped at Ten Sycamores. The part at Herb's was composed of Mr. Twichell, Wood, Wright, Eyre, H. Allen, Morrison, Barney, and Rhinelander. The three

parties between them brought back over two hundred fish for the enjoyment of the school members and friends.

While Tutt was fishing in the Sespe creek he started to step on a certain log, to be in a more advantageous position, but quickly changed his course and beat a hasty retreat when he saw a large rattlesnake coiled beside the log. Tutt called out that he thought he saw a rattler, upon which Cooksey manfully came to the rescue and smote the reptile to earth with a single blow. The snake's skin was brought back to school to ornament one of the cases in the museum.

The boys returning from Willett's Sunday morning ran into a heavy snow storm on the ridge which lasted for about twenty minutes.

May 26, 1911 – Fillmore Herald

OXNARDER ON FISHING TRIP – *Oxnard Review*: Ben Virden is off on his annual piscatorial jaunt in the Sespe, where luck generally attends his manipulation of the rod and reel.

May 26, 1911 – Oxnard Courier

VENTURAN IS CAPTOR OF CHAMPION TROUT – The *Los Angeles Examiner* has the following to say of the immense trout captured recently by J.H. Reppy of Ventura:

J.H. Reppy of the Ventura garage is credited with the record trout, so far this season, and his catch is of a size that probably will be unrivaled at the end of the year.

Reppy's prize is of the steelhead species, weighing 14 pounds and 36 inches long. It was caught Sunday afternoon in the Ventura River, not without a hard fight. Reppy battled several minutes and while conscious that a fish of unusual proportions fought at the end of his line, he and his friends were surprised when he hauled it in an learned its true weight. So far as known the catch is not only the record one in California, but also of the United States this season. Reppy named the fish "Taft." It is on exhibition in the windows of the Dyas-Cline Company, where scores have been attracted to view it. It will be exhibited the rest of the week.

Reports in the State show the former trout record to have been 28 inches from nose to tail, several pounds lighter than Reppy's catch and eight inches shorter.

Fishing in the Ventura and Matilija districts is improving daily, many catches of unusual size being reported. This has been found to be an exceptionally good section for trout fishing and since Reppy's record catch; fishermen have swarmed to that vicinity.

May 26, 1911 – Ventura Free Press

IS THE RECORD FISH ONE OF TROUT FAMILY – One 36 Inches Long, Weighing 14 Pounds, Taken by George Pacheco.

If it's a trout it's the Great Grand Daddy of all trout; if it isn't a trout it's a fine specimen of fish to be taken from the Ventura river with a spoon and very light tackle. George Pacheco landed it Monday and it has been observed by hundreds of fish admirers at it rested on ice at Walter Jones' sporting goods establishment. The fish in question is 36 inches in length and weighs 14 pounds on accredited scales. Pacheco, who is a young man, fished back on Charley Simpson's place. It required 25 minutes of hard work to land it.

May 28, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

INTO THE HILLS FOR THE TROUT – Nimrod's Paradise Ready for Auto Anglers. Ventura Hills Offer Rich Inducements to Motorists. (Written by Robert D. Maxwell, Western Sales Manager for the Warren-Detroit Company.)

Now is the ideal times to take a trip into the hills in search of trout. This is the season of the year of course, but the best of it is the streams are right and you have a chance to make good fighting for the finny beauties. The trout are there, the water is lower in the pools and they will bite.

There is no trip that I know so well as the run to Matilija and Wheeler' Springs in the hills above Ventura. This gives you a chance to get into the Sespe where the trout are plentiful. The mere fact that you cannot drive all the way to the trout stream need not bother you. The hills are as beautiful as ever.

The fact that the trout streams are low for the first time this year should make you happy. The automobile is the right means of conveyance when it comes to reaching the Nimrod's paradise. The cars will go anywhere and the roads are in good shape.

…This is the way to make the run if you have a Warren-Detroit handy. It will take you all the way and bring you back again… (Description of the route from the *Los Angeles Times'* office along highway 101 to Wheeler's Springs and then back home through Santa Paula and highway 126.)

Map page. Trip to trout streams 95 miles. Return trip 82 miles. Round trip 177 miles. Roads good almost all the way on the up trip and fairly good on the return run. Garages at Ventura, Santa Paula, San Fernando. Speed limit 12 miles out town, twenty miles on the smooth highways, be careful until you reach the hills and then you can go as fast as you like. Stiff grade out of Matilija and up to Wheeler's Springs. You cannot motor into the Sespe.

…The trip over into the Sespe is great. The trout—over there are plentiful and it is worth the jaunt into—the hills for the fun you have after reaching the stream. It is a run you will never forget and when you take it think of the enjoyment of a meal of fresh trout which the dwellers in the cities cannot enjoy. This is a trip you must make in an automobile if you want to get the most of the outing.

June 2, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT CONDITIONS ARE IDEAL; FISH BECOMING HARD TO LOCATE – by Edwin L. Hedderly.

Water in all the Southern California streams having receded to a level and point of clearness that spells not only concentration of sporting material, but greatly improved facility of getting at the fish, local devotees of the fly-rod have found time to visit the various brooks that are dignified by the name of rivers in this section; and some streams have been plied so assiduously during the past week or ten days that the most expert of anglers cannot now obtain more than a modest mess by dint of the hardest day's work.

(Paragraphs about San Gabriel river and how to fish.)
The South pays its full share for the fish cultural work of the State Fish and Game Commission and does not reap its proportional share of the benefits, because of the fewer streams. Since the establishment of the southern office of the commission by Commissioner Connell there has been more attention paid to this matter; but in view of the great interest manifested in fishing on the San Gabriel by local sportsmen, the stocking should be concentrated upon this stream, and other trout waters such as the Sespe and its tributaries also taken care of most liberally. The taxpayers are entitled to this consideration…

Good sport is reported in Ventura River again, the usual run of large steelhead being on. The record for the species in this end of the State was set at a yard length by J.V. Reppy of Ventura a few days ago, and a Fillmore angler recently took one of 30 inches length, not far from that town, which is far up for these big steelhead to ascend.

June 2, 1911 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCAL PARAGRAPHS – C.C. Teague, president of the First National Bank, and J.M. Sharp, president of the Farmer & Merchants Bank, went fishing last week, returning Saturday. It was noted by their friends upon their return that Mr. Teague's countenance was disfigured by a black eye. Their friends are wondering if Mr. Teague's disfigurement is the result of any disagreement as to the division of the half dozen puny troutlets which the gentlemen caught, or if there was an argument over the merits and standing of the sound financial institutions which the gentlemen represent. Mr. Teague explains the matter by saying that an unfriendly limb struck him in the eye. Mr. Sharp is without a scratch and the gentlemen seem the best of friends, so the limb story must be accepted.

June 3, 1911 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIPS – As usual this time of year, there were a couple of camping trips last week-end. Both of these parties went over Topa Topa to the Sespe and camped on Ten Sycamore Flats, not far from Willett's cabin. Most of last week's campers were new to the place and as some of them found a little difficulty in deciding on the exact location of the various camping places, we have been requested to try and explain the locations and names of the camps. So please bear with us if we state well-known facts. At the mouth of Red Reef Canyon and across the Sespe lies a flat which is known as Ten Sycamore Flat, on account of a group of ten large sycamores which grow on it. On this flat and just across the Sespe from the mouth of Red Reef Canyon is a good camping place under an oak tree. Down stream from the oak, about a quarter of a mile and on the same flat, are the ten sycamores, and just above the sycamores is the next good camping place, under some large cottonwood tress. The other camp which parties from the school frequent is situated under some cottonwoods and sycamores, about a half mile up stream from the aforementioned oak tree.

One of the last week's parties was composed of Mr. Blake, Knox, Rhinelander and D. Barnhart. This party made their camp under the oak. They spent most of Saturday in catching fish, sun-burn and poison oak, but returned to school in good shape on Sunday.

The other party, of which the members were Mr. Twichell, Mr. Low, Morrison, Wright, Barney and R. Andrews, reached the Sespe rather late on Friday and went down to camp near the ten sycamores. Here they found a party of people from Santa Paula who were very hospitable and who gave them some of their Mulligan stew and showed other such delicate attention. The Santa Paula party left on Saturday, Mr. Twichell and Mr. Low and their party did a little better than Mr. Blake's outfit, for besides catching fish, etc., they caught a loose pack horse at that early hour where no self-respecting and thoughtful horse would get loose anyway!

June 4, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

FISHER'S LOT IS LUCKY HERE – by Edwin L. Hedderly. (Article begins various places to go to fish in the streams and ocean.) …Those desirous of making more extended trips can visit the Matilija in Ventura county, conducted by the genial Sim Myers, who is quite a fisherman himself and can show good sport to any who desire it. Further up the canyon above Matilija is Wheeler's Springs, and Lathrop's and several other ranches at varying distance beyond are to be reached by packing in, the fishing being quite all the angler can ask in any of these places.

…Sulphur Springs in Santa Paula Canyon affords some fair trout fishing also, and quite a number visit it, mostly later on. The fish are not as large usually farther up in the mountains, but good fishermen get big ones here just as they do anywhere else.

Nearly all of the Southern California streams have been stocked by the Fish and Game Commission from time to time, and the prevailing fish are the common steelhead or

rainbow trout, a true salmon trout as differentiated from the eastern char or Fontinalis brook trout. These rainbows are a right bright, gamy little fish, exhibiting quite the dash of their eastern relatives on the hook, although they are not as sporting a proposition in rising to the fly, nor as delicately flavored. They are at best, but a base imitation of the real thing, although when of fair size and taken in a fair way with light tackle they will make the trout angler forget his eastern friends for the time being at least. (Article finishes with different bait types.)

June 11, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

GOOD HAULS MADE IN MATILIJA CANYON – The fact that the Los Angeles business man is able to take a day off on occasions and enjoy a little real sport was shown last week, when H. Lord and P.A. Lord, distributors of the Chalmers cars here, took a three-day fishing trip in Matilija Canyon.

The two followers of Walton packed the necessary camping outfits in their machine Thursday night, and hit the road for Ventura county. After scouting around for a likely place they picked Matilija Canyon as the best spot and prepared to make record catches. That they accomplished their mission might be judged from the big strings of brook trout which were brought back. The anglers say the Ventura streams were full of trout, but that large fish were scarce. With the advent of good roads the chances of Southern California trout fishing becoming one of the most attractive features of auto touring is quite probable.

August 24, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

MOUNTAIN AND STREAM GOSSIP – Dr. H.C. Royer and Ben Zuckerman have returned from a trip to the head of the Sespe. They were out twelve days and report trout and deer to be abundant in that locality. Royer, who is an authority on fishing matters, says there is no foundation for he fears that water-snakes are exterminating the trout. He says that the snakes do get some of the fish, but not a great enough number to cause the sport any danger. Although there is known to be a generous supply of rattlers in that region, neither Royer nor his companion saw a single one during the twelve days they were out. The pair took rifles on the trip, but did not have much to say about deer on their return, except that there are plenty there. Dr. Royer is the originator of the "South Coast Minnow."

September 25, 1911 – Los Angeles Times

ANGLERS WANT HEAVIER PLANT – More Trout Desired For the Southern Streams. (The gist of the article is focused on the San Gabriel River.)

…Southern California fishermen have not nearly as many streams suitable for trout as their northern brethren, and in view of the fact that Los Angeles county leads the counties of the State in the hunting license money subscriber, and the further fact that fishing conditions seem to be the only thing the present system is able to better, the local

sportsmen feel that if this hunters' fund is to be devoted to propagating trout, they are entitled to have their pro rata of the State's fish concentrated on their few streams, and a determined effort is to be made to bring about this end and secure for the South what it is entitled to in this regard.

The water conditions in Southern California are very good this year, better, in fact, than usual, and the time is most propitious for a heavy planting of trout.

October 11, 1911 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIPS AND SHACKS – The Middle Schoolers decided to give up their rights to a trip to Herb's last Saturday on account of the ball games. This gave the Smuts the opportunity to go, which they readily snapped up. Well protected by Mr. Cawley and Mr. Twichell, the six Lower Schoolers, Conover, Drummond, Buckingham, J. Miller, L. Miller and Brownell, left last Friday noon for the Sespe.

Most of them carried sleeping bags and so slept out in the orchard one night. Perhaps it is hardly correct to say that they slept, but rather that they spent the night in rough housing and in eating apples. It speaks well and for Lathrop's fruit that all were well and hearty next morning. Some fishing was done, but Brownell was the only one who succeeded in catching any. His catch amounted to eight fish. However, the day was not and the swimming was enjoyed to fullest extent. Sunday the Smuts returned in good spirits and much sunburn.

October 27, 1911 - The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIPS AND SHACKS – Last week came the Middle Schoolers' turn to go to the Sespe. A party composed of Mr. Dodge, Barney, Knox and R. Andrews, set out for Piedra Blanca, but as the shades of night began to fall they decided they had gone far enough, so camped this side of Lathrop's near the Rose Valley trail. Mr. Dodge's horse, Dan, was so disgusted that he immediately set out for home, but was recaptured after a thrilling pursuit. Mr. Dodge caught 50 fish as usual, while the might hunter of the party, John Knox, succeeded in slaying one quail. A big jackrabbit was also shot.

November 24, 1911 – Oxnard Courier

ADDITIONAL LOCALS – Link Meyers of this city not only enjoyed baseball at Ventura on Sunday but also returned on the baseball train with a handsome steelhead trout that measured something like twenty-four inches in length and must have weighed more than four pounds.

1 9 1 2

Rainfall – 11.14 Inches
Sparks' Catch – 288 Trout

February 16, 1912 – Ventura Free Press

VENTURA STREAMS IDEAL FOR FISHING – Judge H.H. Rose, a frequent fisher for trout in Ventura River has an article in the *Times* on Sunday on the "Art of Trout Fishing." He refers to the Ventura River and the other Ventura County streams as follows:

A Favorite Stream

Another favorite stream with me is the Ventura River from the Casitas bridge down to the Southern Pacific railroad bridge. Many fine creels are taken here every season, the fishing continuing good up to the first of November. Near the ocean, some splendid specimens of steelhead trout are taken each year by those who know the game.

Taking all in all, the grand mountain scenery, the unfailing good weather, fine climate and the absence of mosquitoes and troublesome flies, Southern California is a fisherman's heaven. Besides the streams I have mentioned, there are others that afford good sport early in the season. The Trabuco in Orange county, the San Antonio above Pomona, the Sespe and its branches, the Buckhorn near Fillmore, and the upper part of the right hand fork of the Piru, all yield their quota to the persevering sportsman. The trout season opens April 1 this year, and in all probability will not be good until late in April Our heaviest rains are due in March, marking early fly-fishing practically impossible. The small size Truckee spoon will, however, secure a fair creel even during the high water of early April, especially if the hooks are tipped with worm.

February 23, 1912 – Oxnard Courier

PERSONALS – John Reppy of Ventura, accompanied by Jim Rasmussen, one of the candidates for game and fish commissioner, came to Oxnard Saturday. The latter reports that steelhead trout fishing is exceptionally good both at the mouth of the Santa Clara and the Ventura rivers. A party of Venturans captured thirteen big fellows Friday evening at the mouth of the Santa Clara, ranging in size from twenty-four to thirty-six inches.

March 15, 1912 – Oxnard Courier

FISH WARDEN SAYS RAIN HELP COUNTY STREAMS – Ranchers are not the only persons pleased with the rains. Fishermen, some of who already are planning their campaigns for the season which opens in less than three weeks, are gratified, because the lives of millions of fish have been saved. The water is high in all trout streams in the south now. It was thought for some time that the lack of rain would kill many of the fish.

H.I. Pritchard of the fish and game commission has received work as to the effect of the rain in the Ventura river. Many huge steelhead trout had been caught at the mouth of the river by local fishermen before the rains. It was in the surf, rather than in the river, that the fish were caught, as they were unable to go up stream because of the lack of water.

The steelhead trout, like many other fish, always go back to their birthplace to spawn. Thousands of steelhead, feeling this instinct strong within them, made for the Ventura river, but had to remain in the surf. They could taste the fresh water and knew they were at their designation, but they had to remain outside. But as soon as the rains began and the water in the river rose, thousands of the fish could be seen making their way up the river to deposit myriads of eggs.

I.A. Bordner, also of the fish and game commission, who has returned to his duties after a severe illness, reports that some steelhead trout are being caught at Alamitos bay. It is unusual for steelhead trout to be seen as far south as this point, but it is believed that the trout which would have spawned in the Ventura river, needing some place to deposit its young, continued south in search of fresh water.—*Express*

March 19, 1912 – Los Angeles Times

VISITORS FROM THE NORTH – Oxnard, March 18. – Trout Prospects. The coming season will be the greatest trout year in the county's history, according to old-timers who have just returned from the Matilija and other trout sections. Sim Myers of Matilija Springs was in the city today and brought word that hundreds of immense steelhead trout have put in their appearance, coming with the recent high waters, and that there are more of a larger variety than in many a season.

March 22, 1912 – Oxnard Courier

PERSONALS – Herr Frensel, knight of the rod and incomparable trout snatcher, returned from Ventura Sunday with something like ninety-five small steelhead trout captured in tide water at the mouth of the Ventura river. There is no limit to the number of fish that may be caught there.

March 29, 1912 – Fillmore Herald

A POACHER – The California fish and game laws are made for the protection of wild game and fish and are generally lived up to by all lovers of out-door sports of this kind. They are a good set of laws. Occasionally a trespasser is apprehended by the game wardens and fined accordingly, which is perfectly right and proper. The law governing the catching trout in all mountain streams, for instance, stipulates that anglers use only casting rods, flies and spoon hooks and that nets, dynamite and seining shall subject the guilty to fine and imprisonment. In this way the fish are protected to the extent that total extinction will be impossible.

Some people evidently are unable to wait for the time to roll around when the trout season will be open. Last Sunday many people who had occasion to be in the vicinity of the Big Sespe at the bridge spanning the river between Fillmore and Sespe were witnesses to an exhibition of law-breaking. One lone fisherman stood in the middle of the stream with a fish basket over his shoulder and was busily engaged in casting for trout. We do not know who the individual was or what luck he had through his poaching proclivities, but his seeming indifference to the breaking of the law in slipping one over on all the more sportsman-like anglers who are patiently waiting for next Monday morning, when it will be legitimate for the catching of trout, probably rests on his shoulders as lightly as the fish basket he was using as a receptacle for his catch.

ADVERTISEMENT – Oh, You Trout. Get your tackle in good trim now; only a few days left. We can supply your wants. "Kingfisher Lines," Rods, Reels, hooks, Flies; in fact anything you will need. Salmon Eggs are the best bait. We have 'em Ask us to show you. Ventura County Co-operative Association. Fillmore, California.

March 29, 1912 – Oxnard Courier

TROUT FISHERMEN PREPARING FOR SEASON'S OPENING – With the opening of the trout season but a few days away, local lovers of the fishing game are making considerable preparations for what they believe will be the best fishing season the county has known. Rods and reels have been down off of the shelf for several days, in order that they might be gotten into shape for the coming days of sport. On Monday next, when the season formally opens, it is believed that sportsmen, not only of this county, but from all over the south will be on hand to make a first good catch.

The rains of the present month have left the river in the best of condition, and old timers who have put in season after season about the hills and steams, announce that this looks like the best year they have seen, so far as good fishing is concerned.

The big fish are reported as far up the river as Matilija and local dealers in fishing tackle are looking for a good size sale of their wares. (Article finishes with the fish laws.)

March 29, 1912 – Ventura Free Press

MANY TROUT IN RIVER-FISHERS ARE READY – With the opening of the trout season but a few days off, local sportsmen are making big preparations for what they claim will be the very best season the Ventura river has ever seen. Monday, from present indications, will see more sportsmen on the river than ever before, and the sport promises everything for the fish are plentiful and are said to be larger than the average at this season of the year.

The rains of March have left the river in the very best of condition, not too high but that it can be easily covered and the water clear as crystal. The steelhead are still running in great numbers and good catches are being made daily at the mouth of the river. The big fish are reported a\up as far as Matilija and the river seems fairly alive with them. Local

dealers are reporting the sale of more fishing tackle goods than ever before, which seems to indicate that more persons will go in for the sport than in past years. (Article finishes with current fish laws.)

March 29, 1912 – The Ojai

ADVERTISEMENT – Hurrah For May Day! At the Matilija Springs. All will be in readiness for the Grand Opening on May First. Fine Trout Fishing for everybody. Good Music all day and Dancing Afternoon and Evening. Plunge will be Free on that day. Come and Enjoy a Day in the Canyon. Sim Myers, Manager.

LOCAL MENTION – Sim Myers announces that he has his popular resort—the Matilija—in readiness to accommodate all fishing parties and others who may come, although the formal opening does not occur until May 1st.

April 3, 1912 – Los Angeles Times

RECORD CATCHES MADE – Ventura County Streams Rich With Trout and Disciples of Izaak Walton Are in Clover. Ventura, April 2.—The fishing season opened yesterday with a record rush to the streams and record catches all along the line. Everybody who could possibly get away from business in the county left for the mountain streams today, many going out the previous day to be near the center of things when the sun rose this morning.

Limit catches were reported as early as noon, especially along the Ventura River and in the Matilija Canyon. Plenty of fish were also reported from Coyote and San Antonio Creeks in this section and from Santa Paula Creek, the Sespe and Piru Creeks. The Ventura River, however, furnished the most sport and was whipped by the greatest number of sportsmen, many coming from Los Angeles to enjoy the sport. The catches of big fish were reported from far up the stream, but fish were taken from all along, and the spotted beauties took any kind of bait, even to bare hooks.

April 5, 1912 – Fillmore Herald

BIG CATCHES MARK THE OPENING DAY – Sespe River Lined With Fishermen for Many Miles—Fish Stories and Fishing Notes. All Fool's Day ushered in the trout fishing season quite auspiciously, or to be more correctly spoken, suspiciously, for never before were there so many of our business men as conspicuous by their absence at their marts as there we on the morning of the first. Fillmore for once could be likened unto Goldsmith's exquisite poem, "The Deserted Village." Even the small boy worked the usual sick grandmother story.

On the raging Sespe, however, things were different, as the stream from its junction with the Santa Clara to the rugged country in the vicinity of the Hot Springs, twenty miles distant, was lined with male and female disciples of Isaak Walton. Everything was in

common, and age and youth mingled in the one effort to entice the finny beauties from their watery home.

There were big catches and little catches brought home, while some few returned with an empty creel and a feeling of gauntness.

The opening brought out the usual run of fish stories and the *Herald* will endeavor to print some of the proceedings of the Ananias club:

Dr. W.R. Manning: "I was sitting on a boulder that projected out over a deep pool and spied a beauty some 'steen inches long, and after trying every kind of fly and bait without avail, cursed my luck and threw in a handful of salmon eggs. Mr. Fish sluggishly swam up and took a whiff at the little red objects, and after satisfying himself that all was well, gobbled them all in. That gave me an idea, and I tossed in another handful and included my line with a hook baited with the eggs. The fish again started in to appease his appetite, and finally grabbed the egg that was secured to my hook. 'You're my huckleberry now,' I said as pulled him up onto the rock and reached out a hand to remove him from my line. Just then, so 'help my rubber collar, if that fish didn't make a face at me, spit out the egg and turn a backward handspring into the river. As he hit the water he waved a fin at me as if to say, 'stung again old sport.'"

Attorney Galvin was returning with the day's catch pinned to the lapel of his coat when he caught sight of Willie Wood, the juvenile clerk at Merritt's pharmacy, with a string of fifteen dangling from his suspenders. "I'll give you four-bits for them," said the follower of Blackstone. "Oh no," replied Willie, "Dr. Manning already offered me that much."

Cal Hoffman has a story about catching a five-pounder with his hands. As the game laws say that no fish shall be taken from the streams except with rod and line he stands amenable to the law. However, he is probably safe as none to whom he has told his story will give it any credence, and the court would probably view it the same.

NOTES:

George Russell returned early in the day with an eight-pounder, measuring 31 ½ inches. The smile on George's face was almost as broad as the fish was long.

Eldred Alee caught one measuring 28 ½ inches.

Fred Ealy and Charley Brown each caught a fish measuring close to two feet.

H.S. Robbins almost caught one weighing 155 pounds. (My, how that typewriter stutters.)

Archie Sharp has not yet reported.

Clyde Lloyd and family and all the employees of the Fillmore Manufacturing and Hardware Company, spent the day near the Big Sespe camp and returned with a wagon load of trout.

Among the youthful nimrods who journeyed up the Big Sespe Monday morning were Raymond Lindenfeld and Albert Hanson, it being the first experience in trout fishing for young Lindenfeld. He landed a 14-inch fish and was one of the proudest anglers of all local fisherman returning to town in the evening. Both boys secured a nice catch.

Bowman Merritt and Jim Walker returned with a tale of woe longer than any fish caught.

Mose Fine did not quite exceed the limit.

O.E. Pearson saw one measuring 49 ¾ inches.

Dick Stephens would have made a big catch had he not forgotten to take along his tackle.

Mrs. John Lawton was one of the enthusiastic anglers and had the misfortune of losing a large salmon trout after having the fish out of the water. Her catch for the morning numbered seventeen.

Professor J.M. Horton was Johnnie on the spot bright and early and landed a nice catch. He also was one of the lucky nimrods in the big fish line, bringing home one that weighed close to three pounds.

JUSTIFIED IN ERECTING GATE ON SESPE ROAD – Undue Criticism of Action of George Henley and Others Who Are Protecting Their Property. The establishment of a gate across the Big Sespe road at a point near Pine creek has been the cause of considerable comment about town this week, and as some persons have evidenced a tendency to make hasty remarks, the *Herald* will endeavor to put the matter before the public in a clearer light. The road was built jointly by the Sespe Consolidated Oil Company (formerly the Big Sespe Company), George J. Henley and others who have interests in the canyon, and has never been deeded to the county or otherwise declared a public highway. The first cost of constructing the road was many thousand dollars, and the expense of maintenance each year is no small sum. After the rain this spring, a force of men was engaged for several weeks to put the road in repair, and the work was finished only about a week ago. The expense of upkeep falling on the oil company, Mr. Henley and others, with property interests in the canyon, they feel that they are justified in taking measures looking to the protection of their property, on patented ground where no public trail, road or passageway of any form every existed. Mr. Henley was authorized to erect the gate and for that reason the gate has been erected.

By special permission granted by any of the interested parties in and to the road, the holders can come to the extent of their permission, with vehicles of automobiles inside the gate.

WHERE ROLLS THE RAGING SESPE – (Willet H. Hiller, Correspondent) Frank Atmore made a "limit" catch Monday morning among others landing a Steelhead measuring 24 inches and another measuring 22 inches.

April 5, 1912 – The Ojai

FISHING SEASON OPENS – Trout season opened at midnight Sunday, and the breaking of dawn saw Ventura river lined with hundreds of fishermen, extending far above the Matilija Springs. People came from all points. There were 50 automobiles at Sim Myers'. The limit of big fellows was the general order all along the stream. The fish are not all caught yet!

April 7, 1912 – Los Angeles Times

IMPROVING NATURE. UNCLE SAM CREATES FISHES – Experts Have Developed Several New Breeds. [Chicago Inter-Ocean:] Think of inventing an entirely new kind of animal. Such a thing has often been declared impossible, even in imagination, yet the United States Fish Commission has accomplished it in reality.

The government fishery experts have already created several brand-new kinds of fishes, such as were never thought of by conservative old Dame Nature, and every one of them is a wonder in its way. Alive? Very much so. Just as much alive, indeed, as any normal things with fins and scales that swim in the ocean or river. Yet, being turned out by peculiar articles in the hatchery, they are as truly laboratory products as any inanimate articles of scientific manufacture.

Though creation is nature's business peculiarly, and interference with her work in this line was formerly deemed almost impious, at the present time all sorts of "monkeyings" are attempted with normal methods of propagation, and, by one means or another, many is trying to control the reproduction of species on the earth. The creatures that are of no use to him are being killed off, while those he finds valuable are multiplied at a marvelous rate with the help of incubating machines and in other ways.

But the inventing of new kinds of fishes is a distinctly novel idea and, this problem having been solved, the only question remaining is how far the plan can be extended to other animals—such, for instance, as crustaceans and mollusks. The shad-bass is already an accomplished fact. It lives and swims and has its being, though a creature unknown to history. Experts of the Fish Commission have evolved it successfully at Havre de Grace, Md., and several thousand specimens have been liberated in the waters thereabout. They were reared in tanks to the age of ten days and then set free by gently immersing the tin milk cans containing them.

(Several paragraphs about the shad-bass and the cross of a shad and river herring.)

Success has been obtained lately in crossing the brook trout with the salmon in California, a remarkable achievement certainly, in view of the great difference in point of

size. Of course, all species of trout and of salmon belong to the same family of salmonide, so hybrid of the kind is hardly abnormal. In this instance the cross has been made both ways, and (as might be expected) the half-breeds hatched from salmon eggs reach a much large size than those from trout eggs. The most noteworthy experiments in crossing different species of trout (such as lake and brook trout) have been made by Dr. W.J. Moenkhaus of Chicago University. He has evolved some very interesting hybrids, and next summer will extend the investigation to various salt-water fishes at the Marine Natural History Farm which the government maintains at Wood's Hole, Mass.

So far the inquiry is only in an experimental stage, but it may be turned to account in a practical manner at a future time. It is entirely possible that in this way new and useful kinds of fishes may be produced—as, for commercial purposes.

(Article elaborates further on crossing shad and herring and other possibilities. Also, last paragraphs are not legible.)

April 8, 1912 – Los Angeles Times

VENTURA – Jack McPherson now has the record in this section for the biggest trout. He brought in a steelhead yesterday measuring thirty and one-eighth inches, which he took from the Ventura River near the Sturgis place. He also had with him a fish measuring twenty-nine inches. Good catches are being reported from the camps of trouters and there is great rivalry on for the record fish.

April 12, 1912 – Fillmore Herald

WHERE ROLLS THE RAGING SESPE – Last Friday Thos. Cobeck caught a fine large salmon that measured 28 ½ inches in the river just back of his place below the S.P. bridge.

The two Hall brothers, Leo and Lynn, spent a week at the Hot Springs, where they had great luck fishing, bringing home 100 nice trout. They caught the limit each day.

April 12, 1912 – Ventura Free Press

WHEN IS A TROUT A SALMON TROUT? – Authorities Differ, and Fate of Fishermen is in Doubt. Klamath Falls (Or.), April 8.—When, if ever, is a trout a salmon trout? Also, whose word is best on the subject—that of President David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford University, who says there are salmon trout, or that of W.H. Shebley, superintendent of hatcheries for the State of California, who says there is no such fish as a salmon trout?

T.E. Bernard and R.T. Striplin of Lakeview were recently arrested on the charge of fishing during the closed season, but it is contended that the piscatorial specimens which they hooked were salmon trout and that therefore they are exempt from the application of the law. Dr. Jordan has stated that all trout on the Pacific Coast are salmon trout.

April 19, 1912 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIPS – Another party to take a camping trip into the mountains was made up of Mr. D.N. Barney, Miss Barney, Mrs. Hunt. D. Barney and R. Andrews. The latter two left on Wednesday morning, April 3, with the pack horses and spent the first two nights on the Matilija Creek. They then went over into the Cuyama Valley, where they were joined by the rest of the party.

After a couple of days spent in the Cuyama all returned to the Ojai, spending Sunday night at Mrs. Lyon's. The snow on Pine Mountain forced them to give up their plans for returning by that route. As it was they just got back in time to miss the severe storm of last week.

On Friday morning, April 5, a party left school for Herb Lathrop's in the Sespe. They found Herb's place far from lonesome as there were some twenty people who had gone over for the opening of the fishing season. Some of the party did a little fishing while the rest sought various other amusements. All but three men besides the school party left on Sunday. On the following day the rain set in and on Thursday night there was a snow fall of four inches. They returned to school on Friday by way of Wheeler's and the Matilija. By going over this route they avoided the snow on top of the ridge.

April 26, 1912 – The Ojai

AUTHORITY ON TROUT – David Starr Jordan, who is regarded as authority on the subject, writes to the *San Francisco Chronicle* as follows:

"I notice that a correspondent credits me with the statement that all trout in California are 'salmon trout.' Some time ago another paper quoted me as saying that there are no trout in California. I have just recovered from this trouble to take on the other. The name 'salmon trout' is applied in England to the brown trout, or brook trout, which has run down to the sea and came back to spawn. All trout will run to the sea if they get a chance, and when they do they grow very much larger than they do in rivers and lakes.

"The word 'salmon trout' has no meaning on the coast. If it has it would be synonymous with steelhead, which is a rainbow trout that has run down to the sea. At one time we thought that we could distinguish between rainbow trout that had not entered the sea, and steelheads which had; but they are all the same and the young steelheads grow up as rainbows. The rainbow and steelhead of the coastwise streams must, therefore, be considered the same. The word 'salmon trout,' if applied to any California fish, would be trout which had come up from the sea. In the mountains of California the trout do not run to the sea, and the Shasta rainbow, which never reaches the sea, is somewhat different from the rainbow of the coast. We have called it the Salmon Shasta. The Tahoe trout is different species, as is also the 'cut-throat,' occasionally seen in Northern California, and the two or three species of golden trout found in the Sierra about Mount Whitney. There is still another trout found in the streams of Mount San Gregorio, in Southern California.

The Dolly Varden is also quite different, but practically all the trout of the coastwise streams of California are rainbow trout, and all the rainbows that run into the sea are steelheads when they come back."

April 26, 1912 – Oxnard Courier

MATILIJA OPENS ON MAY FIRST FOR SEASON – Sim Myers, best of entertainers, will open the Matilija Hot Springs again on Wednesday, May first, according to announcements he has had generously printed throughout the country during the past month. It will be the regular summer opening and we are informed that the roads are in most excellent condition for the event.

Opening day at the springs is always a pleasant one for picnicers and pleasure seekers. Fishing at Matilija is good this season, in fact probably better than in any other easily accessible place in the county. There are many fine pools in which some monster steelhead trout are disporting and waiting for the rush of fishermen.

April 26, 1912 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – When You Go Fishing. Get ready in time and don't leave until the last minute. Look over your traps and get everything in good order. If any repairs are needed have it done before the rush is on. Be sure to test your lines and see that they are right. Better still, get yourself a new Kingfisher and be sure you are right. Le the other fellow tell the hard luck story about the "big one that got away" but you'll be safe because all the fish know—"They can't get away from a Kingfisher line." Come in and see us, anyhow, swap fish yarns and talk it over. We carry a carefully selected stock of up-to-date fishing tackle and there are always a lot of "new things" to look over that will interest you.

We Are Agents for Martin's "Kingfisher" Brand Guaranteed Fishing Lines. When you buy a Kingfisher line you get the most free-running, smoothest finish and best wearing line it is possible to make. It is the most famous line in the world and its reputation has been earned solely by its excellence of quality and perfection of making. No other silk line affords such a variety of styles, patterns, colors and finish to select from. Every Kingfisher line is guaranteed perfect as to its make, size, quality and strength as marked and they are only sold under the Kingfisher Trade-Mark, which is our pledge of perfection and your protection. Santa Paula Hardware Company.

May 3, 1912 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – IN THE SESPE – Herb Lathrop's place was nearly swamped last Friday afternoon by an assorted delegation of fellows, who went over to show the fish in the Sespe a thing or two, and also to knock a hole in Herb's grub.

Altogether there were 15 in the party, of who four, W. Barnhart, Rogers, Stuart and Ball, made the trip over the ridge on foot. The remaining eleven trusted to their nimble steeds,

that is to say, ten trusted to their nimble steeds and Mr. Trotter trusted to Ceph. Mr. Dempsey, Yale '11, who has been staying at the Foothills hotel, accompanied the party.

Everyone arrive in good time for supper and stored away large quantities of the same. After supper the good old phonograph was put into operation and remained in a state of almost continuous operation till everybody had sought the soft and down—hay.

On Saturday morning almost all of the fellows got lunches from Herb and started either up or down the creek to fish. Toward 5 o'clock in the afternoon everyone returned with catches ranging all the way from the limit, 50 trout, down to no trout at all, depriving the Sespe of a total of some three hundred of its finny folk. Joe and Fidge decided to return to Ojai on the same afternoon, and they must have made it in record time, for they came from the top to the bottom of the ridge in seventeen minutes.

May 10, 1912 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – WILLETTS – Mr. Simons escorted two smuts and one ex-smut to Willett's last Saturday, the object of the expedition being to depopulate Sespe creek of as many of its finny folk as the law allows. Their object was attained, for every member of the party caught the limit. One slight accident marred the otherwise pleasant trip, namely: when Howard lost his trousers. (He lost his pants but etiquette demands trousers.)

May 10, 1912 – Ventura Free Press

FISHERMEN SAY LATER SEASON – Season Opens Too Early for the Best Fish in the Ventura River. The Los Angeles Tribune of today prints the following interviews with Ventura fishermen, in the matter of a latter opening of the trout season. The general opinion among the Ventura sportsmen appears to be that the season should not open until May 1st at the least, as a protection to the fish. The interviews are as follows:

Sim Myers, owner of Matilija Hot Springs, and one of the leading sportsmen in Ventura county, says: "I have always advocated May 1 as the proper time for the opening of the trout season, and have worked to that effect. My reasons are, first, the fish have not finished spawning at April 1, and the small fish do not have a chance to keep the streams stocked. The Ventura streams depend almost entirely upon the natural increase of trout, although some state fish are planted, and the early opening of the season greatly reduces this natural increase. Second, the fish are too small. Trout grow at the rate of about an inch a month, and with the season opening a month later, naturally all fish would be at least an inch larger, and that would be a great advantage to the sport for the reason that the fish caught April 1 are too small and not fit to be taken from the stream. My third reason, I consider a most important one. With our late rains continuing almost, if not over the time of the present opening, it is almost impossible to get to the fishing grounds. The resorts up the stream and in the Matilija, which cater to the fishermen, are greatly handicapped by bad roads, bridges are out and it is impossible to get the roads and the bridges in shape until after the rains are over. It thus deprives the fishermen of the best

sport, when with the season opening May 1, this feature would be entirely eliminated. I am with the *Tribune* for the opening of the trout season on May 1, and will work to that end at all times. I believe in true sportsmanship, and I believe the fish should be protected another month and given a fair chance."

Fred Hartman, of Hotel Anacapa: "I believe the season should not open until May 1. Many young fish are taken and under the law must be kept in the basket. The big fish which go up the stream to spawn do not have a chance with the early opening. Take this season for instance. Our rains did not come until March. The big fish, which always return to their native streams for spawning, could not get into the fresh water until the opening of the season, and when they did they were the prey of the early opening, and hundreds of them were taken before spawning. With the opening May 1 the fish would be considerably bigger and the sport would be better all around. May 1 would give the fish a getter chance, and the stream would be better stocked. I am for May 1, and I think every other Ventura sportsman is also. They should be."

"Happy" Greene, of Green & Orton, ("Happy" caught one of the big dandies this spring): "Put me down for the later opening of the season, say May 1. It will give the fish a chance to spawn and the stocking of the streams would be insured. The fish would be an inch longer and all along the line. I also think there should be a closed season for the steelhead, and that they be protected at the mouth of the river in tide water, at the spawning season. The big fish come in from the sea to their native streams to spawn, and as seen this year they are caught in any number in tide water and never reach the breeding grounds up the stream. They should have a chance to increase and should be protected. I like to fish, but am willing to wait until May 1, and think all other good sportsmen are of the same opinion."

John Orton, of Greene & Orton: "Fish are too small April 1 and the season should not open until May 1. They do not have a chance to increase. We should protect them through the spawning season for the good of the sport, if nothing else. May 1 is the best time."

Bert Johnson: "Too many small fish are caught in April. They would be considerably larger with another month. Then they would have a better chance to spawn, and that's what keeps the streams stocked. I am for May 1 over the earlier date, and think everyone else is. We have a good trout stream or rather streams, in Ventura county, and if we are to keep them good we must protect the trout during the spawning season."

USE GOLD FISH FOR TROUT BAIT, LATEST WRINKLE – By the shade of the great Isaak Walton. Whoever would have thought that he, of all others, would have missed such a chance. And so simple, too. But then "Ike" is a little out of date, and didn't know all about fishing—not by a jug-full.

The latest:

Yes, the very latest thing in the fine art of fishing. Well here it is. Use gold fish for bait.

That is exactly what a wealthy stream-whipper who resides in the northern part of the state, and who makes regular trips to the Matilija and head-water regions in this county every year is doing. He uses gold fish for bait for trout.

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Fishing still continues of the very best all along the river. At the Matilija the sport was never better. Good catches are reported all along the line, and the fish are now even better than at the opening of the season.

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Ventura county fishermen are quite generally in favor of a later opening date. Every true sportsman should work to this end. The season opening at April 1st as at present catches the trout at their spawning season, and there is little chance for the young fish. For the good of the fishing in the Ventura county streams, and there are none better. For the good of the sport, let every one boost for the later season opening.

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Some of the luck ones who can get away for a few days at a time, have been taking the long trips to the Colds Springs, to the headwaters and to Lathrops. These report the very best of sport, good-sized fish and plenty of them. These long trips make the best kind of an outing, too.

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The Sespe in the Fillmore region is just at present a popular fishing ground, especially for the Los Angeles stream-whippers. Good catches are being reported and a 32 inch trout was taken from the Sespe last week.

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For the trout fisher who would combine the sport with an auto outing, no place offers a better opportunity that do the various streams of Ventura county. With its many beautiful spots all along the streams, suitable camping grounds at any point, good fishing assured at almost any point along the streams, what more could be asked.

<u>May 26, 1912 – Los Angeles Times</u>

ANGLERS HAVE GOOD LUCK AT MATILIJA – With a catch of over 300 speckled beauties, Mr. and Mrs. John D Reavis, Harry Hawgood and Frank Olmstead returned yesterday from a three days' fishing expedition to Matilija.

Mrs. Reavis proved the star angler of the party, catching forty-five rainbow and mountain trout in one and a half hours. The party traveled from Los Angeles to Matilija by automobile and report the fishing excellent.

May 29, 1912 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIPS – Several fellows took advantage of the fine weather last Saturday to take some interesting trips. Mr. Twichell, Ballard and Lawson went over Sulphur Mountain and through the Canada Larga.

Another party, made up of Mr. Williamson, H. Allen, Crane and C. Allen, made an early start for the Matilija Falls. They kept steadily on until they reached Ortega's where, in crossing the stream, one member became greatly excited. Jumping from his horse he ran up and down the bank, crying out to the others to see the "funny animal with the long tail." It was some time before he could be persuaded that it was merely a large fish and to resume the trip.

After the five and half hours of traveling since leaving the school, the falls were reached. There was not time to return to the school for supper, so they returned by moonlight, getting in about nine o'clock. This is a trip well worth taking and can be made in a day by either stopping at Mrs. Lyon's for supper or taking an extra supply of lunch.

Incited by the game law entitling one to fish for steelhead trout in tidewater, four fellows rode to Ventura to enjoy this sport. Their idea of steelhead trout and tidewater was not at all in accordance with that of the game warden. Two were let off on account of their innocent looks and pleading voices, while the others took off into the brush, much to the detriment of their bare feet.

June 7, 1912 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – RICH'S FLAT – Mr. Trotter, Eyre, H. Allen and C. Allen left school on Friday afternoon, presumably for Piedra Blanca. They had just commenced to climb up the Gridley trail when, upon going around a bend, they were stopped by L. Miller, who was on his way to Lathrop's with Mr. Cawley's party.

The trouble was soon located, namely, at the bottom of the ravine. Frank Andrews had been leading Ogle's horse, which he had borrowed for the trip, up the first steep part of the trail, when he had attempted to mount, the horse reared and went over backward off the trail. By rare good luck, Frank reached the bottom in a somewhat confused state of mind, but without serious injury. The horse, however, was not so fortunate, for its hind legs were paralyzed so that it had to be shot. Frank rode back to school with two of the fellows on another's horse. The three went over to Herb's that evening.

The Piedra Blanca party had lost so much time that it was after eight o'clock when they reached the Sespe. They went on down stream to a large flat about one and a half miles

below Herb's. There are the ruins of an old cabin which was built by a Mr. Rich in the earlier days of Sespe activities.

On Saturday morning all tried fishing with varied success. No one caught the limit, but Mr. Trotter succeeded in reaching his limit. The party from Willett's passed through about eleven o'clock, but failed to stop thereby losing a chance to enjoy one of the best swimming pools in the Sespe. Its native inhabitants did not find peace until the setting sun finally drove the intruders back to camp.

June 7, 1912 – Ventura Free Press

TO ENFORCE LAW FOR FISH SCREEN – Game Warden Rasmussen calls attention to Ventura County ranchers, orchardists and others, taking water from the different streams of the county for irrigating and other purposes, to Section 629 of the Penal Code, which provides that all such ditches, flumes, etc., shall be screened in order that the fish in the streams may be protected. Warden Rasmussen states that this section will be strictly enforced and all our ranchers should see to it at once that the proper screens are installed at once. (Last paragraph recitation of the Penal Code.)

June 20, 1912 – Los Angeles Times

STREAMS ARE NOW IDEAL FOR CATCHING TROUT – The Late Rains Left the Water Muddy and the Creeks High—Fish in San Gabriel are Easiest to Raise With a Fly, But the Casting is Not Good—Good Strings at Camp Rincon.

The Trout season in Southern California thus far this season has been one of the best that has been seen in a number of years as far as the quantity of the fish is concerned, although the anglers that have ventured into the mountains in search of the wary beauties have met with such varied success at different times and localities that it would be impossible to sum the whole situation up into a few words.

While there have been a number of exceptionally large fish taken from the streams, most of the catches reported seem to consist of the smaller ones, measuring four and six inches.

The large fish, with but few exceptions, have been caught in the big pools well down toward the mouths of the streams; but the sport in these places does not compare with that to be found further up among the headwaters, where the trout are smaller, but much more plentiful.

(Paragraphs about the San Gabriel River.)

On the Sespe and Ventura, where the pools are much more open and easy to approach, it is hard to get a strike with a fly, as much fishing has been done with prepared bait.

July 21, 1912 – Los Angeles Times

GREAT FISHING NEAR VENTURA – This county has attained to the position of being the best fishing territory in the State. This is true both of trout and sea fishing, though this latter fact has not as yet become generally known among ocean anglers.

But for picturesque trouting streams and for real sport in that line of hooking, it has arrived, and each season sees a constantly increasing crowd of rod-and-reel men seeking its many fine fishing streams. Nearly three-fourths of the area of the county is made up of rugged mountains and canyons lying in the northeastern section, and it is this mountainous section that forms the source of many fine streams which afford the sport to fishermen.

Never a man comes into the county to try for trout but that he goes away filled with enthusiasm over the sport he has had, and in the open season he is sure to come back, bringing a friend or two with him. It does not take a great while for "good fishing" to become known among the brotherhood of anglers and they have found Ventura county for certain.

Two main streams flow through the county from end to end and empty into the sea, the Santa Clara and the Ventura rivers. These are fed by numerous mountain streams, and these streams furnish the fishing. Among them may be enumerated the Ventura River, which is perhaps the chief stream, and its branches, the North Fork, San Antonio and Coyote creeks. Flowing into the Santa Clara from the eastward are the Santa Paula Creek, the Sespe and Piru. All these are excellent streams for fishing and each has its list of champions, who find their way into the mountain along these streams year after year, and go to grow to like the streams more and more.

It is possible in the open season for the expert angler and real sportsman with the rod to land his "catch" whenever he so desires. In most cases at this season the fishermen go as high up the stream as possible where the general run of fishermen have not angled, but to those in the :know" good catches can be made at any time right here in this city in the more secluded places along the Ventura River, and this will be the case right along up to the close of the season.

July 26, 1912 – Ventura Free Press

YOUNG TROUT FOR THE VENTURA RIVER – Game Warden James Rasmussen informs us that he will receive from the State Fish Hatcheries early in September a shipment of 25 cans or about 75,000 young trout for the Ventura river and its tributaries.

The Ventura River is becoming known as one of the finest trout steams of the state. Its nearness to this city, the ease with which fishermen may ship the stream and the abundance of fish makes it one of Ventura's valuable assets.

August 9, 1912 – Ventura Free Press

UNUSUAL COURT PROCEDURE STARTLES COURT AND COUNSEL – The case of the People against Gwyn Thurmond of Saticoy, accused of taking steelhead trout unlawfully from the Ventura river on April first, occupied the attention of the Superior Court, Tuesday, Judge Crow of Sta. Barbara presiding. The case was tried by a jury composed of the following citizens.

James I. Allee, G.W. Abplanalp, Willis Burson, W.A. Dunning, E.A. Duval, F.H. Durnham, W.L. Hall, D.B. Laubacher, M. Lehmann, Louis G. Maulhardt, James Milligan and Frank Pitts.

District Attorney Bowker appeared for the people, while W.E. Shepherd represented the defendant. The case is pretty well understood, having been hanging fire for a long time. In brief it to the effect that Thurmond took the fish from the river by means of a hook attached to a pole.

This is not a legal way of hooking steelhead, but the contention of the defense was that the fish was of the salmon trout variety and could not be taken in any other ways than with hook and line. It was on this question of the kid of fish taken that the case hinged. H.I. Pritchard and N.B. Schoffeld of Sunnyvale, Santa Clara county, a graduate of Stanford and employed by the State Fish Commission were present.

The testimony from an expert was interesting to people who fish and who want to know about fishes, but according to the evidence adduced there are fishes and fishes, even under the same name and scientists do not themselves always agree.

The first witness was Miss Mona Hammons, who testified to the fact that Thurmond took the fish from the river and she described how it was done. Jack Sifford also testified to the same purport.

Alex Eaton, who has done fishing all over the northern part of the state showed considerable knowledge of fish in general and described the difference between trout and salmon.

James Rasmussen, who said he was 26 and that he had fished in the Ventura river since a boy of eight, stated that there were no salmon trout in the Ventura river and few rainbow, but that all were steelhead. He had never seen a salmon in the river and on cross-examination stated that he had not seen the fish taken by Thurmond.

Mr. Schofield, who said he had studied fishes under Dr. Jordan and other experts, was then next witness. He told an entertaining fish story from the standpoint of the student and expert. He said there were only two varieties of salmon, the hook-bill and silver salmon, which run up the streams and that these were not found south of San Francisco, but that the steelhead did go up the streams from Alaska to Los Angeles. They spawn in fresh water and are known by the names of steelhead, rainbow trout and brook trout.

Salmon die after spawning, while steelhead are much the same shape. Witness said there were no salmon in the Ventura river.

Questioned by Mr. Shepherd and shown plates of fishes from an encyclopedia, in which was one of a highly colored rainbow trout, very distinct from a spotted steelhead on the same page, the witness said that he had never seen so highly colored rainbow trout and with such a marked difference from the steelhead. He stated that the plates might have been made of European fish and admitted that fishes of the same variety were differently marked in different waters. Also, he said that it would be at times difficult for the ordinary man to distinguish and that even scientific men sometimes disagreed as to varieties.

At the conclusion of this testimony the state announced its case closed. Mr. Shepherd immediately asked that the case be dismissed on the ground of insufficiency of evidence, arguing that no witness so far had testified that he had seen the fish taken by Thurmond and that the fish had not been produced in court, there had been no case made out against his client.

<u>September 27, 1912 – Ventura Free Press</u>

WILL PLANT TROUT IN VENTURA RIVER – Seventy-Five Thousand Young Fish Coming on Friday. Warden Asks Help. On Friday afternoon, 75,000 young trout will reach Ventura in the State fish car, fresh from the hatcheries, and will be planted in the Ventura county streams. There are to be 25 cans of the young fish, each can containing about 3000 fish. The fish will for the most part be planted in the Ventura river and its various tributaries.

Game Warden James Rasmussen will receive the fish and with the help of that best of sportsmen, Sim Myers of Matilija, will proceed at once with the planting for this work must be done at once, in order that the fish may be placed under the best of conditions for their growth. It is no easy task to do this work properly and as it should be carried on, and the Game Warden and his able assistant, can of course be depended upon to do their part well.

The young fish are furnished free of charge by the State Commission from the different fish hatcheries, for the purpose of re-stocking streams where needed and with the understanding that the young fish be properly planted and cared for. The Ventura river has the reputation of being the best trout stream in Southern California and many fish are taken every year. More and more outside rod and reel men are coming to the Ventura river waters every year and it is to the interest of all local sportsmen to see that the stream is kept well stocked with fish. Also that the young fish when planted are cared for and that all restrictions be carefully enforced.

The fish will arrive at about noon in charge of F. McCrea, who accompanies the distribution car and represents the California fish and game commission, and the consignment is from the state hatchery at Sisson.

The small fry will be planted in the shallower places along the streams where they will have full opportunity to develop and not so liable to fall prey to larger fish. After the fish attain a fair size in the smaller creeks they make their way down to the larger streams. Special care must be given the fry after they are delivered from the fish car. The cans are sixteen inches in diameter and 28 inches high. A stipulation is that no time must be lost in planting the fry and Warden Rasmussen is preparing to comply with this. The temperature of the water must be taken every thirty minutes, as it is necessary to maintain at about 50 degrees. This will be done with ice. The water must also be constantly aerated, which is done by pouring a dipperfull of water back into the can every ten minutes. The fish must not be exposed to sunlight. On reaching a stream it is dangerous to turn the fish directly into the stream. The temperature of the water in the can must be gradually tempered until it is the same as the stream otherwise the shock might kill many.

The fish car will be behind the baggage car, and proceed on with the train. A visit to it will interest anyone.

Local fishermen have a chance to show their true sportsmanship in this coming fish planting on Friday. Warden Rasmussen and Sim Myers will have all they can do to properly plant the fish supplied them, and a little help from a few of the local fishermen, would be welcomed by them. If you can help a few hours in the work, see Rasmussen and do what you can. It will all help.

October 11, 1912 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIPS – The first Sespe trip of the year was made last week by Mr. Williamson, Rhinelander, D. Barnhart, Wing and McCord. They went to Herb's Friday over the Gridley trail and returned Sunday. Saturday morning they all got up at daybreak and tramped down the river after fish. All, did I say? Oh, no. Mr. Williamson remained wrapt in slumber for many hours.

Then he leisurely arose, mounted the redoubtable Bessie and joined his party by way of Pine Mountain trail. It began to rain, and as some difficulty was experienced in lighting a fire, Rhinelander and others generously (though perhaps unintentionally) contributed to the cause with articles of their clothing, such as trousers, shirts, etc. About eighty fish were caught, but we were not informed as to whether or not they were all consumed by the party of five.

October 18, 1912 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – IN THE SESPE – The Middle School week end at Herb Lathrop's was taken advantage of by L. Miller, Tracy, Buckingham, Conover, Howard and Mr. Cooke, all enthusiastic fishermen. Of course the program for Saturday morning was fishing, and at noon the day's catch was brought in, consisting of one trout and two sardines left over from somebody's lunch. Mr. Cooke, our Natural Historian, was much excited after the discovery of some rare and wonderful eggs, which he intended to bring

back and preserve with utmost care, and was quite annoyed when Herb pronounced them to be Salmon roe. Everybody helped to make some cider, and though its cleanliness was criticized, it disappeared very rapidly. The effects of the cider were felt the next day, but all got home safely and are in good health now.

October 25, 1912 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – HERB LATHROP'S – Herb's was patronized this week by D. Barnhart, Rhinelander, J. Miller, Howard, Bradley and Gilbert, under the leadership of Mr. Twichell. The Smuts took the trip with a view to catching a few fish, while the first four named went to Rose Valley armed with double-barrels, intent upon destroying twenty quail apiece. The only fish the party obtained was one which Fred presented to Rhiney. It might be well to mention that the fish was two weeks old, and that now Rhiney has for sale a pair of second-hand corduroys cheap. The hunting party annexed about a dozen quail, but their bag consisted mainly of jack-rabbits. Though no one had gotten the amount of game that might have been desirable, everyone agreed that it was the best trip he had ever taken.

November 13, 1912 – Los Angeles Times

DISPUTE ON RAINBOW AND STEELHEAD TROUT – San Bernardino, Nov. 12.— Are the fish caught in Bear Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains steelhead trout or rainbow trout?

That is a controversy that is interesting the sportsmen of the entire southern end of the State and which has been referred by the State Fish and Game Commission to the University of California to settle.

Many of the local fishermen stoutly assert the fish are steelhead trout, while the State Commission says they are rainbow trout. The trouble lies in the fact that the season for the steelhead variety opens April 1, while for the rainbow trout the season is not open until May 1.

Some local fishermen say they are going to fish in Bear Lake, April 1, and to avoid future conflict the university experts will settle the difficulty. County Game Warden James Vale and H.M. Willis have been instructed by the State Commission to secure several specimens from Bear Lake to be forwarded to the university for examination.

The fish were planted by the State Commission in the lake in 1908 and were said at that time to be rainbow trout. Fishermen admit the fish in some respects differ from the genuine steelhead, but that their characteristics have changed because they never reach salt water as they generally do when they are in the streams near the ocean. But nevertheless they assert they are steelheads and can be fished April 1.

December 27, 1912 – Ventura Free Press

ANGELES ANGLERS HAVE THEIR NERVE – The Isaak Waltons of Los Angeles have got on the nerves of the Ventura county fishermen. Because the latter seek at the next session of the Legislature to have the Sespe River closed to fishing for a period of years, a call has been issued to Los Angeles anglers to strike for their rights and seek to defeat the bill.

Attorney J.P. Hogan received a communication yesterday from Geo. J. Hanley, whose hospitality many Angelenos will remember with pleasure, in which the northern man seeks to unite opposition to the bill. It is likely that a meeting of some kind may be called, at which protest will be entered by all interested anglers.

The Ventura people claim that fishermen from this city get the bulk of the fish. Angelenos say that the money they spend on fishing trips more than offsets this.—*Times.*

1 9 1 3

Rainfall – 14.91 Inches

Sparks' Catch – 153 Trout

January 17, 1913 – Ventura Free Press

RASMUSSEN IS NOW COUNTY GAME WARDEN – James Rasmussen, who has for some time filled the bill as Deputy State Game Warden in this section, was today named as County Game Warden by the Board of Supervisors without dissent. The matter was up some time ago, when a number of applicants were on hand with strong petitions for the place and a pretty brisk fight was made for the various favorites. The board decided at that time not to appoint. In the meantime Rasmussen, who was then an applicant, was made Deputy State Game Warden and went ahead with his duties. These he attended to so well that the board today, on petition of the state board, proceeded to give the position to Rasmussen.

February 7, 1913 – Oxnard Courier

WHO WOKE ANANIAS SO EARLY THIS YEAR – The Los Angeles Express says: Steelhead trout are being caught in large numbers in the tidewater at the mouth of the Ventura river. H.I. Pritchard, deputy of the southern division of the state fish and game commission had word from Ventura saying the sport is fine just now.

Many of the trout measure 20 inches or more, and several good baskets are being reeled in every day. Joe Sandaval has proved to be one of the most successful anglers so far, having landed several big 'uns.

He sent one fish measuring 27 inches to Pritchard. This was the biggest trout in a catch of 12 which Sandaval made yesterday. The Ventura fisherman's best catch this season, however, measured an even 30 inches.

STEELHEAD SEASON IS CLOSED; TROUT ARE NEXT – Steelhead fishing season closed last Saturday and now fishermen are looking forward to the opening of trout season which will be on May 1. There is no other season for sportsmen between now and the opening of the trout season.

Steelhead season was good, many big fish being caught at the mouths of the Santa Clara and Ventura rivers. Steelhead are seeking entrance to all streams and creeks. They have even been seen trying to enter the drainage canals near Point Mugu for a place to spawn.

Anglers do not think the trout season will be good in Ventura county this year. They look to the Bishop section where they have been good rains and snow.

DON'T BUY STEELHEAD – Ventura, Feb. 4. – It is unlawful says Game Warden Rasmussen, to sell steelhead trout. It is also, continues the game warden, as unlawful to buy steelhead trout

Beginning with the first of February it became unlawful to sell or buy the big fish, under any condition, and anyone found selling or buying will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

February 21, 1913 – Ventura Free Press

FISH IF YOU DESIRE, DON'T BE A FISH HOG! -- A fisherman at the river mouth the other day, had very good luck, in fact his catch amounted to about one hundred and fifty small trout. This fisherman thought he was having the time of his life, he was catching fish for all his friends. He was making a record catch of trout. Why even in the open trout season he would not be able to catch so many, as he would then be limited to a basket of fifty. That fisherman was a fish hog.

No man could find use for one hundred and fifty fish. He could not use them. They would go to waste. He was simply taking more trout then he was justly entitled to. He was robbing some other fisherman of a share of the sport.

There are no restrictions as to fishing at the mouth of the river so long as one confines his activities to the tide water zone. One may take as many trout (of any kind and size) as he may please. There is no law to worry about.

But is it right for any fisherman to take more fish from the stream than he can find use for. We think not.

In the first place the tide water fishing is all wrong and should not be. The big fish which come to the fresh water to spawn should be protected, that the natural increase of fish should not be decreased. Then the small fish, the trout which the fisherman is prohibited from taking out of tide waters during the closed season, are to be found also in tide water where they have no protection. A true sportsman, and most of our anglers are of that class, will not take more of these fish than he can make good use of. But the fish hog! He is ever with us.

The local game protective association believes that all fishing during the regular closed season should be prohibited and including the tide water fishing. We hope that before another year such a law may be provided. It is the only way to get rid of the fish hog, and the true sportsman will welcome such a law.

March 23, 1913 – Los Angeles Times

ALMOST ONE MILLION TROUT FRY WERE PLANTED LAST YEAR – The following is the number of trout fry distributed by the Fish Commission in Southern California during 1912:

(Fish were delivered to San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Mono, Inyo, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange and San Diego Counties. Types of trout were Loch Leven, Eastern Brook and Rainbow.)

…Ventura County. Rasmussen & Myers, Ventura—Ventura River and tributaries; 75,000 Rainbow.

MANY TROUT IN BIG SESPE – Fishing Should Be Good if River Is Not High. Sport Has Always been of Very High Class. Many Small Fish Add Variety to the Catch.

On Sunday, March 31, 1912, I and my friend. C.H. Healy, camped on the banks of Pine Creek, which is a small tributary of the Sespe, entering the river about six miles above Fillmore. We had camped on this stream the year before and at that time, as the water had been very high and muddy in the main river, we had caught quite a goodly number of the large steelheads in this little stream, where the water was very clear, though of no great volume.

However, last season the water conditions were not as in 1911 and all the large fish had remained in the main river, it being low and clear, to say that there were hundreds of these large steelheads, beside countless numbers of smaller trout running from six to eight and nine inches in length, is not exaggerating in the least.

During the three days that we fished last season, April 1, 2 and 3, there was not a day that we did not easily catch the limit. However, one must know how, as I have seen many empty-handed would-be fishermen even on the waters of this stream which I consider one of the best in this part of the State.

For myself, last year I did not spend a great deal of my time after the larger fish for I had not gone prepared as I should have. The result was that after I had fished about two hours, that I did not have anything but flies left, and as the large fish could not be caught with them I confined myself to the smaller trout. With the six spinners I had with me I landed five of the large steelheads.

The two largest fish that I landed, while not record breakers by any means, were quite large and strong enough for my tackle which was a line with a strength of fourteen pounds and a No. 2 Colorado spinner attached to a single gut leader. …It took me more than fifteen minutes to land the largest trout that I got, a fish that weighed nearly eight pounds…

Usually the large trout of the Sespe are from three to seven pounds and I think that ones larger than this are the exception.

The second and third days of our stay last year we fished in the main river about five or six miles above Pine Creek. Here we saw no large steelheads but caught our limits of six to ten-inch trout, fishing over about one mile of the stream each day.

However, the conditions may not be as ideal this year as last, for in 1911 I fished over the same ground as last year, but with very ordinary success, while in 1910 the fishing was as good or better than last year.

In conclusion I will say that if the water is low and clear this year there will be very likely be some nice strings of trout caught in the Sespe, but if it is high and muddy we will all have to wait until later in the season. And if the stream remains high too long most of the large steelheads will go back to the ocean.

GREAT TROUT SPORT SURE AT VENTURA – Word came from Tom Crawford and Fred Hartman at Ventura yesterday, that all indications point to the best trout fishing season ever known on the Ventura River.

With the 150,000 fish added to those already in the stream last October and the usual supply of steelhead which every year runs up this river, the sport in that vicinity should be excellent during the coming season.

March 28, 1913 – Ventura Free Press

FISHERMEN EXPECT A GREAT SEASON – Conditions Are Better Than for Many Years, Streams Are Well Stocked. Never before has the opening of the trout season in Ventura County offered such excellent sport for the fisherman as is promised this year.

Men and women are becoming even more interested in this sport than in hunting, and it is claimed by many that almost double the number of fishing parties will celebrate the opening day next Tuesday, as were out on the streams the first day of last season.

While wild game is becoming more scarce every year and hunting is on the wane, trout fishing is improving. When the game is killed off it takes a number of years to bring hunting back as a sport, in that particular region, but it is not so with trout.

Trout streams can be propagated between seasons. A stream may be fished out at the end of the season, but the 100,000 fry planted in October will measure from one to two inches when the season opens five months later.

Hundreds of thousand of fry were planted in Southern California streams last fall. In the Ventura river, alone, 75,000 rainbow were placed by Game Warden Rasmussen and Sim Myers.

These trout fry were by men who had the best interests of the fishermen at heart and were planted under the most favorable conditions and with greatest care. They have had every advantage from growth for this winter there have been no heavy rains and flooded streams which in past years has caused the loss of many of the small fish. The natural increase this year has been under most favorable conditions also. There has been plenty of water in the river so that the big steelhead could make their way unhindered up stream

to the spawning holes and the natural increase of trout this year has been better than in many previous years.

There is plenty of water in the river but not too much. The rains this winter have come without floods and the rivers while nicely filled are left at the opening of trout season in the most satisfactory condition for the trout fishermen. The water is as clear as crystal and with more fish in the river than every before, what more could be desired?

The stream can be easily covered by the fisherman and his progress up and down stream will not be laborious.

(Paragraphs about flies, baits, hooks and spoons.)

Word comes down the line that there are more fish than ever this year and that they are also larger than last. Sim Myers from Matilija and Webb Wilcox from Wheelers, send word that the upper branches are alive with trout of better size. Game Warden Rasmussen who has covered the river during the past few days reports more fish than ever before. The big holes he says are filled with big fish and the smaller trout are to be found by thousands all along the streams.

(Paragraphs about the resorts preparing for the anglers, especially ones from Los Angeles.)

Trout fishing is a rather strenuous sport, but a great sport at that; and when a man or even a woman, once takes up the game, it is seldom dropped until thoroughly mastered.

In fishing for trout, one must keep constantly on the alert. The sport is full of action and the keen pleasure of landing game steelhead, amply repays the fisherman for his exertion.

There is no danger of the streams ever being fished dry. Thousands of trout may be taken out during the season, but by restocking these streams, at the beginning of the following season, the fish will be plentiful.

With the excellent roads to the Ventura resorts and the nearness of the trout streams the Ventura fisherman has a great advantage over those of some sections of the country.

Some prefer to get away into the mountains for several days or a week and for these excellent places abound in Ventura county where the best of accommodations are to be had, Cold Springs, Lyons, Matilija, Lathrop's and Sespe, are of this class. But there are those who can spare but a day at a time away from business. These are offered the same opportunities at the first of each season as the man who finds it possible to leave the city for a week.

March 30, 1913 – Los Angeles Times

UNUSUAL DISPLAY OF INTEREST IN FISHING – According to Al Reed, the trout-fishing information bureau of Dyas-Cline's, has received more than 500 calls for reports on the numerous streams during the past week.

From the general display of interest in trout fishing, it is safe to predict that great many followers of the trout fishing sport will be on their favorite streams for the opening day of the season.

Reed has received reports from practically every trout stream in Southern California. He has visited many of them personally during the past month, and is prepared to give expert advice to fishermen. Al says the streams are much lower than is usually the case at this time of the year, and are all well stocked with trout.

The Sespe, Matilija and San Gabriel are more attractive than usual this season, as they were heavily stocked with frys last fall.

The large sale of tackle made by the local sporting goods houses during the past ten days, goes to show the increased popularity of the sport with men and women of this section. Those who enjoy the out-of-doors are coming more and more to realize the keen sport offered for the trout fisherman in Southern California.

Realizing the popularity of fishing, Bernal Dyas, the local sporting goods man, decided to install a "where to go" bureau for the benefit of trout and surf fishermen of Southern California.

Not only is the bureau a great benefit to the tourists who come here each year unacquainted with Southern California, but to the native sportsman as well, as the reports come from the most reliable sources.

March 31, 1913 – Los Angeles Times

GOOD TROUT FISHING EXPECTED ON VENTURA – [Special Correspondence to the Times.] – Ventura, March 30. Sportsmen are making extensive preparations in this county for the opening of the trout season on April 1. The streams were never in better condition and trout are reported abundant in every stream in the county.

The Sespe, Piru and Santa Paula creeks and the Ventura River are well supplied with water and not so high as has been the case in former years, and the beds of the streams are entirely cleaned of moss. The streams have all been stocked systematically for several seasons and the outlook for excellent sport with rod and reel was never better.

April 1, 1913 – Ventura Free Press

FISHING SEASON OPENS GOOD, HUNDREDS ENJOY THE SPORT – The Ventura river and its tributaries was the Mecca for fishermen of this county on Monday and all

during Monday afternoon and evening and long before daylight Tuesday morning automobiles and vehicles of every description conveyed the lovers of the fishing sport to this splendid trout stream.

Never in all its history has the Ventura River been in such splendid shape for fishing and never before have so many fishermen lined its banks on the opening day of the trout season. Monday evening the river banks were illuminated by the unusual gleam of the camp fires of the waiting fishermen, and when the first rays of morning light dawned on the river this morning, they disclosed hundreds of fishers with rods and reels ready, keenly awaiting the first chance to cast their lines.

And fishing was good. Some few discouraged fishermen came in early in the day with small catches, but for the most part the catches were good. Limit catches of fifty trout were reported all day. The fish were of good size and plentiful. Your true sportsmen, like Henry Sparks, caught all his fish, the limit of good size fellows with flies, and a great many were successful in casting. (Editor's note: Sparks wrote in his diary that he caught 51 on that day and that there were "lots of fair sized trout". Three days later he caught five.) Salmon eggs proved satisfactory bait for those not adept at casting and spinners and worms were used by many.

Up stream seemed the goal for most of the fishermen. The *Free Press* man counted forty-six automobiles at La Crosse alone. Myers' and Wheeler's were the goal of most of the Los Angeles men and reports from the springs indicate great sport there. The main stream below Casitas gave the best results, however.

Ventura does not realize the great advertising it receives nor the benefits it derives from the fact that the Ventura river is such a splendid fishing stream. Every means should be pursued to increase the fish and to protect them during the season.

With proper attention each succeeding season will improve and still greater crowds will make this the center of their fishing expeditions.

NOTES ON OPENING DAY – The Court House crowd went to La Crosse for the opening day. Judge Clarke aided and abetted by his young son Thurmond, managed to get close up to the limit. District Attorney Bowker, Dick Haydon and Earl Moss all got their baskets full. Jasper Barry landed the limit, and Joe Argabrite caught enough for the whole family.

James F. Sexton and Chester Sexton walked to the river at daylight and were at home by 7:30 each with limit catches.

Jim Blackstock an old time sportsman, caught the limit early.

City Attorney Frank Orr, went out early this morning and caught 46 fine trout. These he brought to town and after thinking the matter over, finally decided that he should have the limit of 50 fish to his credit for the opening day. He went back to the river about 9:30

fully determined to get those four more fish to which he thought himself entitled. At last reports Frank was still at the river.

The biggest trout received at the store of Walter Jones today up to 4 o'clock for official measurement, was caught by Frank Olivas and measured 27 1/8 inches. One measured for "Short" Mills measured 25 7/8 inches.

Doc Lemon and Electrician Stockwell got well filled baskets early and came back to town to do a day's work.

The heavy fog made fly fishing unsatisfactory.

Bob Sheridan got seven of the allotted fifty trout and it is reported his brother Ed caught most of the seven at that.

Some counted the people on the river and others counted the fish in the baskets. No matter it was about a draw either way.

A 32-inch trout is reported from the Matilija.

Henry Neel filled his basket before 6:30, and said he was sorry the trout were caught so easily as he wanted to fish more.

Its an ill wind, etc.—Anyway if not too many fish were caught today there may be some for another day.

Not too much water and the streams were easily covered. The hardest thing to do was to keep out of the way of the other fishermen.

Charlie Blackstock was among Oxnarders on the river at La Crosse.

Santa Paula and Oxnard were well represented.

Nevertheless it was a good day for big trout.

After all, the Ventura river between Ventura and Casitas offered the best sport and filled more baskets.

Dan Davies, a west end boy landed a 27 ½ inch trout.

Lawrence Shaw, one of the *Free Press* carriers, not only caught the limit, but led a 25 inch beauty home by a string.

John Arneill and Neill Baker each has limit baskets before 8 o'clock.

Mark Teague landed a 24 inch fish near town.

Dick Teague says he never fished for trout before but he says he got'em three at a time.

T.J. Donovan of the White House tried his hand Tuesday and got a 25 inch fish to pay him for the trouble.

The biggest crowd in its history, is the report from the Matilija. And the sport was fine.

George Daly and Jim Ewing got 32 and 42 respectively at Casitas.

April 3, 1913 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT LIMITS CAUGHT ALONG EVERY STREAM – by Grey Oliver. (Beginning of article is about Los Angeles county conditions.) …The largest "rainbow" reported yesterday was a thirty-two inch one that was caught by B.F. Blinn in the Matilija Creek. It was snagged with a spinner and required forty-five minutes to land it. The beauty was on exhibition yesterday at the Dyas & Cline store.

The largest crowd of fishermen was along the Ventura River in the vicinity of the Casitas bridge. Louise Breer says that there might have been 1000 persons there from the size of the bunch and all of them had good luck. In the Breer crowd were Bill Tufts, Jim Matfield and George Bradbeer, and of course, all got the limit. Louie caught a thirty-one inch steelhead and the rainbows were from six to ten inches long.

There were twenty limits at Henley's camp early on the first day, notwithstanding the fact that there was a rain in the morning and the weather was very cold. Al Reed says that he got thirty-nine good ones out of one hole and these were from five to twelve inches long. Sid Butler, Frank Richards, Joe Galbraith, Edgar Hodkinson, Nye Williams and Bill Henderson were close together along the stream and all of these had the limit. One sixteen-inch steelhead was caught by the bunch at Casitas.

Louie Denker and a party of three friends had the limit before noon at the Casitas bridge, as did Louie and Fred Hartman and Dick Hayden. The same good luck attended the efforts of Charles Arnold, George Austin, Charley Shea and Roy Whitman of Oxnard, who fished in the river.

Joe Sandavall, an old-time Ventura fisherman, caught thirty-two, twenty-six and twenty-two inch steelhead three miles up the river from Ventura.

…In Ventura county the Sespe River is well stocked and easily accessible. Fishing in this stream is best in the early part of the season. The mountains surrounding it lack the

April 4, 1913 – The Ojai

ADVERTISEMENT – May-Day at Matilija Springs. Save the Date. Make no arrangements, other than to "join the crowd" and spend the day at the Prettiest Resort on

Earth. Good Trout Fishing. Picturesque mountain trails. Hot sulphur plunge. Dancing afternoon and evenings. Sim Myers, Mgr.

April 4, 1913 – Oxnard Courier

MANY MEN ARE AFTER THE TROUT – General Exodus to the Hill Streams Began Early Monday Afternoon. Business Must Wait While Trout Bite. If every family in Oxnard did not have trout for supper or breakfast some day this week, it certainly will not be the fault of the men who have gone to the trout streams today. The intention of every man who departed for the hills was to catch the limit. From every store and business in the city some men are missing and the invariable answer is "Gone fishing."

There was a hurrying and scurrying Monday afternoon when the late ones began to get their tackle together. Reels were lost and flys worn out and line tangles and various troubles. The more ardent followers of Ike Walton had been planning for weeks and their tackle was all refurnished and replenished and in order.

The exodus to the wilds began Monday afternoon. George Austin accompanied by O. Lovejoy went early with packs on their backs and camped in the woods last night so as to be there with the break of day.

Rudolph Pfelier, J. Seckenger, John Fraser, A.G. Fraser went to Matilija. Frank and Justin Petit went above Ventura. William Dunn, Frederick O'Brien and many others are scattered along the Ventura river and other streams in the mountains.

Preparations have been begun by the Camp Bartlett Fishing Club to have accommodations for its members within a day or two. Sunday the club was organized for the year at a meeting in the rooms of the Boosters' Club. George Bartlett was elected president and Tom Donlon secretary. A committee was chosen to draw up by-laws. The club membership will be limited so that the arrangements at the camp will not be overtaxed. The club has leased the grounds it occupied last year near Lacrosse, and will install a cook and guardian.

The county of Ventura is placed in the Six Fish and Game District of California, the other counties in the district being Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino and Inyo.

While hunters are required to secure a license each year from the county clerk, fishermen are not required to have a license to fish in California. This law may be changed before another season, but for the season which opens next Tuesday, no license will be required and without doubt no change will be made in this respect until next season. (Remainder of the article is a reiteration of the game laws.)

April 5, 1913 – Los Angeles Times

CONDITIONS ARE GOOD IN VENTURA COUNTY – [Special Correspondence of The Times.] – Ventura, April 4. All the fishing world in the county and many out-of-

county fishermen were out at daybreak Tuesday morning along the streams of this county, trying their luck with trout. In nearly every instance big catches of good-sized trout were reported. The Ventura River was the favorite fishing place near this city. The stream was in the best shape. The sky was overcast and the fish rose readily to fly, worm, spoon or salmon eggs.

The river was lined with sportsmen and in places where there were not too many bunched the sport was excellent and the limit secured early in the forenoon. At points where the greatest number of anglers were gathered the sport was not so good.

This was the case near the Casitas. At this point, where the road first touches the river, forty-five automobiles were grouped, many being from Los Angeles and out of the county. It was here that the fishing was poorest and the smallest catches reported.

Some ordinarily good casters did not get even a nibble. But in secluded places on both sides, a mile either up or down stream, the catches were all that could be desired. Even above and below the new Ventura River bridge, the fishing was fine for those who slipped into the choice spots in the early hours. One fish was taken there of the salmon kind measuring twenty-four inches, while a rainbow trout of eighteen inches was also landed by a small boy with a bamboo pole and a wriggling worm for bait.

From the upper reaches of the river came good reports. Up in the Matilija and near the Myers Springs came reports of excellent catches, one Los Angeles man landing no less than three big salmon trout. The general average was better than for several seasons.

The biggest catch of the day was made by Lawrence Shaw, a small boy at a point just back of Henry Neel's home, and about two miles up stream from this city. It was a twenty-five inch salmon.

April 11, 1913 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – IN THE MATILIJA – Mr. Cooke, Allen, Palache and Rhinelander wended their way into the upper Matilija last Friday, where they remained till Sunday morning. They camped at Pelee's camp, above Mrs. Lyon's house. Saturday was spent in fishing and swimming, which latter occupation was pronounced very cooling to the nervous system. This was probably why it was indulged in, for, a short while before, Palache and Mr. Cooke came off victorious in a contest with a rattlesnake. They brought back to school a fine skin with nine rattles.

SESPE EXPEDITION – The Sespe proved very attractive to the fellows last week. A party of fifteen went to Herb's with Mr. Cahill, of these, three rode up to Pine Mountain, where they encountered a little snow, while the rest spent the day in fishing. As a result of their effort we had an abundance of fine trout for supper Sunday night. In order to provide amusement for his companions, Lyman Gage did some fine stunts in the Sespe Creek. He managed to fall in twice with his clothes on, and one time he skidded down a little waterfall, to the edification of the onlookers.

April 11, 1913 – Ventura Free Press

100,000 TROUT ESTIMATED TAKEN ON TUESDAY – It is estimated that 100,000 trout were taken from the streams of this county Tuesday, the first day of the fishing season. The four greatest trout streams in the state are in his county, these being Ventura river, the Sespe, Santa Paula and Piru creeks, and besides there are San Antonio and Coyote creeks, which are noted streams, though small, and are branches of the Ventura. Then there is the North Fork, which is also a Ventura river branch and though is almost large enough to have a separate designation. It is figured by careful observers that 1000 fishermen fished in the Ventura and its branches, 500 in Sespe, which is a favorite place for Los Angeles county people outside the city of Los Angeles; 500 is the estimate for Santa Paula creek and its fine tributary, the Sersa, and 300 is the estimate placed on the number who whipped the Piru creek. This brings the total up to 2300 fishermen out on the first day, and if each took the limit, and nearly all did, the number taken would amount to 115,000. But making allowances for the short catches, it is a conservative statement to say that 100,000 trout were taken. It is easily the biggest catch in one day ever recorded in Ventura streams and is accounted for by the fact that the streams are becoming more and more popular all over Southern California.

The people of the county are pleased at the reputation in this line the county has attained. For several years past they have been stocking the streams and there are fish in plenty. Those who know say that the fishing promises to be good right through the season and better than the first day for the very good reason that there will be fewer fishermen following the first-day rush.

April 12, 1913 – Los Angeles Times

FISHING CONDITIONS ARE GOOD IN ALL LOCALITIES – Fishing conditions all over Southern California have been remarkably good the past week, and as far as trout are concerned, many limits have been caught in various streams. Of course there are all kinds of stories, but the safest thing to go on is that fishing generally is very good, with the exception of in the ocean, and it will be better there when the warm weather really begins.

The trouters had the fine luck in the mountains, and those who did not catch the limit were either too lazy or played poker too long. The ocean fishing was a chance, but at that, some good catches were made at various points.

The tales of woe, if there are any, from the following resorts, will give you a good idea of what to expect:

Matilija – More than thirty steelhead of from 20 to 32 inches in length were caught last week by one party that fished but three days, and forty-eight limits of trout were taken by various other anglers. A.E. Webber of this city landed a 20 and 21-inch trout at the same time, using Colorado spinners and a No. 8 hook. Salmon eggs were the bait.

…The sport is as good as usual at Henley's Camp, with a number of big steelhead to show for it. Bungalow Inn on the Sespe showed good sport, a number of steelhead being caught in addition to the ordinary trout.

(The rest of the article is about locations outside of Ventura County and ocean fishing.)

April 18, 1913 – Los Angeles Times

FROM A CARR WINDOW – by Harry Carr. (Various sports snippets.) …The truth about the fishing in Ventura county is this: There are plenty of trout in the Sespe; the stream is literally alive with them. Most of the fishermen who have gone in this spring have come close to the limit every day they fished.

There are also fish in the streams close to the mountain resorts, but they are wary. A practiced fisherman can get the limit.

Albert Guyer gets his fifty trout in a day's fishing in a steam that runs directly through one of the summer resorts.

The man of average skill, however, will have to go deeper in the mountains to get satisfactory returns.

April 25, 1913 – The Ojai

LOCAL MENTION – Last Saturday afternoon Nacho Figueroa, a Spanish boy, came home from a fishing trip to the river, the proud possessor of a steelhead 30 inches long, weighing over 6 pounds. As far as we have been able to learn, Nacho holds the championship of this community for having caught the largest fish. Ray LeValley also got two nearly as large.

May 4, 1913 – Los Angeles Times

WHERE TO FISH – Matilija Hot Springs (Matilija) – Good limits taken all last week. Six to twenty-five inches. All parties enjoying fine fishing.

Henley's camp (Sespe) – Fishing very good. Number of limits of good size being brought in every day.

Wheeler's Cold Springs (Sespe) – Fishing is now at the best, as trout are of larger size. Limits easily taken in two or three hours. Rising fine to flies, black gnat being especially attractive. Many parties here and all enjoying excellent sport.

Wheeler's Hot Springs (North Fork River) – Fishing is continuing good here. Fish from six to twelve inches.

Above reports received and compiled by Al Reed of Dyas-Cline Company.

(The rest of the article is about locations outside of Ventura County.)

May 9, 1913 – The Ojai

LOCAL MENTION – Trustee M.V. Carr, accompanied by Mr. Connelly, a manager of the A.B.S. Co. in the Van Nuys sugar beet district, and Sim Myers of Matilija Springs, with Mr. Hardy, one of his guests, returned Monday from a trouting trip to Sespe, making the Lathrop resort their headquarters. The quantity of fish caught was greater than the size, but for all that, the occasion furnished much pleasure, and Sim and his guest remained to absorb a trifle more of life's joys with the rod and reel. –*Oxnard News.*

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – TRIPS – Only one party journeyed to Willett's last Saturday, Herb's being the most popular. Mr. Williamson took J. Miller, Gage, Brownell and Buckingham over, and returned with the three mentioned and a wood-tick in his leg. The fishing was reported to be excellent, everyone catching the limit.

Mr. Cooke took a party of Lower Schoolers to the Matilija, and all reported a good time and plenty of fish. "Lump" managed to hurt his knee, but the rest of the party remained whole and so did the fish. Steelhead were "seen about three feet long," but none caught.

May 16, 1913 – The Ojai

SEASON EARLY AT MATILIJA – Matilija Springs, in which resort we of the Ojai Valley take a strong interest, owing to its close proximity, received a fine complimentary notice in the last issue of the *Oxnard News*. We reproduce the following:

"Representatives of the *News* last Sunday enjoyed the hospitality of Sim Myers, at his Matilija resort, made beautiful by nature's hand and the artifice of man. This year activities began even before the formal opening on May 1st, and during April entertainment was furnished to many whose earnest appeals for food and shelter could not be denied.

"The trout season opened auspiciously, and nimrods from near and far were accommodated with the very best that the camp could afford, which was highly satisfactory to those securing reservations, and the unusual business will aid in swelling the season's receipts, which promise to be large. Trout fishing has been exceedingly good, and a fact that cannot fail to add even greater popularity to the resort than that already enjoyed.

"This resort in common with others of that locality—notably Wheeler's Springs—are on the threshold of a new era, with the dawn of greater prosperity rapidly approaching.

"The occasion for greater activity is the proposed construction of a new pipe line and highway connecting Maricopa with Ventura-by-the-sea. The Matilija resort is in the very

path of the new enterprise. Tapping as it does the torrid section of the country, results will be immediate from a financial as well as a commercial standpoint.

"This particular resort was never in better shape for a record-breaking season. The staff of employees is well organized, hence the secret of the satisfactory management.

"Sim Myers is the genial head of the romantic pleasure mecca; his son Charles is storekeeper and chief accountant; Emmet, another son, is hotel manager; Jack Schmitz the competent chef and manager of the kitchen; Sam Mayer and Geo, Beth, courteous waiters; Geo. Watkins, careful custodian of the coach-and-four and liveryman; Harry Melpos, attendant at the bath house and plunge; "Red" McKay, formerly of Oxnard, comedian and tonsorial artist; Bridget Mahoney, chambermaid.

"The entire coterie of heads of departments and servants are well disciplined, and the comfort of guests is the uppermost burden of their think tanks, and all work over time to please the guests, who at present are becoming numerous. Los Angeles being well represented. Many auto parties make the rip for outings of both short and long durations. Also members of the Pacific Pipe Line surveying force are stationed there. All in all the season promises to be the most active in the history of the resort."

May 23, 1913 – Ventura Free Press

FISH HOGS ARE DESTROYING SPORT – So Says Wren Cannon, one of the best sportsmen in the county, who has just returned from a fishing trip on the Upper Sespe. Only a few years ago according to Mr. Cannon, the Upper Sespe was alive with fish. Now, because a short trail has been built through "the Gorge" to the Sespe from Wheelers, the city fishermen go in by the hundreds. They are not content with catching a few fish each day, enough to eat while camping, but they must catch the limit each and every day, and some of them exceed the limit. It does not take long to fish out a stream this way. Mr. Cannon is in favor of a closed season for both trout and deer for several years.

June 5, 1913 – The Ojai

THACHER SCHOOL NOTES – SESPE TRIPS – A large party of fellows went to the Upper Sespe last week end, all intent on practicing Isaac Walton's art. But woe be it to anyone who mentions the name of a creature that lives in the water and has fins to any of that party. D. Barnhart was the only one who got the limit. The rest caught from two to ten, of course, not counting all the little ones and the "long" ones that escaped. Those who stayed at Herb's were Mr. Cooke, T. Thacher, Woolredge, Knox, Gage, Halliday, D. Barnhart, R. Andrews and Palache.

June 20, 1913 – The Ojai

LYON SPRINGS – Mr. Moore of Los Angeles came up last Friday and is still bent on emptying the stream of trout.

June 22, 1913 – Los Angeles Times

HOW TO CATCH WARY TROUT – by H.E. Downing. Of all angling, trout fishing is the sport par excellence, and combined with the incomparable conditions surrounding it in California, is irresistible. The subtle charm of California, her towering mountains, wooded canyons, rushing streams and placid lakes; the grandeur of the rugged cliffs and the beauty of the flower-carpeted meadows, makes this glorious country the most picturesque and the grandest fishing spot on earth.

From the San Bernardino Mountains to the northernmost boundary of the State, there are hundreds of streams and lakes holding their full quota of the gamy beauties, eagerly awaiting the fisher's fly. Each year the ranks of the trout fishermen—and women—are augmented and were it not for the well-directed efforts of a beneficent government, aided by private enterprise, the result would be the early depletion of our fishing waters, but yearly, billions of young trout are placed in the protected portions of the lakes and streams and the final summing up shows a net result of more trout each succeeding year.

…Numerous streams where trout are plentiful are within a few hours' ride of Los Angeles. …In Ventura county the Sespe River is well stocked and easily accessible. Fishing in this stream is best in the early part of the season. The mountains surrounding it lack the altitude of those in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino ranges, consequently the water gets warmer earlier and the fish softer than elsewhere in the southland.

The trout of which there is the greatest abundance in this locality is the rainbow, the salmo irideus, although steelhead, and some eastern brook are occasionally caught. The term "steelhead" is used advisedly, as there is much dispute whether it is a distinct variety or an overgrown rainbow that has spent a season or more in the salt water. He is a lusty fighter, specimens occasionally weighing ten pounds. The Ventura River is about the southern limit of this fish, being caught there in the tide water, or just above it. They take the fly readily and are particularly fond of the spinner. Casting from shore is the usual method of taking this fish, and a rather stiff rod and at least seventy yards of strong silk line are needed, for this fish is no slouch at tricks and obstinacy, the larger ones frequently taking every foot from the reel at the first maddening prick of the barb. (Article finishes with different flies and baits to use and methods of approaching a trout pool.)

WHERE TO FIND FISH ON SUNDAY TRIP -- …Trout Fishing. Henley Camp, Sespe River – This resort still has very fine fish. Several limits have been brought in last week.

…Wheeler Springs, Sespe River – Fishing is still good here and the limit is easily caught. The recent rain has cleared the moss and fly fishing is first class.

Wheeler Hot Springs, Sespe River – Guests are still having fairly good luck here, one man having caught a sixteen-inch trout and three twelve-inch trout in his limit.

…Lathrops Camp, Upper Sespe – No trouble to get limit; six to ten inches long…

July 4, 1913 – The Ojai

THREE IDEAL PLEASURE RESORTS NEAR – Being situated as Nordhoff is, the railway station for the three great health resorts—Matilija Hot Springs, Lyon Springs and Wheeler Hot Springs—our beautiful and fertile valley gets a great deal of advertising and comes to the notice of many people who would not otherwise come this way.

It is with a feeling of pride that we present to our readers, more especially those who live away from here, a short sketch of the resorts.

We will mention the Matilija Springs first because it is nearest to Nordhoff and because it is the first place the camper, fisherman or pleasure or health seeker sees in entering the canyon.

The place is under the very able management of Sim Myers, who is always ready with a kind word of greeting and who first care is the pleasure and comfort of his guests. The resort is an old one, in the history of sulphur springs, but those who knew the place a dozen years ago would scarcely recognize it. Of course the beautiful location and the rugged mountains are still there, but the buildings have been increased, modernized and many new ones added. The camping facilities have been greatly increased and improvements are noticeable, which adds much to the pleasure and convenience of guests and campers, and yet all has been done with a view to retaining the natural, rugged beauty which has always characterized this favorite resort.

One mile farther up the canyon one suddenly comes upon the romantic old Lyon Springs. Many are the people in different sections of the United States who can testify to the lasting relief obtained by drinking and bathing in the health-giving mineral waters for which Lyon Springs have long been noted. But while many have come seeking health, as many more have been on pleasure bent, nor have they gone away disappointed.

For years Mrs. Lyon was in charge of the pretty mountain glen, who gave it the name, but last season the proprietress leased her holdings. At present Mrs. M.C. Brodersen is the manager. Improvements and changes have been made, and under the skillful management of this business woman a large crowd of people are booked for the summer season.

Situated in another canyon, a little at one side of the main Matilija Canyon, but reached by a pretty mountain road, is the famous Wheeler Springs, under the management of that prince of good fellows, Webb Wilcox. Hot and cold mineral springs, fine trout fishing, commodious camp grounds and good treatment have been prime factors in establishing the fame of Wheeler's Springs.

While this place has not been open as a resort for so many years as the other two, it has been popular from the first. As seasons pass the crowds increase, and the resort is becoming more and more popular for winter guests.

As we said in the beginning, it is with pride that we speak of the three ideal resorts so near us. Not only do they bring thousands of people through here each season, but we enjoy close proximity as providing a pleasant and profitable place of recreation whenever a rest or change is needed.

The present time is just the opening of the busiest part of the season, and indications point to a record breaker. To the unfamiliar we can heartily recommend any of the three to the seeker of rest, recreation and healthful benefit.

WHEELER'S SPRINGS – Trout fishing is better this year than ever before, for this time of the season. Rarely, if ever, does a guest return without a good string of fish.

Mr. Browning and family of Santa Ana are at our Cold Springs Camp, upon a fishing excursion.

July 22, 1913 – Los Angeles Times

DUCK SHOOTING MAY BE PREVENTED THIS YEAR – by Grey Oliver. …The steelhead trout season will be extended one month, or until December 1.

October 1, 1913 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT GET TOO LAZY TRAVELING IN CARS – That too much pampering in their youth is a cause of the high mortality of the trout "planted" in Southern California streams is the belief of George Cline.

Mr. Cline is working on a plan to establish a new State trout hatchery in Southern California. One of the strongest planks in the platform is the theory of the pampered fish.

"The only State hatchery is now located at Sisson," said Mr. Cline yesterday. "The young fish are brought here in cars and are fed for some time in the tanks while the work of distribution is going on. My investigations show me that this feeding makes the fish lazy and luxurious. When turned into the trout streams they lack the energy to get out and hustle for their food and large numbers of them die. I should say that at least 50 per cent die before a fisherman gets a chance at them.

"When they new license law goes into effect, the State will get a revenue of $1 each from at least 10,000 fishermen in this part of the State. This money should be spent right here instead of going to the northern part of the State. A few hundred dollars would build the necessary equipment for the hatchery." (Accompanying the article is a cartoon of a shocked fishermen and a snooty looking trout says, "If you want me to take that bait you'll have tuh bring it over here 'cause I won't go over there after it!!!")

October 3, 1913 – Ventura Free Press

WATER IN VENTURA RIVER – Flow of water in the Ventura river as reported by J.B. Train for the week ending Sept. 27, shows 1 ft. 4 ¼ inches of water for Sept. 21 to 25 inclusive and 1 ft. 4 ½ inches for Sept. 26 and 27. Measurements are taken at Foster Park.

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Game Warden Rasmussen, aided by the sons of Sim Myers, on Wednesday last planted 80,000 rainbow and Loch Leven trout in the upper waters of the Ventura river. The fish arrived in good shape and were quickly disposed of by the Game Warden.

November 7, 1913 – Ventura Free Press

TROUT ANGLERS OF SOUTH ORGANIZE – Better trout fishing in Southern California streams and more trout to fish for are the objects of the new Southern California Trout Association, which was organized at a meeting held in this city the past week.

It expects to include in its membership all of the 2500 trout fishermen in this end of the state, as it starts off with some of the best of them lined up its prospects are very bright.

The officers are as follows: Mayor H.H. Rose, president; Joseph Welch of Pasadena and John Schumacher of Los Angeles, vice presidents, and Fred W. Thatcher of Los Angeles secretary-treasurer.

The directors are J.H. Fisher of Redlands, Fred Hadley of Whittier, Frank Stresly of Azusa, Fred Drew of San Bernardino, James Gibson of Nordhoff, Arthur Jackson of Santa Monica, A.W. Elliott of Santa Paula, S.H. Mosher of Fillmore, Walter M. Jones of Ventura, George Austin of Oxnard, William T. Miles of Santa Maria, Walter T. Miles of Santa Maria, Walter R. Smith of Lompoc and Lloyd G. Bumstead of Ontario.

Sportsmen in Line. This is certainly an imposing array of names, and as these men will be the nucleus of the membership in their particular sections there is no reason why the association should not be a powerful organization in a short time.

Its objects are to further the propagation and protection of trout and possibly to secure the establishment of a branch hatchery in this end of the state and to assist the Fish Commission in any way to maintain the existing laws and to make any reports upon any of the streams in any or all sections.

The dues are to be but 50 cents per year and the money thus collected will be devoted entirely to the necessary expenses of the association, none of the officers to receive any salary.

Want More Trout Fry. All of the money taken in will be used for printing, stationery and the publication of any reports that may be made. All of the officers and directors will donate their services free, out of love of the cause.

It is hinted that one of the first things the association would like to know is why Southern California gets less than one million trout fry every fall, when it needs three or four times that number to keep the streams properly stocked. Other fish subjects may be looked into later on.

At all events, the general idea of the association seems to meet with the approval of the great body of fishermen in this end of the state, and the association will probably be able to accomplish much good to the trout fishing end of sports.

December 26, 1913 – Ventura Free Press

ANGLERS MUST HAVE LICENSE AFTER JAN. 1 – Fishing without a license will be illegal after the first of next month. Licenses may be obtained at any of the sporting goods firms handling fishing goods. The State law governing the matter states that no person over the age of 18 years unless he or she has a license, can take, catch or kill fish for any purpose if such fish are "game" fish and under this head are …salmon, steelhead and other, trout …

1 9 1 4

Rainfall – 28.98 Inches

Sparks' Catch – 267 Trout

January 16, 1914 – Ventura Free Press

THE WORK OF THE STATE FISH COMMISSION – The *Sacramento Union* makes the timely and vigorous reply to editorial misstatements of the Examiner, with regard to the state fish and game commission. To quote:

The *Examiner* says: "The only constructive work done by this commission after all this enormous expenditure of the taxpayers' money has been to breed 3000 pheasants in four years at the state game farm, and of these 2600 birds have been distributed to private preserves."

The man who wrote this, if he did not know, could have learned, with little trouble that the state fish and game commission gives to the state streams every year nearly 6,000,000 salmon and possibly three times as many trout.

He could have found out, had he cared for the truth, that the men who make up the state fish and game commission serve the state without salary; that they are enthusiastic believers in their work; that they give their time to the state without reward. He could have told his readers that the fish and game commission wanted to close the Alameda game farm.

The seventy game wardens employed by California cover an area of 158,000 square miles. New York for the patrol of 49,000 square miles employs 125 game wardens. The California game wardens are paid from $90 to $125 a month.

With so many evidences of extermination of game and fish, any sincere public journal, and any reasonable citizen should be willing to lend support to the efforts of the state commission in its work of protection and propagation.—*Press.*

A NEW GAME WARDEN – John J. Barnett has been appointed county game warden to succeed James Rasmussen, resigned. He has also received appointment as Deputy State Game Warden. He has filed his bond with J.E. Rains and B. Fazio as sureties.

March 20, 1914 – Ventura Free Press

TROUTING IN VENTURA COUNTY PROMISES WELL FOR THE SEASON OF 1914 – Wednesday, April 1st. That is the date of the opening of the trout season and the anglers are already busy oiling up their reels and checking over their tackle boxes and getting ready for their great day of days.

Last opening day it is estimated that at least 75,000 trout were taken from the Ventura country streams. What will be the number on April 1st?

During the planting season about 150,000 trout fry have been planted in the streams and the stream should be well stocked with the natural increase of trout. Of these small fry, however, a goodly number are thought to have been killed during the recent flood conditions in the streams. However, those who are best informed are of the opinion that there will be plenty of trout in the streams and that the fish will be of a better size than in former years. Many fish at the time of the floods, made their way up the small streams and thus protected themselves against the strong currents of the main river.

Reports come down from along the San Antonio that the stream is nicely filled with trout and that they will measure from eight to twelve inches.

Sim Myers, that fisherman of fishermen, says that while there may not be so many fish caught as in some years, he believes the prospects are for better sized trout. He says that he looks for a second run of the steelhead from the ocean soon, as this condition is general after heavy floods. And this is in a way substantiated from the reports along the main river about Casitas, where it is said big fish are to be seen every day making their way up the stream. The report from the Casitas section is to the effect, also that the fish appear plentiful and larger than usual.

There is still considerable water in streams, and this will in a way insure good sport during a long season. The streams have thoroughly cleared of underbrush and fisherman will have an easy time in making his way along the banks. While all methods of angling will be practiced, perhaps, the fly fisherman will have the greater chance, for he will have more space for casting and all the more sport. This will be good news for the angler who believes the only way to catch a trout is with a fly.

The streams are fast clearing and with no more heavy rains, it is believed that the main river will offer many fine holes and plenty of sport. With more rain, the fishing will perhaps be better along the branches and smaller streams.

MYERS WILL OPEN FISH CAMP – Sim Myers of the Matilija Springs says he does not know what the season will bring up his way, as he has not been able as yet to make his way up the creek. The county authorities are, however, at work on the road to the springs and it is expected that this road will be completed by the last of this week. Myers will then hurry to his Springs and will make all preparations for opening his fish camp for the fishermen on the 1st. The water up Matilija way is still high and Myers looks for better fishing a little latter in the season.

MUST HAVE LICENSE – Anglers should bear in mind that a license is required this year for trout fishing. These licenses are good for one year, January 1st to December 31 each year, and may be had at the following rates: Citizens, resident of California, over 18 years, $1.00; Citizens non-resident of California, over 18 years, $3; Aliens over 18 years $3. All persons under 18 years, exempt.

Licenses may be obtained at the office of the County Clerk, of the Game Warden and at the sporting goods store of Walter M. Jones.

If the Game Warden finds you fishing without a license, you'll wish you had spent that dollar, that's all.

WOMEN MUST PAY LICENSE, ALSO – Locally the question has arisen as to whether women would be required to have a fishing license, as do the men. From the best authorities, it is stated that in order to fish, the women must also procure the license.

LAWS ABOUT THE SAME – With the exception of the license feature the fish laws are about the same as those of last year. The season opens April 1st and closes November 1st. The limit is 50 fish, or 10 pounds and 1 fish, or one fish weight 10 pounds or over per day. The Steelhead above tidewater, April 1 to Dec. 1, in tidewater, April 1 to Jan. 1. In either case, 50 fish or 30 pounds per day is the limit catch for any one day.

Ventura County is in the Sixth Fish and Game District, which also includes Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

IT IS ALWAYS UNLAWFUL – To refuse to show any game fish in possession upon the demand of any duly authorize officer. To make false statement in the application for an angling license. To fish for profit for any fish without first having procured a special market fishing license. To fail to show license upon demand of any duly authorized officer. To ship trout in concealed packages or without a tag giving the exact contents of the package and the name and address of the shipper. To fish for trout between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. To take trout other than with hook and line. To buy, sell or offer for sale wild trout under twelve inches in length, or to import into the State domestically reared trout under one pound in weight, or to sell Steelhead trout less than 12 inches in length or one pound in weight. To use explosives in taking fish, or to cause the pollution of any stream.

<u>March 27, 1914 – Oxnard Courier</u>

LOCAL IKE WALTONS FURBISHING TACKLE – Oxnard fishermen are beginning to count the days until April 1 when the trout season opens. There is a general refurbishing of tackle by all devotees of the sport.

Large number of trout fry were placed in the county streams last fall, but only the test of the fishing season will show how many survived the two floods of the winter.

The game warden will be a busy man when the trout season opens for every angler must have a license. Women who fish must a license also. Licenses may be obtained from the county clerk or from George P. Austin. The fee is $1 for all residents of California over 18 years of age, and $3 for aliens and residents of other states. All persons under 18 years of age need no license.

The season opens April 1st and closed November 1st. The limit is 50 fish, or 10 pounds and one fish, or one fish weighing 10 pounds or over per day. The steelhead above tidewater, April 1 to December 1; in tidewater, April 1 to January 1. In either case, 50 fish or 30 pounds per day is the limit catch for any one day.

Ventura county is in the Six Fish and Game District, which also includes Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. (Remainder of the article is reiteration of the game laws.)

March 29, 1914 – Los Angeles Times

SPORTSMEN INSPECT ROUTES TO STREAMS – George Cline the local sporting goods man, accompanied Jack Russell, manager for Earle Y. Boothe, agent for the National, Marion and Lewis automobiles, on a tour of Southern California last week. The trip was made in a National roadster and was of the business and pleasure combination variety.

The sporting goods man says that the automobile may be used to great advantage by fishing parties, but it is foolish for motorists to think that they will be able to get in their cars and drive to the steams. According to Cline and Russell, fishermen will have to indulge in a certain amount of foot work.

Fishing in the vicinity of the popular resorts is reported to be good. The Auto Club is to make a survey of all the canyons of Southern California within another week or so. Trout fishing parties will then be able to learn the conditions of roads, off the main highways, but until then, Cline advises auto parties to drive to the towns near the streams and make inquiry their regarding the roads.

…The Sespe is open to machines for about four miles above Fillmore, according to Cline.

Water in the Ventura River is said to be high and roads will not be in shape for several weeks.

ANGLERS READY FOR CASTING – by Ned Thatcher. …Word was received from Matilija yesterday to the effect that machines could go as far as Nordhoff. From there transportation can be had by wagon to Matilija. Sim Myers, reports having seen quite a number of steelhead as far up as the camp.

The Sespe River has gone down to nearly its normal conditions. The water has cleared up and the prospects are good for fishermen. The roads from Los Angeles to Fillmore are in fair condition. From Fillmore to the canyon the roads are open to within a mile of Henley's Camp.

Roy Perkins, Charles Allen and LeRoy Gilmore will leave next Saturday for a three or four days' fishing trip on the Sespe River.

Louis Breer of the Tufts-Lyon Arms Company, Joseph Welch, Frank Mellus and Leigh Garnsey will make a trip to Ventura River opening day. There they will be joined by kindred spirits and will be treated to a barbecue and other things. We might say that fishing is secondary.

W.A. Tufts and Jim Matfield, accompanied by their wives, will motor to Ventura the first Saturday and Sunday of the season.

George Creciat, Bert Lowe, Charles Sweet, Joe Cruels and Joe Douns will open the season on the Sespe. This party was there at the opening last season and had some exciting combats with the steelhead in that stream.

William Bayley, Jr., and Will Nevis will take a few days off and visit up the Sespe to see if their wrists have not lost their cunning.

M.L. McCray and party have a private spot somewhere on the Sespe River and they will visit this on the opening day of the season.

J.L. Hambro, Dr. C.H. West, Mrs. Jack Hambro and Mrs. Doctor West will motor to Ventura Friday and spend Saturday and Sunday fishing somewhere below the Casitas bridge.

W.H. Holmes, John Schumacher, Dr. Kennedy and F.W. Thatcher, secretary of the Southern California Trout Association, will open the season on the Sespe River.

A.M. Canbin, W.L. Hare, Harry Fisher, Alex Sealock, Norman Morrision, Dick Davenport and Bert Myers will fish along the Sespe on the first.

April 2, 1914 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT FISHING IS VERY GOOD – The trout season opened yesterday with hundreds of trout being yanked out of every stream and the fishing fine all over Southern California. Everywhere reports of splendid luck and overflowing baskets were sent in while weary fishermen came home with the limit.

…The Sespe and Ventura Rivers were crowded with anglers, but in spite of the jam there were plenty for all and few came home without a big mess of fine trout and all claim this as a big successful year for trout and the trout fishermen.

April 3, 1914 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT FISHING REPORTED GOOD – By F.W. Thatcher, Secretary California Trout Association.

Reports have been received from nearly all the streams in Southern California, and, although the outlook before the opening seemed somewhat discouraging, still the number of well-filled creels indicate that here will be excellent fishing for the season. The general conditions point to better fishing within the next two or three weeks, as the present water is high, and in some streams is a little muddy. Also at this time of the year there is abundance of good feed for the trout.

(Paragraphs about San Gabriel River.)

At Ventura. Word has been received from Fred Hartman of Ventura to the effect that fishing in that stream is starting off with good prospects. Although the river below the Casitas Creeks is somewhat riled, the water above that point is clear, and a number of full creels have been reported up to noon on the opening day. Parties that went as far as Nordhoff or Matilija were successful in landing some good catches. There have been a large number of steelhead caught all along the river from the ocean up to as far as Wheeler's Camp or Matilija.

(Photo titled The Biggest Trout – A beautiful specimen of rainbow trout caught by Dr. C.M. Freeman at the Casitas bridge. It is thirty inches long and weighs eight pounds, one ounce. Photo by Dyas-Cline.)

The Sespe Canyon is very difficult to make, but to the energetic angler who is able to undergo a few hardships awaits a good catch. Although in the lower waters near the bridge at Fillmore the smaller brook variety of trout are somewhat scarce, there has been a number of good steelhead taken at this point.

The trouting conditions seems to be a little more difficult than last year, but the prospects to the man who is an expert in this line are better than during the past when the streams were more accessible.

Charles Jernegan, Bob Blankenship and Jerome Faulkner fished the Sespe on the opening day. They all reported a satisfactory catch. Mr. Jernegan came back with thirty nice-size fish, ranging from six to fourteen inches.

C.B. Steddom made his maiden trout-fishing trip to the Sespe yesterday and came back with twenty fine specimens. It is needless to say he will try it again in the near future.

(Rest of the article is about fishing outside of the county.)

<u>April 3, 1914 – Ventura Free Press</u>

EVERY TROUT STREAM BECKONS SPORTSMEN – Opening Day in Season for Trout Fishing Becomes a Sportsman's Holiday Festival on Ventura's River. (**Tuesday's Daily**.) Campfires and many of them, will be burning tonight along the Ventura river. At each of these camp fires will be found from one to a dozen enthusiastic fishermen anxiously waiting through the long night for the first approach of another day, a day

ushering in the opening under the law of the trout season. These will be the first to wet their lines tomorrow morning.

All day long a stream of automobiles and carriages have been going up Avenue way and bright and early many more will make their way up to the fishing holes along the stream. The prospects are that many more fishermen than in any other year will line the streams tomorrow by daylight.

The rains of Sunday, which cast gloom over most of the anxious anglers, has not in the least disturbed the flow of the streams and even in the main river the water is ever getting clearer and clearer, and the better for a good days sport.

The dealers in fishing tackle all report a great day in these goods and their sales also indicate the great crowd to will be fond along the stream banks tomorrow.

With the roads repaired, the different streams, while still high, in excellent condition, tomorrow is certain to be a day of days with all anglers. And even the weather forecast of fair tonight an Wednesday reads favorable to a big, joyous day of out of doors.

And as a last word, let us ask "Have you got your fishing license?" Don't forget that a license is required.

The *Free Press* wishes you all the best of luck, and if you have, we will be glad to hear about it all tomorrow.

FIRST DAY'S FISHING IS DISAPPOINTING – Hundreds Try to Fish, But Water is Too High, and Too Muddy. Sport Will Be Better Later On. Well the fishermen were there anyway. And there are many who say the trout are in the streams aplenty. But there were few trout in the baskets of the returning anglers Wednesday and even the most expert of the fishermen failed to bring in the limit allowed by the law.

The reason undoubtedly for the few trout caught in the great amount of water in the streams and the muddy condition of the water itself. The fish that were brought to town, however, were better than average as to size and a few big steelhead were caught, indicating that the big fellows are still running in the streams.

In one way the failure will prove of vast benefit, for it will insure a longer season of good fishing, once the water gets down to its normal flow and the mud has chance to settle.

There were thousands of fishermen on the streams by dawn Wednesday, and they line the banks at close intervals. Along the main river, or from Casitas to town, the sport was not so good as it was along the smaller branches of the Coyote and San Antonio creeks, and even here there was little in the way of fishing.

Fly fishing was entirely out of the question, but later in the season, perhaps, the fly fisherman will be in his glory, for with the stream beds cleaned out by the late floods, he

will have plenty of room for fly casting and, we believe the trout are in the streams to strike his flies.

Anyway it was a great day to be out of doors, a great day of pleasure and the time spent along the river will have its good results.

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Nick Hearns, Jr. caught the biggest fish so far as heard from. But Nick would not have been up against if, if it had not been for Ben Fazio. Nick and Ben fished near Adobe Hill. Nick had cast only a few minutes when he hooked his big fellow. Accustomed only to landing complaints on gas, electric and water service, Nick could do nothing with the fish. He lustily called for Ben and the latter pulled the big fellow to short. It measured 24 ¼ inches. Ben caught 30 himself.

Joe Argabrite encountered high water, muddy water, no fish.

Claude C. Needham got a 20 inch one and ten others this morning and went back this afternoon to try and fill out the limit. His son Ray, got twenty.

Charlie Kaiser made the best catch so far as reported, bringing 35 good ones home in his basket.

W.S. Baylis demonstrated his casting prowess, by landing seventeen little beauties.

George Daly was about the first man on the river. Back at noon, two fish. And George has been busy making garden and copping out all the angle worms he could find for the past two weeks.

C.J. Orpin of the *Free Press*, and his son Carl landed 15.

Rev. J.B. Stone and Elmer, returned early empty handed. "Too early on the stream, the trout could not see the bait."

The court house Waltons, Judge Clarke, Don Bowker and Earl Moss went up the river at daybreak. Batting average: Judge Clarke 2. Bowker, 0. Moss, ditto.

Pat Spier, a *Free Press* carrier boy, did not get back until noon. He lost a half day of school and got one poor little fish.

<u>April 5, 1914 – Los Angeles Times</u>

BIG EXODUS OF TROUT ANGLERS – Discouraging Reports Don't Stop Fishermen. Authentic Report of Trout Conditions in Sespe. Apparently undismayed by the none too encouraging reports that have been coming in since the opening of the trout season, a horde of optimistic anglers left the city yesterday in search of sport.

Although several big fish have been caught in the Sespe and in various other scattered streams in Southern California, the San Gabriel River seems to be the choice spot.

Matilija is another point being favored by the knowing ones, but practically every stream is getting its full share of anglers for the week end.

Corson Perry of Wheeler Springs has sent in the following information regarding the fishing in his district:

In the main stream of the Ventura River no limits have been caught, although many catches of ten to twenty have been made, all steelhead trout. The largest of these was thirty-inch specimen landed by Mr. McPherson of Ventura.

The main streams appear to be a little too muddy and too high and swift for successful fishing. At Wheeler's Hot Springs and Matilija the fishing is fair though the stream is a little high.

On the upper Sespe at Wheeler's Cold Springs, fishing is good, especially in the tributaries of the stream. Tule Creek being particularly fine. A party of ten from Oxnard fished in Tule Creek and each member of the party returned with the limit each day.

To sum up the conditions in that part of the country, the main streams are a little too high and muddy for good fishing, while in the headwaters the fishing is good.

April 10, 1914 – Ventura Free Press

TROUT SEASON OPENS TOO EARLY – "The trout season opens too early in the southern part of this State," said Game Warden Pritchard yesterday.

"I have been out two or three times since the opening of the season and I find the conditions the same everywhere. The trout are still spawning and are logey and dull. They won't bite in this condition. Half the fish you catch are so small that it spoils the sport.

"Another reason why the fishing would be better is the conditions of the food. In April the trout have so much to eat that they do not rise readily to ordinary bait.

"Were the season to open May 1, it would be better for the fish, better for the sportsmen, and better for the resorts which make a business of catering to the fishermen. I sincerely hope that the next legislature will shorten the season one month."

FISH DEEP AND GET TROUT – The experienced Ventura fishermen have solved the problem. Reports at first and before the season opened were that there were plenty of fish in the river, but the poor showing of the opening day, left a question in the minds of many who were out on the streams, especially those who had to return with small

baskets. Since that time, however, the real fishermen have gone back to the stream and in a businesslike way have studied out and solved the problem. It is simply this, that the fish are there, but in order to catch them, you must fish deep. Harry Comstock and Charlie Kaiser, are among those who have tried this system and returned from the Casitas last night with good baskets of big fish.

April 12, 1914 – Los Angeles Times

REPORTS FROM VARIOUS STREAMS ARE IMPROVING – by Fred W. Thatcher. (Article begins with conditions in the San Gabriel.) …The Ventura River along the first of the season was somewhat riled, but reports received from there this morning show that this has cleared up and it is now an easy matter to obtain the limit catch. This stream will undoubtedly provide the best fishing of any of our local streams from now on. This is largely due to the fact that the ocean run of steelhead ranging from nine to thirty-six inches can easily run up the river from the ocean. Fred Hadley has just returned from a trip to Matilija where he was successful in landing four steelhead trout from eighteen to twenty-two inches.

April 17, 1914 – Oxnard Courier

A Piru item in the *Fillmore Herald* says: A local boy fishing from the Piru creek bridge east of town recently caught a fine trout simultaneously with the approach of an auto. The fish landed in the middle of the bridge just as the car passed and a punctured tire resulted as well as a very close call of a bad wreck. The fish must have been pretty mad to bristle up and puncture a heavy rubber tire.

April 24, 1914 – Ventura Free Press

FINEST TROUT EVER IN VENTURA'S STREAMS – Trout fishing is getting better with every day now and the fishermen are enjoying rare sport along all the different streams in Ventura County.

The water is lowering fast and the mud is fast settling and the streams are nearly in mid-summer condition. Limit catches are getting much more numerous and the trout are after spawning are beginning to take a lively interest in things—especially a bright red salmon egg nicely hidden on a No. 9 hook.

There seems at this time to be great plenty of trout in all the streams and they are good size, the fish averaging seven to nine inches. The high water of February it was thought at first had killed many of the trout, but this has not been the case. At the opening of the season on April 1st, the trout had not yet finished spawning, they were unattentitive to the lure of the angler's baits and had other things to attend to. Besides the floods had left a great amount of feed in the waters and the angler's bait was but a second choice.

Along the main river from Casitas to the mouth, good catches are being taken daily. The river, however in this district is not in so good condition as it will be in another week or

two as there is still a considerable amount of water and the water is still a little cloudy. A good basket of trout is easily taken, at any time however.

The Coyote is reported as a little too muddy for the best of sport, but there are fish in plenty in this stream and the fisherman stands a good chance of filling his basket.

The San Antonio from above Adobe Hill is perhaps the best fishing stream in the near neighborhood of this city. The San Antonio is in excellent shape and its waters clear as crystal and it is said that the fly fisherman may find good sport along its banks. The San Antonio is also well stocked with trout according to all reports.

From the mountain resorts come most favorable reports as to the fishing situation at the present time.

GOOD AT WHEELER'S – Webb Wilcox, the genial manager of Wheelers in a letter to the writer says:

"The trout season has opened very good with us. At the first of the season the creek was a little high, here at the Hot Springs, but now it has gone down an fishing is good. I really think the storms did more good than harm, as they made many new deep holes, as well as cleaned the stream from brush and undergrowth. Our guests are catching many fine messes every day.

Fishing at our Wheelers' Cold Springs Camp on the Sespe River is the best it has been in many years. Our guests are catching the limit there in two hours.

I really think our good people of Ventura county do not know what a wonderful place they have in their own county. A great many people think the fishing has been damaged by the storms, and the creeks are too high for fishing, which is not true.

ALONG THE MATILIJA – We have had no direct information from Myers Matilija Springs recently, but those who have angled along that stream report the stream in the best condition and good catches of good sized trout. One fisherman who has covered the stream at Matilija and Lyons and almost to Cooper's reports the sport as being better than in years and getting better every day. By May 1st fishermen will have the best sport in many years, according to this angler.

May 13, 1914 – Los Angeles Times

COULON CATCHES FOURTEEN TROUT – Bantamweight Champion is In Love With the Hills of California – Wheeler's Springs, May 12.—Johnny Coulon, bantamweight champion of the world, is having the time of his life up here in the hills.

He has been here since Saturday night and the hills of California have made such a hit with him that he's liable to turn mountain hermit one of these days.

This morning he took a long tramp down through the canyons to Matilija. On the way down he fished for trout, hooking fourteen.

"That's pretty good, considering we were fishing down stream from camp, right here around home," said the champion when he came home.

Tomorrow morning Johnny and two or three companions are going to take mules and ride over to Cold Springs, which lies about seven miles directly across the mountains, in a wild lonely canyon along the Sespe.

"I've given them all a good chance, now I'm going over and clean out the creek," said Johnny, facetiously.

June 3, 1914 – Los Angeles Times
June 5, 1914 – Ventura Free Press

50,000 SALMON TO BE PLANTED IN VENTURA RIVER THIS FALL – Fifty thousand salmon will be planted in the Ventura River this fall when the State Fish and Game Commission stock the streams. This is the first time salmon have been placed south of Monterey.

The coming of salmon will be a big thing for the fishermen of Southern California. Salmon should prosper in the waters of Ventura and no doubt in a few years the fishermen will be going after salmon instead of trout or sea fish.

Salmon are game fish and fighters that make real sport when a big fellow gets on the end of a line. Big fresh water fish have always been scarce in Southern California and the salmon will fill the long-needed demand for big fellows of fresh water.

Salmon are seldom caught by still fishing, but go after a spoon hook or hook baited with small fish. They strike much like a trout and put up a mighty fine fight for liberty. Their rushes do not last long, but they test the angler's skill to the limit when light tackle is used.

Three hundred thousand steelhead trout, 150,000 rainbow, 100,000 eastern brook trout and 100,000 Loch Leven trout will be placed in the Southern California streams next October when the annual restocking of the streams takes place. This is 650,000 fish outside of the salmon allotment for the Ventura river.

The streams in this end of the state need more fish, but until a hatchery is built down here, the annual allotment to Southern California has little chance of passing the 700,000 mark.

The annual output of the State hatcheries numbers close to 15,000,000 trout, and only 600,000 of that number find their way south for local streams. The Southern California Trout Association is making a big fight for more fish, but as yet they have had little

success. Realizing the expense incurred shipping the fish south the association is trying to secure a hatchery for local purposes and from all indications the long-needed hatchery will be built here next year.

In answer to the appeal from the south for more fish, the State Game and Fish Commission reply that this section of the State is getting as many fish as the waters demand. They claim that the lack of large streams and the extreme lowness of the water in the summer time make more fish unnecessary. The large Sacramento, San Joaquin, American and numerous other rivers in the northern part of the state require more fish, and for that reason Southern California gets a much smaller proportion of the fish.

June 14, 1914 – Los Angeles Times

TO VENTURA FOR TROUT – by Fred W. Thatcher. It is surprising to note how few of the Los Angeles people realize the possibilities for a few days or weeks' trip in Ventura county.

Two of our best streams, the Ventura and Sespe rivers, are here, accessible to all by train or automobile. In fact, these are so convenient to reach that it is possible at a low expense and one or two days' time to enjoy some of the finest fishing we have in Southern California.

The Ventura River and its tributaries can be reached at a nominal expense in railroad, costing about $2.50 for the round trip to Ventura, or if one goes Saturday, returning by Tuesday the rip can be made for $3. This will land you in the city of Ventura where good hotel accommodations can be had for $2.50 per day.

The Ventura River can be reached from the hotel in about five minutes' walk, or if one wishes to go up stream the county road borders the river for a distance of about fifteen miles to Nordhoff. Excellent fishing and camping places can be found all along this distance.

From Nordhoff one can go to tow of the most popular camping resorts in the county, Matilija and Wheelers Springs, where one will find every pleasure of mountain and camp life at a very reasonable expense. One can eat either at the hotel dining-room or rent a housekeeping tent and do his own cooking. Or if more agreeable to take your own camping outfit there are hundreds of places suitable to pitch camp around through the Matilija district.

From Nordhoff one can secure accommodations to pack over the mountain trail about nine miles to the Upper Sespe River, which will take you to Lathrop's Camp, where it is conceded some of the best fishing in the southern part of the State can be had.

From Wheelers Springs on the Ventura there is a trail leading to Wheelers Cold Spring Camp on the Upper Sespe, which is a few miles above Lathrops Camp.

This is a trip worth taking, as it leads you through some of the prettiest mountain country to a place where the angler is sure to find an abundance of sport in the trout fishing game.

The Sespe River and Canyon is without doubt one of the prettiest streams and most picturesque spots in Southern California.

The main part of the river is somewhat over forty miles long, rising in Santa Barbara County. This can be reached by automobile to Fillmore over fairly good roads, or by train to Fillmore and then by livery to Henley's Camp, about seven or eight miles above Fillmore.

The river runs through some of the most beautiful canyons than can be imagined. Rocks or boulders big as a two-story house are a common sight. The walls of the canyon in some spots rise to a height of two or three thousand feet, almost perpendicular. There are good trails and mountain roads that will lead you many miles up the canyon, and if one does not care for the good trout fishing that can be had, the trip will be worthwhile for the scenic beauties you will find.

This trip is also inexpensive from Los Angeles, car fare being about the same as to Ventura and hotel accommodations about the same price. There are numbers of places for camping all along the stream.

Taking Ventura County as a vacation possibility, it no doubt affords pleasure to more people than any other county in Southern California.

TROUT SEASON RATHER LATE – Should Be Good Now Until Late Into the Autumn. Trout fishing in Southern California this year has been delayed on account of abnormally high water and it is only now that the fish are readily rising.

…If a week or more can be taken for your trip, a journey to the Sespe will well repay the effort. The fishing is superb on that stream and the fish run a nice uniform size of about nine inches, with an occasional big one for additional zest…

While the trouting season is later than usual this year, it bids fair to hold out longer and royal sport until late in the autumn seems assured. This feature is unusual in Southern California, but as one of the great pleasures of trouting is its uncertainty, when the locality aids and abets that feature by climatic conditions, it increases the pleasures of an invigorating and incomparable sport.

<u>June 19, 1914 – Los Angeles Times</u>

NEW TROUT TO BE PLANTED – Allotment Was Increased This Year. Local Fishing to Be Better in July. A sudden wave of generosity punctured the hearts of the State Fish and Game Commission the other day and they increased the allotment of trout for the Southern California streams to 900,000. The original plan was to give this end of the State only 650,000 trout.

The new consignment will contain 150,000 black spotted or Lake Tahoe trout. These will be placed in the Big Bear Lake…This is the first time these trout have been placed in Southern California waters.

One hundred thousand eastern brook trout will be placed in the high streams where the water is extremely cold. The streams around Old Baldy, Mt. Whitney, San Jacinto and the highest points in San Bernardino Mountains will get these trout. The 100,000 Loch Leven trout also prosper in the higher streams and will be placed mostly in the bigger creeks in the San Bernardino Mountains and the upper San Gabriel. The San Gabriel River and branches will also get 80,000 of the 150,000 rainbow trout that are coming south.

The big shipment will be the steelhead trout, which number 350,000. The steelheads are to be placed in the coast streams. The San Gabriel, Ventura, Santa Ynez and Sespe rivers getting the major portion of the consignment. The 50,000 salmon will be evenly divided between the Ventura and Santa Ynez rivers.

This is by far the biggest shipment of trout that has ever been sent to Southern California, and it means improved fishing conditions in nearly every local stream. The coming of the salmon and Lake Tahoe trout gives this section of the State the most complete fishing grounds open for the angling.

The increasing output by the State hatcheries is a result of the big demand and large revenue on fishing licenses. One hundred and ten thousand fishing licenses were printed at the first of the year and sent around to the various offices throughout the State. This number seemed certain to cover the demand, but they are all gone, with half the year yet to come. Twenty-five thousand additional licenses are now being printed to supply the demand. This indicates a record-breaking year in the point of active fishermen.

The sale of 110,000 licenses is remarkable when it is considered that the fishing has been very poor this spring. High water has been the chief trouble that the anglers have had to combat.

<u>June 24, 1914 – Los Angeles Times</u>

BEAN CONTEST FAIR'S FEATURE – (Article mainly deals with the upcoming county fair, but includes other items of interest in Ventura County.) …The recent earthquake, which was confined to this county, apparently had its center in the neighborhood of Topa-Topa Peak, a high mountain in the coast range near the Sespe. The shock was heaviest in that neighborhood, where there were landslides and where the water flow was perceptibly increased in the springs and creeks. Frank Phillips, living in Pole Creek Canyon, says that many new springs were opened in the canyon and the creek now contains double the amount of water flowing before the shake. He also says his house was menaced by falling rocks from the landslides. Some persons in that section are fearful that a volcano like Lassens is about to break out on Topa-Topa Peak.

July 10, 1914 – Ventura Free Press

WANTS HELP PLANTING FISH – Do you like fish? Are you interested in keeping Ventura county streams stocked with trout? Have you an automobile? Are you going to be busy on Tuesday, July 14th? Can you and will you spare a few hours that day and the use of your machine in order that 125,000 trout and salmon may be properly "planted" in our streams?

These are questions Game Warden Barnett is asking these days of every fisherman he meets. Barnett has just received word from the State Fish Hatchery, that the Fish Car would arrive in Ventura on July 14th with young fish to be used in restocking the Ventura river.

In the shipment allotted to the Ventura river and its tributaries, will be 125,000 "fry" of which 36,000 will be salmon. The planting of salmon in the Ventura river, is in the way of an experiment to be carried on by the State Fish and Game Commission this year. Salmon have never been planted in any of the southern streams heretofore, and the experiment will be watched with much interest. The decision to experiment with salmon in the local stream followed the visit here last fall of one of the state hatchery men, who found conditions in the Ventura river very favorable for salmon. Should the salmon do well here, and there is every indication that they will, the fame of the Ventura river as a fisherman's Mecca will spread to a wider territory than that at present enjoyed, and besides, local fishermen will have a great deal more enjoyment, if they can fish for salmon than they now enjoy after trout. The salmon is a game fish and the taking of him makes the very best of sport with rod and reel.

The shipment will be brought to the city direct from the hatchery, in the state fish car and delivered at the Ventura depot in cans.

After delivery at the station, there must be quick work in getting the small fry to the streams, and it is for this purpose, that Warden Barnett is making the assistance of as many of the local sportsmen as can possibly get away for a few hours. The more who will help and the more machines will insure the best results in the planting of this large shipment of young fish. From the station to the stream, little care is required, except the aerating of the water in the cans. At the streams care must be exercised in the selection of suitable holes in which to place the young fish, holes where feed will be abundant, and where the young fish will be safe from natural enemies until large enough to take care of themselves. Warden Barnett plans to plant the fish at several points along the river, between this city and Matilija. It is too big a job for one or two men to do right, as if you have a car an can help, let Barnett know at once.

July 17, 1914 – Ventura Free Press

THOUSANDS OF YOUNG FISH IN STREAM – The Fish Distributing Car of the California Fish and Game Commission reached Ventura Tuesday, in charge of Frank McCrea, superintendent of the car.

The car delivered in Ventura for this section 90,000 young trout and 24,000 young salmon, contained in 42 cans which the state used in shipping the young fish. Game Warden John Barnett with his assistants met the train and automobiles were ready to take the cans of fish out on the Ventura River. The young trout were small, probably the smallest fish ever received here, but the salmon were of good size, about 2 ½ inches in length. The young fish were planted in the San Antonio and Coyote creeks, and the branches. Sixteen cans were emptied above Matilija; 5 cans on the North Fork and in all 62,000 fish were placed in the main stream. Supervisor Camarillo took five cans out to the Conejo country.

Santa Paula received four cans in the shipment. Fillmore had failed to make application for fish and received none in this shipment.

Game Warden Barnett had plenty of help in distributing the fish. Six machines and two trucks were donated for the work. The trout were taken to the river in the cars of Tom Crawford. W. McGuire, Delacy Clarke, Joe Connelly, A. Camarillo and Fred Hartman, F. Feraud, W.M. Stockwell, Walter Jones and other sportsmen gave help in the work.

Sim Myers met the part at the Springs and took his 16 cans of fish and Webb Wilcox received his supply at Nordhoff for the Wheelers section.

The work was finished by dark and the empty cans brought back to this city, were shipped on the fish car northbound today.

December 4, 1914 – Ventura Free Press

POWER CO. MUST SCREEN DITCHES – A.E. Culver of the State Fish and Game Commission arrived here from Sisson hatchery Thursday and in company with Game Warden Barnett and Justice Knox visited the intake of the Ventura County Power Co. on the Ventura river to inspect the ditches and protection to the fish in the river. Complaint was recently made by the Game Warden that the ditches were not properly screened and the decision of Justice Knox was deferred until an expert could render an opinion.

Mr. Culver today declared that the ditches were not screened according to law, and directed that they must be so screened.

The offense is a high grade misdemeanor and must be tried before the Superior Court, but at the request of the Fish and Game Commission and the District Attorney the decision of Judge Knox was held in abeyance in order to give the Power Company opportunity to put the ditches in proper order.

1915

Rainfall – 23.12 Inches

February 2, 1915 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT SEASON WILL OPEN ON APRIL 1 AS USUAL – Harry Prichard of the State Fish and Game Commission stated yesterday that the 1915 trout season would open on the first day of April as usual. The State Legislature now in session is likely to declare the season on trout closed until May first, but that will not affect this year. Mr. Prichard points out that any resolution passed by that body does not become a law until ninety days after it adjourns. As that will probably be about April, the season will be open before the new law could be in action.

Although many are opposed to losing one whole month of fishing, the large majority of real sportsmen are in favor of the proposed new measure, as they claim the fish are not through spawning by April.

Mr. Prichard also said that the recent storm had not swollen the mountain streams enough to do the trout much damage. Last year so many fish were killed by the floods that the season was not a success. With the melting snow, another heavy rainstorm would just about duplicate the conditions of last season.

Trout do not multiply fast enough these streams to make them plentiful. Every year the State Fish and Game Commission plant over 1,000,000 young fish in Southern California. Few realize the cost and labor attached to that end of the game.

These fish are brought from the Sisson hatchery, located at Mt. Shasta. The eggs are taken as the old fish come up the stream to spawn in March. The male and female spawn is mixed together and spread out on trays. The trays are then placed in running water. In June the young are hatched. They are fed on finely ground raw liver.

In November when they are five months old the fish are ready for transportation. At this age they are in inch and a half to two inches long. Cans very much like twenty-gallon milk cans are used for shipping. The water in the cans is at all times to be kept at a temperature of about 50 degs. A special car is used and when a stop is made the water has to be aerated every ten or fifteen minutes. This is done by dipping some of it out and pouring it back from an elevation of a couple of feet.

Each can has its destination and if there is no one there to care for it when the train arrives, it is not left. Although every precaution is taken many of the fish are lost in transportation, as many times after leaving the train they have to be carried for miles over mountain trails on burros.

Upon reaching the waters to be stocked a stretch of shallow running water is selected. The water in the cans is then made the same temperature as that in the stream by placing

it in the stream and testing it with a thermometer. When the temperature is right the fish are poured out to shift for themselves. Only one can is emptied in each place.

Many sportsmen are also in favor of an open season during January and February for steelhead trout in tide water. Steelheads live part of the year in the ocean and the other part in the fresh water streams. Salmon are the only other fish known to do this.

It is a known fact that a steelhead always returns to the stream in which it was hatched. Young fish have been marked by cutting their fins and years later have been caught in the same stream. Never has a fish with the mark of one stream been caught in another stream. When they spawn in March they leave the ocean for the fresh water and instinct leads them to the same spot each time.

February 16, 1915 – Los Angeles Times

DIRECTORY OF STREAMS WHERE TROUT ARE PLACED – Bob Paulsen Returns from an Investigation of the Fish Conditions in the Mountains of Southern California—Sespe is Stocked this Year—Ventura County Gets Lion's Share.

Bob Paulsen returned yesterday from a long hike through the mountains—a sort of tour of investigation of the fish conditions made for the B.H. Dyas Company.

He reports that, so far, the rains have done no harm to the trout. On the contrary, there is every indication and prospect of an unusually big season. Of course, much more rain would not help conditions. Paulsen went over nearly every famous trout stream in Southern California.

Mr. Paulsen has furnished The Times with the following list of trout that have been planted in the different streams by the State Fish and Game Commission:

…Ventura County.
Santa Paula Creek, 12,000 steelhead trout.
Ventura River, 52,000 steelhead trout.
San Antonio Creek, 5,000 steelhead trout.
North Fork Creek, 15,000 steelhead trout.
Conejo Creek 15,000 steelhead trout.
Sespe Creek, 39,000 steelhead trout.

March 5, 1915 – Ventura Free Press

TROUT SEASON TALK OF SPORTSMEN – It's a fairly long time until April 1st—or perhaps May 1st this year—but already the local fishermen are beginning to speculate on the trout season for 1915.

No section in all Southern California perhaps is so fortunate in a trout way as is Ventura county with its many streams, all well stocked, their accessibility to the angler and the

many resorts which make for the angler a veritable paradise. And also, no section in the state takes more interest in the opening of the trout season than is manifest in this same county of Ventura.

The outlook for the sport at this time is the best for a number of years. The rains of the winter have not caused the floods of past years, and the thousands of trout fry planted in the fall have had every chance to thrive and grow and multiply. The small fry were well taken care of in the planting and it is thought there the loss to the young fish has been at a minimum. There has been plenty of food in the waters between the planting and up to the present and unless flood conditions should come between this time and the opening of the season, there is every indication that the planted fry will be in excellent condition for the sportsmen. Then, in addition to this, there has been a great natural increase under the very best of conditions in the streams of the county.

In the planting of the fry last fall, the state hatchery authorities decided that salmon should do well in the Ventura river, and accordingly by far the greater number of the fry planted in the local stream were of the salmon variety. These small fish have had every chance in their favor, and as a result the local anglers are wondering as to what the opening of the season will show in a salmon way. There has been no ill comment on the fact that the salmon were planted in the Ventura, for the sportsmen realize that if the salmon prove a success it will but add to the popularity of the sport in the local stream. The salmon trout, as a matter of fact, according to the state authorities have about taken possession of the river anyway, and have about cleared the stream of mountain trout and other small trout varieties in the past few seasons, and the large and growing number of large salmon trout caught all along the stream would seem ample proof of this contention.

As a matter of sport, local anglers will extend a royal welcome to the salmon, for Mr. Salmon is a very gamey fish and to make a successful landing of him will tax the dexterity of the most experience angler. It will be great sport, this salmon fishing and should the salmon become fully established, the basket of the angler will contain better and larger fish than for the past years, and with the added sport of salmon-casting the fame of the Ventura stream will go forth and many more fisherman will be drawn to its banks.

(Remainder of the article is about the debate over the opening day.)

<u>March 28, 1915 – Los Angeles Times</u>

FISHERMAN TELLS HOW TO GET TO TROUT STREAMS – (San Gabriel, Bear Lake, Malibu Creek, and Big Tejunga are written about.) …Sespe. There are two routes to the best fishing grounds on the Sespe. To reach the Upper Sespe, go by way of Saugus to Nordhoff, or Ventura to Nordhoff, then to Wheeler's Hot Springs. The best fishing in the Sespe will be found in these upper waters.

The route to the Lower Sespe is via Saugus to Fillmore, then up the canyon twelve miles to Henley's camp. This auto road has been put in good condition. From Henley's on up the stream to a point above the falls, excellent fishing can be had.

Matilija. Matilija is reached by way of Saugus or Ventura to Nordhoff. Fishing has always been good here, as this stream is stocked every season. Water this year is high, but clearing. Good sized trout can really be found. Fishing on both the Sespe and Matilija can be enjoyed on the one trip.

April 2, 1915 – Los Angeles Times

FISHERMEN RETURN TO CITY WITH TROUT LIMITS – Anglers in the Southland went a long way toward reducing the cost of their respective livings yesterday by bringing home in nearly every case a full creel of trout and a limit catch. The Santa Ana, San Gabriel, Tejunga, Sespe and kindred streams gave up a record supply of rainbow, and, if a third of the trout reported at the various camps found their way to the dinner tables of the county last night, the populace may well be expected to develop fins. The season opened with more fishermen whipping the streams than ever before, and returns last night indicated that none was disappointed in the catch.

…Dr. G.M. Freeman telegraphed from the Ventura that he landed two thirty-inch trout in those waters with which he expects to win the first and second cup prizes offered by the Cline-Cline Company. Louis Breer wired from the same region that he was on his way with a twenty-eight-inch steel-head. The big trout will be on display this morning in the downtown stores.

Al Reed, Bob Paulson, Sid Butler, Jr., and Walter Brodie of the Dyas house returned yesterday after a morning's fishing, with two limits gained in the Sespe. They report that the Sespe is slightly muddy, but affords excellent fishing. John Matthew and party at Matilija telephoned their friends in town than the sport there was better than for years.

April 4, 1915 – Los Angeles Times

FISHERMEN REPORT TROUT PLENTIFUL BUT SMALL – Tales continue to be sent back by anglers who have gone into the mountains, of unprecedented success at the trout fishing game. Undoubtedly the present season opens with a greater supply of trout, better conditions for sport, and greater opportunities for the angler who does not wish to go a week's journey away from home, than for a number of years. The trout are small, however, and the fishermen who are accustomed to the twelve and fourteen-inch trout of Lake Tahoe, the Truckee, Yosemite, Kern and other Sierra streams, find little attraction in the friers that are lifted out of the local streams.

The Ventura, however, is supplying a limited supply of 4-pound trout. Dr. G.M. Freeman has placed a 27-inch, 4-pound steelhead on exhibition in one of the downtown sporting goods stores. At Camp Bonita Herbert Wilson and E.J. Kaplan reported two trout, 18 and 24 inches. H.R. Earhard returned with a 2 ½ pound 18-inch fish from Deep Creek above

the hot springs. Louis Breer of the Tufts-Lyon house reported with two trout 20 ½ and 28 ½ inches from the Ventura.

The Malibu is stated to provide but mediocre sport, the fish being small although there are plenty in the stream and in another month will be worth the effort to catch them.

G.W. Geyer reports limit catches at Matilija though with small fish, not over 7 inches; good fishing at Wheeler Hot Springs and excellent at Wheeler Cold Springs, several limit strings of average size having been turned in. Good sport is reported from Lathrop.

Dan O'Connell of the Hoegge Company landed a 27-inch steelhead within the first half-hour of fishing in the Ventura. The party with him…obtained limits of 7 ½ inch trout.

April 5, 1915 – Oxnard Courier

FINNY TRIBE SUFFERS IN DAY'S DRIVE – The army of anglers, larger than in preceeding seasons, made great inroads on the trout in the Ventura county streams Monday but fish did not suffer as in seasons past owing to the high water in the streams. Fishing was good, but many fishermen were disappointed because the small trout of four and six inches were much more plentiful than the big ones which are known to have gone up the streams since the beginning of the winter rains six weeks ago.

Some big fish were caught. J.A. Bryant saw one 20-inch steelhead taken near Camp Bartlett. He did not know the lucky man. William Diedrich saw several big ones taken near Foster park and said the fishing was good in that section.

Al Miller took a speckled trout about 12 inches long near Camp Bartlett. That variety is rare in these streams.

H.C. Engelright and Lyle Engelright went to Santa Paula creek. They report big crowds there and small fish. Lyle found a 30-inch steelhead which had recently died. He caused many pangs of envy by taking it in his hand and walking along the stream.

Four trout between 20 and 28 ½ inches long were on exhibition in Jones' window in Ventura according to reports from Ventura. One of them was caught by a little boy.

FISHERMEN CROWD MATILIJA SPRINGS – Matilija Hot Springs opened for business Sunday for the accommodation of fishermen and others, and early in the afternoon all accommodations were taken or reserved.

The river is very high at the Springs, highest it has been at this time in years, and the water is clear. Fishing will probably prove first-class, as poachers had already before the opening day succeeded in landing some fine salmon, as may be witnessed by City Clerk Frank B. Pettis, who yesterday found one, freshly caught and abandoned, weighing nearly 10 pounds.

May 2, 1915 – Los Angeles Times

PRIVATE ROAD FOR FISHERMEN – There are trout in the Sespe River near Henley's Camp. But to fish motorists had best comply with the formalities of the neighborhood or solemn and sundry things may happen.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kreps and Mr. and Mrs. R.T. Bull, who composed a party that drove to the camp in an Oakland touring car, discovered what the requisites are and brought the information back. "We were complacent and willing to submit to all the demands, so had no trouble, but I'd hate to go up there looking for a fracas," said Kreps in describing the outing.

According to the Oakland party the public road beyond Fillmore is in poor condition. Above six miles out it begins to improve, but a huge gate intercepts travel. Two huskies are camping on the site and the gate is not opened unless $2 is deposited. It's a case of come through or walk to the river," says Kreps.

Henley owns all the land crossed by the road for about two and a half miles. Beyond his possessions the road is open to the public again. The situation is such that he controls all traffic absolutely, and the only way to proceed with the car is to pay up in order to get the gate opened.

As the owner explained the circumstances to the Oakland tourists, he has had to improve the road across his land wholly at his own expense. He says he has asked the road authorities repeatedly for help and even had a commissioner up there to look over the situation. The authorities will not act unless he deeds a road site to the county, and this he does not care to do.

Los Angeles motorists are disposed to be fair and usually are so bent upon fishing that they pay the toll without protest, Henley says. But he has had trouble with the populace of the near-by towns. He claims his property has been damaged, his signs against trespassing destroyed and a number of depredations committed.

May 7, 1915 – Oxnard Courier

TROUT FOR VENTURA RIVER – (From Monday's Daily Courier.) Reports from Ventura say that the Ventura river will be restocked with trout this year. Nothing is said of other streams in the county. A Ventura evening paper says of the matter:

Game Warden Barnett has received information that the State Fish Commission has received and approved application for the yearly supply of fish fry to be planted in the Ventura river. Mr. Barnett has given close attention to this part of his duties each year and the results are apparent in the constantly increasing supply of trout be found in the stream this season.

Mr. Barnett's order this year for the Ventura river is for 50,000 rainbow trout, 30,000 steelhead trout and 20,000 salmon.

May 14, 1915 – Ventura Free Press

FISHING IMPROVES IN COUNTY STREAMS – Fishing conditions are getting better in all the county streams, according to reports from different sections.

In the main stream of the Ventura limits were brought in yesterday by several fishermen who covered the stream between the city and Casitas. Below Casitas, however, the water is still a little cloudy, as a result of recent rains, but the water is rapidly clearing and with fair weather the stream will be in good shape before the week is past.

L.O. Drake, C.C. Reed, John Bean and Russ Bates and others whipped the branches above Casitas Park Sunday and had no trouble in filling their baskets. The trout brought in by these fishermen show an improvement in size also, their fish averaging 8 and 9 inches. They report he water clear as crystal above the park, and say the sport will get better every day from now on.

From Wheelers, the Matilija and Wheeler's Cold Springs the reports are to the effect that the anglers are bringing in plenty of trout, but that limit baskets, have been rather scarce during the past week. The recent rains have left the streams full of water, the water is a little too muddy for the best sport, and the fish taken during the past few days have been below average in size. The sport in the resort section is sure to be much better as soon as the stream is relieved of some of its extra water and the water has time to clear.

In the Sespe region there has been much rain and the mountains were covered with snow. The streams are full of water and it will be some little time before trout fishing in that region is at its best. The trout, however, are there in plenty and the fish are of good size and quality.

Venturans spending Sunday at the Sulphur Mountain Springs report that the Sisar is well filled with trout this year. Charles Orr, whipped the stream there for a short time, and while he did not get a limit catch, he had no trouble in bringing in a nice basket of fine fish.

Henleys on the Sespe near Fillmore is still a favorite trouting grounds for the Los Angeles Anglers and the sport is good enough to keep the crowd coming.

It is believed that the sport, especially in the Ventura river will improve and that there will be better sport here throughout the summer than for many years past.

Walter Jones, local sporting goods dealer, reports a steady sale of fishing tackle, more than ever before. Three automobile parties were in the store this morning, buying tackle, and on their way to the Matilija section. A great many local people are planning on

camps in the Casitas country as soon as school is out and these parties will spend a good part of their time angling for trout.

Nearly every day in the week fishermen are out on the stream, and on Sunday the Casitas streams are really too crowded for the best of sport.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Great! Yes, there is still lots of fish in the river and they're good sized, too. Never have we had such fishing as we have now. Come in and let us tell you the place to go. CAUTION—Be sure that you have plenty of tackle and a fishing license. We have everything in the angler's line. Walter Jones, Main Street, Ventura.

May 16, 1915 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT STREAMS ARE IN CONDITION – The trout streams are again ready for the anglers. While the water is still high, and the fishing not as good as it will be later, excellent sport is reported.

At Lathrop's Camp on the upper Sespe the water is again clear and fishing good. While the water is high ,the stream at Wheeler's is clear and the fishing is good. Capt. Lyman of the United States Marine Corps caught the limit in two hours last Monday.

June 27, 1915 – Los Angeles Times

RAINBOW KING OF THE LAKE – It is the rainbow trout, not the so-called salmon trout, that in one sudden leap this season has placed Little Bear Lake on the angler's map of California.

The laurel has been snatched from the "salmon trout" for the reason that there is no such fish, according to Harry L. Prichard of the Los Angeles office of the State Fish and Game Commission. Mr. Pritchard say Little Bear was stocked with rainbow trout six years ago and that the marvelous catches of this season are the result of that early planting of "fry."

Furthermore, specimens of the catch from Little Bear Lake have been sent to W.H. Shebley, superintendent of the State hatcheries at Sisson, and he has identified them positively as rainbow trout.

Controversy has waged fast and furious among fishermen over the classification of the trout, many insisting that they were of the "salmon" variety, while others maintained that they were rainbow trout. The difference of opinion has arisen from the fact that the flesh of the lake trout is pink, while that of rainbow trout taken from the mountain stream hereabout is white; also from the fact that the Little Bear fish range much larger in size than the denizens of the streams.

"The flesh of the lake trout is pink," says Mr. Pritchard, "because of the nature of the food in the big reservoir."

It is but a few years since the present bed of the lake was a spreading meadow, covered with grass and dotted with trees. The trees were cut down, but the stumps still remain submerged under many feet of water and harboring hordes of helgramites, which are eaten voraciously by the trout.

The plant growth is luxuriant on the bed of the lake, adding greatly to the richness of the feeding grounds and affording a variety of diet that not only gives a pink tint to the flesh but also paints with rosy hue the trout's outlook on life.

Wherefore, it is no wonder that, leading a lazy existence, with no worry as to whence the next meal is to come, the finny inhabitants of the big pond increase in length and girth to a size suggesting that of a salmon.

On the other hand, the rainbow trout of the rushing mountain streams are forced to be on the alert throughout the season, watching for whatever chance may offer in the line of food. The character of most of these streams in Southern California is such that there is very little vegetable life in their beds, which are scoured continually by rushing waters and tumbling rocks.

Hence the trout of the stream, trained down to the bone, as it were, does not enjoy the leisure and contentment; that make fat and large and pink-fleshed his brother of the lake.

July 1, 1915 – Los Angeles Times

FISHING POOR AT SESPE, REPORT – Fishing reports from the Sespe and surrounding country are poor. Al Reed has just returned from that region and he is very pessimistic. He caught about two three and half inch trout, and he is somewhat discouraged.

"There are plenty of fish," said Mr. Reed, "but they won't bite. You put a hook in the water and the fish won't even turn over and take a slant at it. It's enough to make a guy go crazy, and I know what's the matter.

"The moonlight is causing all the trouble. The fish loaf around all day and get up about 3 o'clock in the morning and being to eat. Now anyone knows that 3 o'clock is too late to sit up. Believe me, gents, 3 o'clock is far, far too early to get up. So what are you going to do about it?"

August 10, 1915 – Los Angeles Times

ANANIAS AND JONAH OUTDONE – by Lynan Sinker. (Article is little snippets about fishing in Southern California.) …The streams around Ventura are the only places in Southern California where fishing is not first-class. Something seems to be that matter up there. Very few sportsmen are going to that region and the ones who do are having poor luck.

August 13, 1915 – Oxnard Courier

HOT SUN KILLING TROUT – Reports from many of the trout sections say that large numbers of dead trout have appeared in the streams. The officials have investigated and are of the opinion that the trout have been killed by the hot sun. The floods of the past two winters have cleared brush from the sides of the streams and the fish do not have shade from the hot summer sun. The most dead trout are found in isolated streams. This leads to the conclusion that the trout have gone to the ocean whenever they could readily.

October 8, 1915 – Ventura Free Press

THOUSANDS OF TROUT FRY FOR COUNTY STREAMS – County Fish and Game Warden John Barnett was notified today by the State Commission that the first shipment of young trout and salmon for the Ventura rivers would reach here on October 7th and was requested to make all preparations for the speedy handling and planting of the young fish.

Mr. Barnett has secured the largest shipment of young fish that the county has every received for in addition to the shipment to arrive her on October 7, he has another carload coming in later in the month.

The first shipment which will reach here next Thursday will consist of 240,000 steelhead trout and 20,000 salmon. These are for the Ventura River and its tributaries, with the exception of 10,000 which go to Reyes' creek in the Cuyama and 8,000 to the Sisar Creek.

Santa Paula is to receive a shipment on the same day.

During the latter part of the month another car will reach here. Twenty thousand of the fish received at the time will be taken to the headwaters of the Sespe by Game Warden Pritchard.

Mr. Barnett wants all the assistance he can get in order to put the fish in the streams as quickly as possible. He states that he has three trucks already donated, viz., Greene & Orton, Mercer and the Limoneira. All auto owners who are willing to help should notify him.

October 15, 1915 – Ventura Free Press

ANOTHER BIG TROUT SHIPMENT COMING – The second big shipment of young trout for the Ventura county streams will arrive on October 21st and 22nd at which time Game Warden Barnet will received from the state hatcheries 100,000 steelhead, 75,000 of which he will place in the Ventura river and the remaining 25,000 will be planted in the Sespe.

The thirty cans for the Ventura river will arrive on the morning of the 21st and Warden Barnett is making all necessary arrangements for the quick handling and planting of the young trout fry. The fish for the Sespe will arrive in another shipment on the morning of the 22nd and will be met at the Southern Pacific depot by Mr. Barnett and others will pack animals and the long trip to the Sespe will be made as quick as possible.

With the receipt of this second big shipment of trout fry, Ventura county streams will have received the greatest re-stocking in their history…making a total of 340,000 steelhead and 20,000 salmon fry for the streams of the county this fall. Provided the average number of these fish thrive through the winter the sport next year on the Ventura streams are considered among the best trout streams of Southern California, if not the very best. It is estimated that at the very least, 100,000 trout were taken out of the streams on April 1st, the opening day this year, and the action of the State Fish and Game Commission in restocking with so large a number of fish is in line with the requests of the sportsmen who come to fish on the county streams, as well as of prominent local sportsmen and the efficient Game Warden.

October 29, 1915 – Ventura Free Press

SUCCESSFUL PLANTING OF TROUT FRY – Game Warden John Barnett and Deputy Warden Pritchard of Santa Monica, with their helpers, returned to Ventura Saturday evening, after one of the most successful fish planting expeditions ever carried out in this state.

On this occasion 25,000 steelhead trout fry were transported from the Ventura depot and deposited in the waters of the Upper Sespe. Barnett and Pritchard were accompanied and assisted on the long trip by Sim Myers, Web Wilcox and Charlie Hall. The party met the 10:20 train Friday at the Ventura depot, received the shipment of young fry, loaded them on a truck and started on the long journey for the Sespe country. The party arrived at Wheelers' Hot Springs at 5:00 p.m. Then with twin pack animals and five saddle horses donated by Myers of Matilija Springs and Wilcox of Wheelers, the start was at once made for Sespe over the trail, arriving at the banks of the Sespe in the evening and immediately began their task of planting the trout.

So carefully and expertly were the young fish handled during the long and hard journey over the mountain trails that over 90 percent of the young fish were successfully placed in the stream. The fish were deposited at various places along the Sespe from the point where the trail enters down to Wheelers' Cold Springs camp at which place the party spent the night. The next morning, Warden Barnett made a little trip of inspection along the stream to ascertain if possible the condition of the fish just deposited, and his inspection proved to his satisfaction the success of the work, for thousands of the young fish could be plainly seen in the clear water, as brisk and active as though native to the stream.

Next year it is planned to again make a planting in the Sespe, when trout of the Rainbow species will be planted.

The Sespe trip finished the plantings in the county streams for this season, 340,000 trout having been placed in the streams.

December 1, 1915 – Los Angeles Times

BEST TROUT SEASON IN YEARS SAY FISHERMEN – Although the 1915 trout season ended but yesterday, plans for next year are already afoot and actual work for the best season yet has been begun.

Fish and Game Commissioner Pritchard leaves early this morning for the Bear Valley to set traps for hatchery stock and take inventory of the streams.

Within a few days a big $30,000 hatchery will be in process of erection in the Owens Valley. A staff of experts is giving its entire time to preparing the best sport for the anglers next year.

This mammoth plant will not cost the taxpayer a cent but is entirely paid for from the proceeds of game licenses. It will be se in park-like surroundings and become one of the showplaces of the State.

The trout season came to a gentle death yesterday and was laid in its watery grave by a score of more of merry pall bearers wearing hip boots and carrying creels.

Those who went fishing on the last day did not compose a legion. Far from it. But they came back with full baskets, the broadest of smiles, and the most optimistic of predictions for next year.

Although the season remained open a month longer than usual few anglers availed themselves of the extra privilege. A late close is the best thing imaginable for the trout season since the melting snows drive the big fishes into the main streams where there is room for a good cast.

The fish are also gamier this time of year. Their food is scarcer than ever and they spell fight from nose to the tip of the tail. No less an authority an Al Reed says: "The best time in the year to fish for trout is in November. There have been more big fish taken from the Sespe River this month than during the other months of the season combined."

The Sespe seems to run first in the consensus of opinion as the best place to seek the finny beauties. Big Bear and Little Bear lakes carry a close second.

1 9 1 6

Rainfall – 23.05 Inches

January 2, 1916 – Los Angeles Times

WARNED AGAINST A TROUTING LAW – Ventura fishermen have been warned by the Game Warden that it is against the law to take steelhead trout from the streams of the county. At the mouth of the Ventura River in this city is the finest steelhead run in the State and many fine fish are taken there each year. The steelhead season will not open until May 1, 1916.

February 20, 1916 – Los Angeles Times

MAKING PLANS AGAINST FISH – This year the month of April is added to the breeding period of safety permitted all kinds of trout, no difference between the forms known as "steelhead" and the "rainbow" type being admitted by the law, if indeed such difference really exists, other than as affected by fish reaching the sea and coming back red and silvery as "steelheads." At all events there no longer is any legal interest to the controversy, as the "nothing doing" sign is hung out upon all kinds of trout and where everybody can see it.

The Fish and Game Commission's deputy wardens have all had instructions from Commissioner Connell to use every effort to see that the streams are not molested, and all possible encouragement given to the big "steelhead" run that is in evidence in the Santa Ynez, Ventura, Santa Clara, Sespee, and in fact, all the "up coast" streams. This "run," according to Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner John J. Barnett of Ventura, is already a record-maker in magnitude and there is yet two full months for it to continue. It cannot fall to stock those streams as they never have been stocked naturally before, and could not possibly be stocked by the artificial agencies of man. Barnett's predictions of the greatest season for stream-fishing Ventura county ever say, therefore seem to be entirely "up to" the remainder of the season, as of course bad flood conditions would change everything for the worse. So far the floods were far less severe up that way owing to lighter fall in the watersheds than along the coast. (Remainder of the article is about the Big Bear area.)

March 29, 1916 – Santa Paula Chronicle

NO FISHING TILL MAY 1ST – There has been no change in the laws which govern the open fishing season and this year as last, open season for fishing will commence the first day of May. There is a bill now before the state legislative bodies providing for an earlier date of opening, but this bill has not yet been passed, and should action favorable to its passage be taken by the law makers of California it would result in no change in so far as this season is concerned for it would not be operated for ninety days after its passage. So, contrary to a general impression which seems to prevail among some of the local fishermen, who have perhaps heard of the pending legislation, the situation remains

unchanged from that which obtained last year and the disciples of the gentle art of the angler will have to possess their souls in patience for another month.

March 31, 1916 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCAL AND PERSONAL – Local sportsmen are busy these days shining up their reels and their fishing rods in anticipation of the opening of the fishing season April 1.

April 7, 1916 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Do You Fish or Hunt. We Issue The License. Fishing season opens May 1. Great runs of big fish this year. All old hunting licenses expire June 30, 1916. Fishing licenses expired December 31st last. Baths----Billiards----Pool. Skinner & McConnell.

April 14, 1916 – Ventura Free Press

RIVER TEEMS WITH BIG FISH – "There are more fish in the Ventura river than there have been for ten years and they are big ones."

This is the report brought in by Fred Hartman on his return from a trip up the river Wednesday.

"The stream is swarming with fish and there are thousands of them over nine inches long and we are going to have the best fishing we have had for years," said Mr. Hartman.

A statement like this coming from Mr. Hartman who knows "fishing" as well as anyone in the county will bring joy to Ventura sportsmen. He was accompanied on the trip by Jack Tester and W.G. Wolfe of Los Angeles, who are both enthusiastic anglers.

April 16, 1916 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – "FISHING TACKLE" Just In—Brand New. Rods and Rackets at All Prices. Lines, Leaders, Reels, Tackle Books, Egg Hooks—Wet and Dry Flies, Spinners and Spoons. Everything the Fisherman Needs. Even the "Fishing License" at Santa Paula Hardware Co.

VENTURA COUNTY NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST – President McNab of the Fillmore Irrigation company was arrested last week by Deputy Game Warden Dear on a charge of violating a state law in not properly screening the intakes of the company's irrigation ditches. He has been cited to appear in the superior court April 20.

April 19, 1916 – Los Angeles Times

TWENTY MEN ON THE JOB. FISH AND GAME ENFORCEMENT ON EMERGENCY FOOTING – After taking another look at the advance sales of angling

licenses, Fish and Game Commissioner Connell yesterday decided to meet the trout opening emergency with a force commensurate with the utterly unprecedented demands that now are certain to be made upon it. So, instead of ten special men being put out, twenty will take the filed under the regular deputies, who will establish headquarters at the chief points of angling interest and direct field operations against "sooners," "limit stretchers," "gaffers," "snaggers" and the multifarious other forms of cheating and crookedness which take unfair advantage of the conscientious, law-abiding majority of sportsmen.

The patrol force in action May 1 will surpass anything on record for Southern California and be in keeping with a turnout of anglers which will so far swamp precedent that entirely new ideas of fishing interest must be established thenceforth. From the scant handful of men a few years back to the present businesslike and straightforward conservation of the rights of the law-abiding is a step very gratifying to the men whose license dollars finance propagation and protection work in this State.

The men for extra duty all are being picked carefully and those of them who make the best records for efficiency and show the characteristics most likely to develop good wardens will be marked for future use and may stand a chance to get steady work when the increase of license revenues and big development of demand justify Commissioner Connell in adding to fixed charges after the Oak Creek hatchery, southern patrol boat and other improvements of a permanent nature are paid for in full.

…Reports from Ventura tell of moss growing rapidly in the streams; bad news to the bottom fishers, but encouraging to those wedded to the fly, as it indicates "flytime" is here.

<u>April 21, 1916 – Fillmore Herald</u>

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR "ROD AN' LINE AN' A HOOK?" – River Full of Trout and Season Opens One Week From Monday. The *Herald* has received reports from a number of local nimrods who have been investigating—with their eyes—the fishing possibilities of the Sespe for the coming season, and in each case it is invariably said that the river is just over-running with trout, and the man who is not successful in catching the limit the first day will certainly be some slouch of a Walton.

The Chamber of Commerce has sent word to Los Angeles telling of the good condition of the roads to Fillmore and up the canyon to Henley's camp, and undoubtedly there will be a great number of fishermen up from the Angel City on the eve of the opening day, May 1st.

The Chamber of Commerce has also notified Southern California fishermen through the papers that the road up the Sespe is open this year, which will be welcome news to all fishermen.

The local dealers in tackle have laid in a big supply of the latest and best in that line, in anticipation of a big season.

ADVERTISEMENT – 7 Million Fish In the Sespe willing to be hooked with the Cash Commercial Tackle. Opening Day Prizes For the Largest Trout caught with our tackle. The minimum tackle purchase is 50 cents for this contest. Take Hot Cross Buns for your lunch. Cash Commercial Co. We Sell for Less.

ADVERTISEMENT – You Can't Go Fishing Until Monday, May 1st. You can make all arrangements for the greatest sporting day of the year and be fully prepared during the coming week. As in the past we have installed a complete line of fishing supplies and are ready for any emergency. Now for the Trout! If you are going after them, get ready in time and don't leave things until the last minute. Look your traps over NOW and get everything in order. And be sure to test your line carefully and see that it is right. Better still, get yourself a Kingfisher Line and be sure your right. Let the other fellow tell the hard-luck story about "the big ones that got away." You can always trust the Kingfisher fro they prove our slogan that—"They Can't Get Away From a Kingfisher Line." Come in and see us, anyhow, and swap fish yarns and talk it over. We are never too busy to talk about fishing and there are lots of "new things" to lover over. We carry a carefully selected stock of the most up-to-date tackle and everything for the fisherman. Every Grade of Linen and Silk Trout Lines. Regulation Split Bamboo and Steel Rods $1.00 and $6.00. Reels That Reel from 25c to $5.00. Trout fly for our Double-Wing Dry and Superior Flies. No Better Bait Than Salmon Eggs. Now Fish! We will present an Automatic $5.00 Reel for the Largest Trout caught with our tackle on Monday May 1st, and brought to our Hardware Department. Competition open to all. Ventura County Co-operative Ass'n.

<u>April 21, 1916 – Ventura Free Press</u>

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens May 1. We have a full stock of Poles, Reels, Lines, Flies, Hooks, Spoons, Leaders, Fly Books, Salmon Eggs, Creels, Bait Boxes. Also see our Folding Camp Furniture, Flash Lights, etc. Get Your Outfit at Duval's Hardware.

<u>April 28, 1916 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

GRAND OPENING AT THE SPRINGS FOR TOMORROW – The Sulphur Mountain Resort Improved and Renovated, Offering Greater Attractions Than Ever Before. Sulphur Mountain Springs resort, which is Santa Paula's unique attraction, is opening earlier this season than usual, tomorrow, April 29, being the date. Extensive preparations are being made for the event, which will eclipse anything of the kind that has preceded…

(Main body of the article is about the facilities at the resort.)

…The Sisar canyon, in which the springs are situated, seems to grow more beautiful every year, and the trout fishermen, who are baiting their hooks in eager anticipation of the opening of the fishing season next Monday, will find nature's garments more

gorgeous than ever, the various attractions of the resort more enticing than any previous year, and the resort itself more than equal to the task of supplying the creature comforts to the tired and hungry angler.

April 28, 1916 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Prizes! For the Largest Trout caught opening day with our tackle. To the Man or Boy 50 Cigars (or their equivalent). To the Lady or Girl 5 lbs Candy (or its equivalent). Our assortment of tackle is complete. We can fit out either the Isaak Walton or Simple Simon fishermen. This year's good Red Pyee Salmon Eggs in stock. Deviled Chili Meat and Liver Paste, in 10c cans, make a good fisherman's lunch. Fish or cut bait. Cash Commercial Co. Well Sell For Less.

April 30, 1916 – Los Angeles Times

A FEW TROUT RESORTS AND HOW TO GET THERE – by Robert Paulsen, of the Outing Information Bureau of B.H. Dyas Company.

…Agua Blanca – Take the San Fernando boulevard road to Saugus, then via Castaic road to Fillmore. From Fillmore take Sespe Canyon road, which takes you right to Henley's Camp.

Santa Paula Creek and Seesaw Creek – Take San Fernando boulevard or State highway to Santa Paula, then take Santa Paula road, which will take you right to Santa Paula Creek. Seesaw Creek will have to be reached wither on foot or horseback.

Ventura River – Take State highway to Ventura, then take Nordhoff road to any point on the Ventura River. Water clear and normal; many fish.

Matilija and North Matilija River – Take State highway to Ventura, then via Ojai Valley boulevard to Matilija Junction, then take Matilija road, which takes you to the old Matilija resort or Wheeler's Hot Springs. (Article also lists places to go in San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties.)

May 5, 1916 – Fillmore Herald

FISHING IS GOOD, BUT CATCHING IS ROTTEN. Trout in the Sespe Need a Tonic to Improve Their Tackle. The opening of the fishing season last Monday morning proved to be a big disappointment to about half the population of Fillmore and a thousand or more visitors from other sections of Southern California who flocked to the Sespe to try their luck, as for some reason, best known to the fish, they refused to bite, even though the most enticing flies and spinners were cast in their direction, and great quantities of delicious salmon eggs were served on dainty little hooks.

Someone has suggested that if a small part of the tonic taken along by the fishermen had been poured into the water, perhaps the fishes' appetite would have been sharpened and

that luck would have been better. As it was there were very few catches made of any size.

It is thought that after the water lowers in the river a little more, the fishing will improve. Anyhow, let's hope so.

LOCAL – A party of youthful Isaac Waltons including Ed Earr, Will Crowner, James Shiells, Cecil Davis, Robert Cooney hiked it to the Sespe hot springs Sunday, returning Tuesday. They were successful in bringing back a mess of trout.

PIRU NEWS – Hugh Warring, Wm. Whitaker and their friend, Henry Reasoner of Los Angeles returned Tuesday evening from a fishing trip, with a nice catch, the limit.

Last Sunday Johnnie Sullivan and his school friend, Romaine Young of Bardsdale, went to the Agua Blanco fishing. They returned Monday with a nice catch of the pretty speckled trout. They were very good, too. We happen to know.

About 5 o'clock Monday morning as W.D. Clarke was on his way to the Sespe river fishing he saw in John McNab's walnut orchard some mountain lions, the mother and cubs. When they espied him they fled, the cubs on one side of the road and the mother on the other. Being somewhat excited at the sight Mr. Clarke was rather confused as to what course to persue but finally left the lions to enjoy their freedom and continued his trip up the Sespe. He was rewarded by a nice catch of fish.

<u>May 5, 1915 – Oxnard Courier</u>

RECENT HAPPENINGS IN NORDHOFF AND OJAI – The night of May 1 found many trout-lovers on the banks of the various streams with lines ready to be cast when the sun's rays first appeared. The younger fishers arose between the hours of midnight and 3 o'clock and departed for the nearby streams to test their luck at fishermen. The more experienced fishermen, however, left on Sunday for their favorite trout streams. The most popular waters are those above Matilija, Wheeler's and Lyon Springs Just how many trout were taken from the streams in the early morning no one knows, but it is to be understood that quite a few large and small breathed their last in the hour before sunrise. The Hickey Bros. Hardware company, which has charge of the sale of licenses, have offered a complete fishing outfit to the person who catches the largest trout during the season. Last year largest fish was caught near Wheeler's Springs.

<u>May 5, 1916 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

TROUT SEASON OPENED WITH HUNDREDS ON LINE – Business Men of City Took Day Off for Sport on Creeks in the County. Sespe and Santa Paula Streams Well Stocked. Very Few Large Speckled Beauties Are Caught, Sizes Averaging From 6 to 8 Inches.

Business was not entirely suspended in Santa Paula Monday, but there were few business men who did not hie themselves to some of the streams on the opening day of the trout fishing season. They returned with reports of varying successes.

The Santa Paula and Sespe creeks were whipped by hundreds of fans from this locality, as well as many other points in Southern California. Some of the most successful fishermen on these streams were from Los Angeles. The two streams are pretty well stocked with the speckled beauties, but not equal to last year. On the Ventura and Sisar there is very little doing.

In all streams there were about five fishermen to every trout and the vigor displayed in whipping the streams soon drove the little fish to cover. Only in a very few cases was the limit caught. Most of the big catches were made early in the morning, some having the limit by 8 and 9 o'clock.

Only in a very few instances were 12 and 13-inch fish caught, the average size being from 6 to 8 inches.

Sam E. Cummings became so enthusiastic in his pursuit of speckled beauties that he lost caution in stepping from rock to rock in beating up the stream, with the result that he slipped once and fell into the stream, getting soaked to the skin. He also bruised his right leg, and a limp tells a story of his experience. He was accompanied by Dr. J.S. Strong, Mr. Montgomery and C. Beckley. Dr. Strong caught three or four measuring 10 inches. The families of each had fish dinners.

If there was every a good illustration of the motto, patronize home industry, it was on Monday. Four of the local fans traveled to the Ventura the first day, and returned home without a color to show for their efforts. They came back early in the afternoon and then went to the Sespe, where they succeeded only in inveighing five little fellows from the abiding place. The party was composed of A.W. Elliott, Herman Kiene, I.G. Gruadel and F.G. Browne. Their friends are chiding them for deserting their home grounds, for while they were going away from home for their sport, hundreds of Los Angeles fishermen were coming here, and one party of four in particular got the limit in a little less than no time. Dr. Aston of Los Angeles was a member of the party.

Will Stein and wife of Santa Paula and "Dad" Forges of Ventura are trying their skill at Big Bear Valley.

Walter Claburg, 13 years old, proved himself some fisherman. He accompanied the family to Santa Paula, and got the limit in two and a half hours while "pa" got only seventeen.

S.T. Primmer and wife and Dr. Wyatt, daughter and wife were out on the Santa Paula early Monday morning, having gone up the night before. Primmer had the limit by 8:30, the catch averaging from 6 to 8 inches. Dr. Wyatt had a string of thirty-five. The lady

members of the party were active on the stream, and Mrs. Primmer and Mss. Nona Wyatt landed sixteen each.

Andy Elwell and Clyde Anderson were on the Santa Paula and each got the limit.

Howard Tubbs, Virgil King and James Rolls went up on the Sisar. Mr. Tubbs is not talking much, and just what success the party had it is impossible to secure from the individual members. Report has it, however, that they had only fair success.

Cyril Clark, 10 years of age, started early in the morning with his kit, and proved himself a dandy good angler, for he came home with a catch bordering on the limit, and the fish of good size.

Glen Good and party went back on the Sespe, packing in.

Percy Strickland, Gene Gardner, John Offend, Art Kiefer, Albert Call were among those who went up above Henley's in search of good fishing.

May 5, 1916 – Ventura Free Press

SPORT GOOD, BUT IT WILL BE MUCH BETTER – All in all it was a great fishing day, but everybody says not quite up to last year. It was not because fish were not plentiful, for they were. The fact is, not so many were taken. This is accounted for by the great number who got into the streams at this end of Ventura river and roiled the water and frightened the finny ones into the dark places, where they just insisted on staying.

But many fish were taken. Besides, the average size was good. There was no lack of fish in the streams at all. The trouble seemed to be that everybody who went out did not get the limit in the uniform manner of last year. But limits were taken, plenty of them, and early in the morning. Indeed, most of the fish and the best strings were taken early. After a few hours of fishing, the way the streams became muddied, it was necessary to get your limited space fished over quickly.

Word comes down from the Matilija that the big fish, as a general thing, were found up that way. Several of those found their way to this city and two beauties went to Oxnard.

But on the whole it was a good day and there was good sport and thousands enjoyed themselves. And the promise is that there will be better fishing than ever in a few weeks.

Men did not have it all to themselves by a long ways on the streams today. There were many women who enjoyed the "stream whipping" game and some of these were as lucky as the men. At Casitas, LaCrosse and at the resorts many women were in the camping parties and these fished along with the men. And at the mouth many women fished. More women fished today, perhaps than ever before in the Ventura streams.

"Little Shaw" (Lucky Lawrence) brought the first limit trout catch to town this morning. Lawrence caught his fish at the mouth of the Ventura and had them on exhibition at Walter Jones at 5:00. Just an even hour after the official opening of the trout season one hour before sunrise this morning.

Walter Jones has issued to date approximately 450 fishing licenses. And these licenses went mostly to Ventura people.

Reul Lewis brought one of the early limits back to town.

Frank Ellis reports a limit average size trout.

John Rodriguez was one of the few who brought in limit baskets before noon.

Of course Dick Haydon got a limit catch—Haydon always does for he's used to catching things anyway. Dick fished up under Gosnells' Hill.

Roy Watson entertained his father, C.R. Watson of Los Angeles and Nome, Alaska, on a fishing trip up the river as far Gosnells this morning. The Watson did not get limit catches but had good sport and after returning to town, the elder Mr. Watson returned to the river and spent the greater part of the day there feeding salmon eggs to the trout.

Mary Browne, the tennis champion is fishing today on the Sespe with a party of tennis friends.

The real angler, who wants fish, and the fisherman who wants a peaceful day in the woods, with fishing as an excuse for going out, will have the time of their lives from now on until the fishing season closes. They will no more encounter the multitude along the creeks' banks who wade and crowd and jostle and roil the waters. There are still fish in plenty the streams and there will be joy in taking them.

<u>May 12, 1916 – Fillmore Herald</u>

PIRU NEWS – Mr. and Mrs. Rothwell drove up from Los Angeles last Saturday, visiting relatives and enjoying a fishing excursion on Sunday.

Carl France and Ray Jackson went on a fishing excursion Saturday night and returned Sunday evening with one lonesome fish. What's the use?

Last Saturday S.W. Thompson and family, Miss Elizabeth Force, G.W. Murphy and family, Frank Hopkins and family, Chas. Saner and Mrs. Saner and Mr. and Mrs. K. Boardman of Los Angeles made up a party that passed through Piru on a fishing trip at Sulphur Mountain Springs.

Floyd Case was seen in Sespe from Friday until Sunday. He came in his auto bringing with him Phil Kurze of Los Angeles who desired to try his luck at trout fishing.

Gerald, Justin and Newell Snow, while looking after their father's bees at Piru from Friday until Monday did some fishing in Agua Blanca. They report getting in a short time all the fish they could eat.

Arthur and Edward Kurze of Los Angeles came up on their motorcycle on Saturday. They visited a short time with Sid and Lawrence Peyton and then with Sid went fishing up the Sespe until Sunday.

May 12, 1916 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LAY OFF, YOU FANS SAYS PRIMMER, AND LISTEN TO THIS – By S.T. Primmer. Wow! Wow! Wow! You fans—lay off for the season!

Just listen to this: Four hundred thousand trout coming our way this year—coming from the State Fish and Game Commissions, to be planted in the streams of Ventura county. And say, won't that mean some sport for next season—if something doesn't happen to kill the speckled beauties off by the thousands, as happened this year.

Game Warden John Barnett is authority for the statement that 400,000 fish will be planted. This is about 300,000 more than has ever before been allotted to our streams, with the exception of last year, when 300,000 were dumped in. The 100,000 means something—that this county will be as well supplied with trout next season as any section of the state. The sports of Ventura county should take this as a compliment—recognition by the fish commission that the boys are good sports, and that condition obtain here which are causing the commissioners to sit up and take notice.

The following is a report on the condition of the various trout streams near by:

The Agua Blanca can be reached by following the Ridge road to Neenach, then to the left to Piru creek, then walk four miles to drive up Piru canyon with horses and then pack four miles. Fishing is reported very good, with willow or black gnat flies to make life interesting.

The Sespe is very poor the whole length, but good fishing will be found in the side streams above the Sespe Hot Springs. Fully 90 per cent of the trout in the Sespe have died from unknown cause. This has been reported to the State Fish and Game Commission and it is hoped that it will discover and overcome the cause before next season.

Jake Hartman from the Sespe near Willets reports there were so many dead fish in the stream that the water was unfit for them.

If this had not happened before the season opened we would think it was because the hundreds of salmon-egg shooting fishermen (myself included) who have fished as far up as the Narrows, had over fed them.

There have been several limits caught where the Sespe empties into the Santa Clara.

The Santa Paula and Sisar creeks are probably the best places to fish at the present time. The Sisar and the Santa Paula, near the falls the best.

It is reported that the fish are biting at Lyon's Springs on the Matilija and plenty of them in the Ventura river, but will not bite.

It is just possible that the trout have seen some of the tackle that amateurs are using. One man was seen sitting on a rock with two-foot casting rod, a six-inch reel, 300 yards of cuttychunk line and No. 1 hooks, with his valet along to carry a canteen and lunch.

Eugene Gardner and myself fished Santa Ynez last Sunday, going up Saturday night and returning Sunday, a round trip of 140 miles, by way of the San Marcos grade, which is very rough. We found the fishing fine but—no fish. By walking twenty miles and asking questions of every one we saw on the stream, we caught altogether 27 trout—four of them big (?) ones—about five inches long—the rest were small!

After getting lost several times and eating all we could find at a ranger's camp, we decided to patronize home industry, and in the future will fish in Sisar and Santa Paula, and a little later in the Santa Clara.

CHAMPION FISH STORY – The championship fish story of the season is told Melvin Duval, who claims that while fishing above Matilija he hooked a 22-inch trout Saturday at 9 a.m. and did not land it until 9 a.m. Sunday. This Matilija spring water must be powerful.

UP AND DOWN THE STREAMS – H.C. Beam, W.R. Howell, Fred German, Paul Morein and Leslie Carmon, all employed on the *Los Angeles Times*, fished on the Sespe Saturday, and had little or no success. The gentlemen came from the metropolis by machine. The gears of the auto were ripped out on the Sespe and assistance was called from Los Angeles, Rigo Mucci coming up Sunday morning and towing the disabled machine home.

J.W. Greer, Southern Pacific agent, and J.H. Sargant, his assistant, were on the Sisar Sunday, accompanied by their wives. Mr. Greer landed several small trout and one big fellow—16 inches, says the affable collector for the S.P. Mr. Sargant is not talking.

A.W. Elliott is the "big Injun" in this vicinity, for he pulled a 20-inch trout from the Santa Paula Sunday. So far as has been reported here, this is the largest one caught on any of the local streams.

Dr. J.M. Staire is reported to have dragged a beauty from the Ventura river Monday. It measured 22 3/8 inches. It was pulled from a hole near Lacrosse.

George Blevins and wife and their guest Mrs. Milhorn, and Mr. and Mrs. Sam E. Cummings were among those on Sisar Creek Sunday. The gentlemen caught twenty-two fish.

NOTICE TO SPORTSMEN – Notice to everyone interested in hunting and fishing and the protection of our game and fish in this end of the county from Saticoy to Piru.

You are requested to meet in the Citizen's Club rooms at Santa Paula Thursday, May 18, at 2:30 p.m. sharp for the purpose of forming a permanent organization. The object of this organization will be the betterment of our local hunting and fishing conditions. "Yes, they are rotten." Why they are so, and how to improve them will be the purpose of the organization to find out and do. Be sure to attend the meeting; let's pull together and do something. J.N. Proctor, Chairman Organization Committee.

May 12, 1916 – Ventura Free Press

JOHN BARNETT IS CHAMPION FISHERMAN – The biggest did not get away from Game Warden Barnett today. Instead the big fellow took John's hook, stayed on and is now stretching his 29 5/8 inches on a slab of ice in Walter Jones' display window. The Game Warden got the big fish in a deep pool of the Canet place near the Casitas.

Dr. Staire's 22 ½ inches trout is a minnow in comparison with this big fellow.

Four of the Hartman Brothers, Fred, Will, Ralph and Walter returned this morning from a fishing trip into the headwaters of the Sespe. Each caught the limit yesterday and brought the 200 fish home. None were less than 8 inches long and there were many beautiful rainbow trout in the catch. The weather was so cold that the fish froze overnight. On the return trip seven fine deer were sighted by the party.

Messrs. Gauldin, Fitzsimmons, Ellis and Laudermilk came home Tuesday night form Agua Blanca on the Upper Sespe with limit catches of the finest trout. There were no small fish in the catch.

FOREST RANGERS TO SELL FISHING LICENSES – Forest Supervisor J.R. Hall announced this morning that hereafter the forestry office and the forest rangers will sell fishing licenses. This arrangement will be of great convenience to those who live outside the city, nearer a ranger than a store, and also for those who plan fishing trips after leaving the city. The rangers will, however, allow no abuse of this privilege, and no one who has been fishing without a license will be allowed to square himself by buying a license from a ranger after the fish have been caught.

May 19, 1916 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – W.W. Newcomer is the first fisherman this year reporting to the *Herald* the catching of the limit of trout in one day. Last Monday morning after looking after matters of business at the shop for a few hours, Mr. Newcomer decided to celebrate his

birthday by going fishing, and in company with James Waggoner started for the Redrock country, arriving at their camp late at night. They fished all day Tuesday, and as the sun was lowering in the wet Mr. Newcomer counted up his catch and found that he had just the number allowed by law. Jim was not quite as lucky, but brought in a nice mess, however.

May 23, 1916 – Los Angeles Times

FISHING NOTES – J.W. Greer, Santa Paula agent for the Espee, grabbed a sixteen-incher in the Sisar last Sunday. J.H. Sargent, his assistant, and their wives, got a nice basket of smaller ones.

- A.W. Elliot, the veteran Santa Paula rifleman, displayed some rod prowess also on Sunday in the Santa Paula by hooking onto a twenty-incher, which is the best reported in that vicinity thus far.

- Monday on the Ventura near Lacross in the big hole, Dr. J.M. Staire took one twenty-two and three-eights inches, and Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner Jack Barnett showed he could "land" something even livelier than law violators by bringing one of just under the gun-barrel length—almost thirty inches. That is the best so far, and he took it behind the Canet place in the Ventura. Fishing in the Ventura is hampered by the growth of moss, but some fish are still there.

- When the water clears in the lower Sespe is usually a good time to fish it; many go away up and the fish below, harder to find in the larger volume, can be taken by an expert in "paying quantities," whatever construction be placed upon that elastic term. The same is true of the Santa Clara.

- The heaviest plantings of trout ever made in Southern California will be placed by the Fish and Game Commission next October, when the fish car comes down loaded to capacity with rainbow fry. Wherever possible, local authorities will be co-operated with; and it behooves those who want fish to turn in their applications early.

- Ventura county is to be given special attention and close to half a million fish will be liberated in her numerous streams. It is hoped to bring these up to their capacity for sustaining fish life within the next few seasons, as this year has proved beyond a doubt that the demand will tax the ability of the southern streams to provide sport under the most favorable conditions.

May 26, 1916 – Fillmore Herald

FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION FORMED – Request State Commission to Have Streams in This End of County Stocked. At a meeting held in the Fillmore Club rooms Monday afternoon, supplementing a meeting held at Santa Paula last Thursday, the Saticoy, Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru Fish and Game Protective association was organized by the election of James Proctor of Santa Paula as President, H.B. Kays of

Fillmore, vice-president, and M.N. Shedenhelm of Santa Paula, secretary and treasurer. These three gentlemen, with A.W. Elliott of Santa Paula and Hugh Warring of Piru, will constitute the executive committee for the first year.

The association has for its purpose the protection of game and fish, and will lend its efforts to the enforcement of the present fish and game laws and use its influence to secure such other legislation as may be needed from time to time. In signing the by-laws of the association the members pledge themselves to strictly observe the game and fish laws, and use their best efforts to keep others from violating same.

One of the first acts of the association was to send a request to the state Fish and Game Commission to have the several streams in this end of the county stocked as follows:

Sespe river, 200,000 steelhead; Agua Blanca, 30,000 steelhead, Hopper creek, 5,000 brook trout.

"Hank" Kays has already been quite active as a committeeman on membership in this end of the county, and has already secured close to one hundred members. The dues are nominal, being only 50 cents per annum and it is hoped to have a total membership of 500 before the hunting season opens.

<u>May 26, 1916 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

FANS ORGANIZE TO PROTECT FISH AND WILD GAME – "The Game and Fish Protective Association of Saticoy, Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru" was organized May 18, 1916 in the Citizen's Club rooms of Santa Paula.

(Repeat of the aforementioned article.)

…Over ten years ago the president of the Fish and Game Commission told the writer that from reliable data compiled by the commission over three million dollars was spent in California each year by outside sportsmen who came here for the purpose of fishing and hunting and that a much large sum was spent her each year by other "outsiders" fishing and hunting, who came for other purposes. At that time it amounted to an enormous sum and it must be much larger now, as the number of sportsmen in California has increased at least ten times since then, if the number present on our trout streams this year on the opening day is an indication. Our hunting and fishing is one of the State's great natural resources and a very valuable asset, and from a commercial point of view it is worth our united efforts to maintain, by keeping our streams properly stocked with small fish and strictly enforcing our game laws. The sportsman is the "easiest money" in the world and he will gladly separate himself from his "long green" if he feels he is getting "a run for it." He enjoys angling and hunting, but he wants something to show for it. He does not like to be "skunked," and this season's experience has savored considerable of that rodent to many of us here.

Nature has given us some of the best streams for trout in the world, also deer and quail territory, and it is up to us to do our share, many of us individually have to do things that we thought would be for the betterment of the hunting and fishing conditions here, but our efforts were almost futile. As an organization, as strong as we hope to make this, I am sure we can accomplish much. We must get results or its soon goodbye to the finny tribe in this section and eventually so to our game.

Now "fellers" come and join the association. If you do not hunt or fish you should take an interest in the work we are trying to do to the extent of 50c a year and the help of your name as a member will be to us.

We have started the good work already, by making arrangements for having all ditches properly screened, a fish ladder built in the Sespe, applying for about 500,000 small trout to stock Agua Blanca, Hopper Creek, Lord's Creek, Sespe, Sisar and Santa Paula Creeks. Also to have the fish taken care of and properly planted upon their arrival.

We feel that we need at least another game warden in this district, if not two more.

Join us and help the good work along. See Sam Primmer and E.O. Kitchen and sign the membership roll. A.W. Elliott.

HUNTING LICENSES WILL NOW BE EASIER TO SECURE – It will hereafter be easier to secure fishing and hunting licenses than it has in the past. This course has been decided upon by the State Fish and Game Commission, in compliance with requests from many sportsmen, who have protested that too often licenses are not on sale at convenient places.

Instructions have been sent to all the deputies of the commission, instructing them to place licenses on sale with reputable business men everywhere. It is not the intention of the commission, however, to interfere with county clerks who, in some instances, have pursued this course.

It is proposed, among other places, to have licenses on sale at all of the popular summer resorts and in the stores of dealers in sporting goods and supplies.

Last year the anglers of the State spent $86,620 in fishing licenses. Hunting licenses to date for the year which ends June 1 have totaled $132,215. It is believed that under the new system of putting the licenses on sale at convenient places the sales will be greatly increased.

June 2, 1916 – Fillmore Herald

SUBMIT CASE TO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION – Tangle of Legal Lore Passed Up For Unraveling at Sacramento. John McNab, as president of the Fillmore Irrigation Co., appeared before Justice of the Peace Barnes yesterday afternoon for his preliminary hearing and to show cause why the company should not be prosecuted for the alleged

failure to maintain screens at the intake of its canal on the Sespe. Mr. McNab was represented by Attorney Galvin, while the State's interest were looked after by Assistant District Attorney Robert Sheridan. The witnesses for the prosecution were Game Warden Barnett, Parker Dear and W.L. Jump, Jr., and those for the defense Mr. McNab and Archie Sharpe, the company's zanjero.

The case was argued at considerable length by the opposing attorneys but the game laws are so vague on some points, Judge Barnes stipulated that the case should be presented to the State Fish and Game Commission on briefs prepared by the attorneys, and that the proceedings in his court would be halted until an opinion was rendered by the commission, the judge taking occasion to remark that if he were able to unravel all the points of law involved he would be eligible for a higher position than that of a country justice.

PIRU – Miss Anna Lawson, Miss Myrtle Sullivan, John Sullivan and Mr. Boyle, the latter of Los Angeles, went to the Agua Blanca Saturday evening on a fishing trip. They returned Sunday evening and enjoyed the outing very much.

June 2, 1916 – Los Angeles Times

MORE "KILLINGS" DOWN THE COAST -- …"Swat the snake on every stream," should be the slogan of the trout-seeker wherever sport takes him.

Yesterday two anglers returned from the Agua Blanca, agog with the great discovery that snakes eat trout.

This is nothing new to veteran sportsmen; but, as it may be novel to others, all fishermen may feel easy in conscience executing every snake they find along at trout stream. Such snakes eat fish and already have formed the habit. Excepting venomous species, snakes in general are harmless, and most species are even beneficial, but all are bad along the streams, where they early acquire this taste for fish.

Those who never have seen snakes fishing have missed one of the most remarkable natural performances that even the varied life of a trout stream can show. Extending themselves over some shallow side pool they crowd the fish up until awash and then snap at them if small; if good sized, they appear to get a hold upon a fin, then a hitch around the fish with a tail hold upon a weed or bit of brush, gradually wearing out the fish, and then getting it ashore, upon exactly the same principle that a sportsman exhausts a lusty trout upon light tackle. The common striped snakes will kill small carp in a wayside ditch… (The article was a report of different fish and game goings on.)

June 4, 1916 – Los Angeles Times

FISHING GOOD THIS SEASON – (Article is a long list of guests at the Pine Knot Lodge in Big Bear plus conditions on streams in that area.)

Sespe—Fishing poor in lower stream, good above Henley's Camp. Sespe has proven disappointing this season.

Ventura River—Steelhead running in lower river. Good fishing for big fellows. Further up stream fishing good. Trout small.

Matilija—Fishing excellent, with many limits reached.

June 7, 1916 – Los Angeles Times

SEA ANGLERS BUY LICENSES – (The majority of the article is stories occurring in San Bernardino.) …At meetings held in Fillmore and Santa Paula last week, the "Game and Fish Protective Association of Saticoy, Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru" was formed to co-operate with and supplement the propagation and protection work of the Fish and Game Commission with J.N. Proctor of Saticoy, president; Henry Case, Fillmore, vice-president; M.N. Shedenhelm of Santa Paula, secretary. Applications for half a million trout for stocking, and arrangements for fish-ladders in the Sespe, the screening of all ditches, will be made in harmony with the commission's recommendations. They asked for 200,000 steelhead for the Sespe, 20,000 for the Agua Blanca and 5000 rainbow for Hopper Creek. Wherever these do not conflict with the Fish and Game Commission's policy of furnishing no fish to waters privately controlled, the requests will be granted undoubtedly. Those wanting fish should put in an application for them at once. Not many things can be had for the asking.

June 11, 1916 – Los Angeles Times

FISHING CONDITIONS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE – by Howard Angus. Never has there been such a rush of fishermen to the mountains. Naturally there is a reason. When men go to the Klondike with a rush like that of wolves in the pack there is a reason—gold. When men go anywhere in droves for anything, there is a reason.

The reason for the fishermen going to the mountains this year in such numbers is trout. Never in the history of Southern California have there been so many trout in the streams.

…As other sports have been declining the sport of whipping the big streams has been increasing. Each year the hunter has to go farther and farther into the mountain fastness for his quarry. The deer is almost gone. The bear has gone. The scream of the mountain lion seldom breaks the silence of night. The hunter is rapidly becoming a sportsman without a target.

But the fish are getting more plentiful. Days of endless hiking, tramps into the far mountains were once necessary to catch trout. This year he first limit was caught under the Pacific Electric bridge a mile down the valley from the mouth of the San Gabriel.

Why there is more trout is obvious. The Fish and Game Commission has stocked the streams. Fish have been actually made. Young trout have been planted in the streams by

carload lots. Waters that never saw a trout in their centuries of life are full of them this year. Streams that had only a few have been loaded full of trout, while unto those that had has been given.

Just before the opening of the season there was a week that was known as "the week of the dead fish." For some unknown reason in the streams of Ventura dead fish were floating down and lying on the banks. Nobody could explain nor account for this phenomena. Some said that poison salmon eggs were responsible. Bt this could not be, as it all happened a week before the season opened.

This only lasted a week and the full streams of the Ventura are still full of trout. "The week of the dead fish" had no ill effects. The Upper Sespe has never enjoyed such a year.

June 23, 1916 – Fillmore Herald

FAMOUS FISH CASE DISMISSED – The case against the Fillmore Irrigation company, charging violation of the state fish and game laws, has been dismissed on motion of the district attorney's office, following advices received from the State Fish and Game Commission, in which it was stated in substance that the action was without foundation.

The complaint charging the irrigation company with violation of the state and fish game laws, by not maintaining screens at the intake of their ditch as provided by law, was sworn to by Parker Dear, deputy game warden.

The defense, represented by Attorney J.A. Galvin, admitted that the screens were not maintained at all times, but at such times when they were not maintained, the water diverted from the river was turned back into the stream over a spillway a few hundred yards from the intake point, and that if any violation of the law had occurred it was merely technical, and not intentional, and furthermore, no fish had been killed or injured by the diverting of the water and returning it to the stream over the spillway.

The case was given a preliminary hearing before Judge Barnes, Deputy District Attorney Robert Sheridan representing the state. When the testimony was all in, Judge Barnes considered the quickest and surest way of determining the status of the case was to have it submitted to the State Fish and Game Commission, and the court so ordered. Attorney Sheridan presenting the brief for the state and Attorney Galvin for the defendant company.

The finding of the commission is really an interpretation of an ambiguous wording of the game law, which says it is unlawful to take water from a natural stream through ditches without maintaining proper screens at all times, making no provisions for the removal of screens at flood time and the returning of the water over the spillway.

MANY TROUT DIE IN IRRIGATION DITCHES – Washington, June 20.—Thorough tests of devices to prevent fish from entering irrigation ditches are to be made by forest

service officers, who say that thousands of the trout placed in western streams by the government are killed through being carried into the ditches and washed out on the fields. There are not less than 1200 irrigation projects on or near the National Forests, and in many places the loss of trout is very heavy. The amount of water used in irrigation, it is said, often determines the advisability of artificially stocking the streams.

The government in cooperation with the California State Fish and Game Commission, annually plants large quantities of fish fry in the streams of the National Forests in California. This is done to render the forests more attractive to the public by affording good fishing. Where much of the water is used for irrigation, unless the ditches are screened, the trout enter and are washed out on to the fields. While fish are said to make good fertilizer, officials think that trout are too expensive to be used for that purpose.

Most of the states in the west have laws requiring that the ditches be screened, but laws are seldom enforced. The farmers are said to dislike the screens because they collect driftwood and trash which prevents the free flow of the water. Very often, too, it is stated, the farmers can supply their families with a mess of fish by collecting the trout which are found in the fields.

A number of devices for screening the ditches are in use, and while two or three have been found to be fairly effective most of them are said to be unsatisfactory. It is asserted that the subject presents an excellent opportunity for inventors, since a successful screen will be sure to be widely used. Under present conditions officials are slow to recommend that the trout be placed in streams where they are apt to be led off into the irrigation ditches.

June 30, 1916 – Fillmore Herald

PIRU – Reverting to the popularity of out-of-door life Miss Maude Lechler gave a jolly mountain outing, leaving Monday for the trout streams of Piru canyon. Included in he party were Mr. Luro Stanbaugh and his two sisters, Fannie and Ruth, James Mazie, Geo. Lechler and Leslie Lechler. W.W. Lechler guided them safely to the fishing grounds. We do hope they will leave some speckled beauties for the other fellow.

October 8, 1916 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Record

Western Union Telegram

Sissons, Cal.
Oct. 8, 1916

Fish & Game Association
Santa Paula, Cal.
Fish for Sespe and Piru Creek to follow later—

Fish & Game Commission

October 16, 1916 – Los Angeles Times

THOUSANDS OF TROUT FREED – Ventura, Oct. 15.—One hundred and fifty thousand fish, of which 25,000 will be salmon and the remainder trout, will be placed in the streams hereabouts on next Thursday. Everybody interested is invited to come help the deputy game wardens plant the festive trout and it is fair to assume that they will be present in large numbers. Ten thousand tiny trout were placed in San Antonio Creek last week.

October 17, 1916 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Record

Western Union Telegram

Sisson 10/17/1916

To John J. Barnett
Ventura, Cal.
Your fish will arrive Ventura three five afternoon October twenty one.

October 27, 1916 – Fillmore Herald

SESPE STOCKED WITH 75,000 TROUT – State Fish Commission Sends Thirty Cans of Fish Fry for Local Stream. Last Saturday afternoon there was unloaded at Brownstone station thirty cans of trout fry for distribution in the waters of the Sespe, and the following citizens of Fillmore and vicinity were on hand to volunteer their services in transferring the fish from the cans to the waters of the river, at what was considered the most suitable locations for the welfare of the minnows until they reach a size that will make them formidable contestants for the millions of worms and salmon eggs that are tossed into the stream on the end of the fishermen's lines each year: Carl Elkins, H.H. Hayward, S.O. Kreiter, Carl Burson, Willis Burson, J.W. Baldeschwieler, John Baldeschwieler, Harry Hastings, Dick Craig, E.A. Pyle, H.B. Schumacher, Paul Goodenough, Wm. Spangler, Nick Cook, Ralph White and L.F. Robinson.

The fish were distributed in the river from the head of the ditch to Henley's camp above Devil's Gate. The contents of one can was also placed in Pine creek, just above where it empties into the Sespe.

With the river properly stocked, the Sespe will again be justly entitled to the name of the "fishermen's paradise."

1 9 1 7

Rainfall – 21.39 Inches

March 23, 1917 – Fillmore Herald

UNLAWFUL SPORT – A 24-inch trout, said to have been dynamited in the Sespe river by an automobile party passing through on Tuesday, was exhibited in the Co-op hardware window this week. The speckled beauty was sent in to Parker Dear, deputy game warden, and he started an investigation to see whether the unsportsman-like sportsmen might not be apprehended and held to answer to the law.

April 4, 1917 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

Letter

Fish and Game Commission
of California

San Francisco
Apr. 4, 1917

CAPT. G.H. LAMBSON
Sisson, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

By way of reminder, we wish to advise that you retain in some convenient place around the hatchery between 50 and 60 thousand Quinnat salmon fry for supplying the applicants of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, as in former years.

This is merely for your information.

Very truly yours,
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
W.S. Shebley
In Charge,
Department of Fishculture.

April 12, 1917 – Santa Paula Chronicle

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO ALL FISHERMEN – Trout fishermen are watching the calendar closely these days, and putting in spare time preparing for the greatest season their favorite line of sport has seen in recent years.

As May 1 draws nearer, every natural conditions continues favorable and Sunday scouting parties are becoming quite the thing. Some of the rod and reel fraternity who have "kidded" themselves into believe in the April 1st opening have been duly warned by

the Fish and Game Commission in the public prints; and others trying to cheat the law-avoiding ran into patrol deputies to the detriment. A day's fishing now costs $25. Justices throughout the country have been supporting the laws by fines sufficient to discourage "soonering." Everywhere the value of trout as an attraction to all is making itself evident.

Anglers all over the State are pleased greatly at the passage of the bill retiring wild trout from sale. They always were too expensive to cut any great figure except as a prerogative of the very wealthy, and bore no appreciable relation to living costs. Brook trout served in exclusive clubs are domestically-reared fish, raised under the so-called "Fish Farming Act," which permits the luxury-demand to be supplied upon a commercial basis, and prevents placing a financial inducement upon cheating the laws passed to keep our streams attractive. The substantial vote given this measure was particularly gratifying to those who believe that fish and game is worth more as an attraction than commercialized more directly as a food product.

Deputy James H. Gyger has the credit of making the greatest haul of trout "sooners" recorded thus far this year in the south, harvesting no less than six hold hands, seasoned offenders all, on Jacinto reservoir above Hemet. They had fifteen big "spawners" secreted in their car, weighing 45 pounds, and a total of $150 fine was levied on the party.

Deputy John J. Barnett has been getting a man a week on the Ventura which is so chock-full of big fish that the temptation is too great for some to resist. All the tributaries are in prime condition, materially better than at this time last year. The water levels are keeping up; streams will be very clear by the first; fly fishing will be perfectly feasible. In the main river and in the Santa Inez, moss will bother the anglers seriously, but the fish are there.

The salmon, planted by the State four years ago and repeatedly since, are being seen in both the Ventura and Santa Ynez, but their time will be in the fall. This experimental attempt to build up a "run" in the south is being watched with interest by fish culturists. If successful, it will add materially to food supply, and prove far more a factor than trout now withdrawn from sale.

The greatest interest ever shown in the San Bernardino mountain lakes already is assured. Fishing conditions are looking more favorable every day and there seems little doubt that this will be at least as good a year as last, which was the best yet. The fish in the upper lake will have added another year's growth; last summer they were husky enough to harvest tackle wholesale; and some classic battles are certain to reward the "early birds." Roads will make Bear lake more accessible than at any previous year at the opening.

<u>April 13, 1917 – Fillmore Herald</u>

ADVERTISEMENT – Big Fish Prize. A Valuable Prize will be given the person catching the Largest Trout on the season's opening date, May 1, and bringing same to our

store. Prize to be announced late. Hickey Bros. Co. Headquarters for Fishing Tackle. Phone 58. We issue fishing licenses.

ADVERTISEMENT – Opening Day Will find hundreds of sportsmen looking for the elusive trout in the cool waters of the Sespe and its tributaries. The outlook is fine as water conditions have been favorable. Look up your old outfit and see if the line is still in good condition, supply yourself with a few new leaders, hooks, spinners, and bait and your chances of securing a good mess of trout are as good as the next fellows.

In order to make it a little more interesting, we are offering for the two largest trout caught on opening day a first and second prize. All boys and girls who bring into this store by 9 o'clock, May 2nd, a trout measuring ten inches or more will receive a prize.

Fish Poles and Baskets, Salmon Eggs and Spinners, Leaders and Hooks, Reels and Lines, Flies and Bait Boxes, Split Shot and Sinkers. Everything and every kind of tackle at the right prices. Ventura County Co-Operative Ass'n.

April 19, 1917 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SAVE FISH BUT SACRIFICE OIL – Some fish are quite in their proper element when surrounded by oil, sardines for instance. But the fish in the Santa Clara river are not to be served in oil for some time to come, and many barrels of oil have been burned recently on the Oak Ridge Oil Company's property, Santa Paula, to prevent the petroleum from running into the Santa Clara river and killing the fish. One of the wells got entirely beyond the control there and the sump holes were not sufficient to care for the overflow.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Tackle vs. May First. We have a complete line of Rods, Lines, Reels, Flies, Creels, Salmon Eggs, Egg hooks, Spinners, Leaders, Bait Boxes, Etc. Etc. Etc. And we are selling "Fishing Licenses". All Fishing Tackle is new this season. Come in and let us show you. Santa Paula Hardware Co.

April 20, 1917 – Fillmore Herald

GREAT FISHING SPORT PROMISED – That the 1917 trout fishing season will be "the best ever," both in number and size of fish, is so declared by Los Angeles fishing experts who have recently made trout stream investigation, the tour including all the surrounding mountain country. The experts report fishing will be fine in many places, among them the Piru river, Lathrop Camp on the upper Sespe river, Henley's Camp, Sespe river; Sulphur Mountain Springs, the Matilija Hot Springs and Wheeler Hot Springs, all up in this neck of the country.

April 22, 1917 – Los Angeles Times

GET READY, "MR. WALTON!" TROUT ARE HUNGRY! HERE'S WHERE THEY STAY – With many anglers preparing for the opening of the trout season on the first of

May, there has been a general rush to all the sporting goods houses in an effort to secure authentic information where trout fishing will be the best.

This year will be a banner year in all trout streams, due to the fact there were no mountain storms to cause high water in the creeks. This means that the wary trout will be found in the usual deep pools in all the streams.

From Santa Ynez on the north to the San Bernardino resorts on the southeast, the Dyas scouting party, consisting of Bob Paulson and Al reed of the Dyas Company, and L.O. Durand and C.F. Crank of the Leach Motor Car Company, traveled and visited each stream, recording definite information not only as to the possibilities of good fishing but of the accommodations that will be provided for the fishermen on the opening day and throughout the season.

…"Never before in my experience in visiting the trout streams of Southern California, have I seen them so extensively stocked with good sized fish." All the streams seem to be plentifully supplied and the lake, which is always well filled, seems almost bubbling over with the finny tribe, and now that the automobile has become the common carrier for fishermen, these resorts have taken on a more important air and well-conducted camps are now open to the fisherman, which means that besides good fishing, there will be afforded plenty of good accommodations.

…We continued to the north, visiting the Sespe which has long been famous not only for its fishing, but for its natural beauty as well, and here Henley's camp will open for the benefit of the fishermen, when the season opens May 1st. The Sespe is best reached by the State highway to Saugus and then over the Saugus-Ventura road as far as Fillmore, then up the Sespe Canyon to Henley's. This is only a 65-mile ride, and can easily be made in a little over two hours from Los Angeles.

"Further on westward, there is Santa Paula River, which, while not as heavily stocked as the Sespe, will provide fishing, and the fisherman will find splendid accommodations not only at Santa Paula, but at Sulphur Mountain Springs, the latter on the Seesaw Creek, which is a tributary of the Santa Paula.

"For the motorist who wishes to combine a fishing party with a scenic tour, the famous triangle route presents one of the most interesting trips to be found in Southern California. The triangle route follows the Santa Paula Creek to Sulphur Mountain Springs, and then up the Seesaw Creek over the divide and down into the Ojai Valley. Here is one of the grandest spectacles in Southern California with the stratified face of Mt. Topa Topa, famous in the legends of the early Indian days, rising hundreds of feet on the one side and the fertile valley of the Ojai on the other, with a sheer drop from the ridge down into the valley below. From Nordhoff in the Ojai, the triangle road continues to the Ventura along the Ventura River, and from Ventura back to Santa Paula. Around Nordhoff some of the best fishing in Southern California is to be found. A new road has just been completed as far as Matilija, which has long been famous as one of the premier mountain resorts of Southern California and will be opened this year under entirely new

management after being closed for two or three seasons past. From Matilija there is a good road, a great deal of which has just recently been completed and wide enough for two automobiles to pass on the way to Wheeler Hot Springs, where the angler will also find excellent fishing."

The Ventura River will also afford spending fishing throughout the season and the rapidly running streams of the Santa Ynez district, while much farther away, will be the rendezvous of the great many Southern California fishermen, as this trip means more than a mere fishing trip, a camping trip as well.

…The following detailed descriptions will be appreciated by anglers, and should be "pasted in each fishing list."

Well Stocked:

Henley's Camp, Sespe River – Reached via San Fernando road to Saugus; then follow Southern Pacific Railroad into Fillmore; turn to right up River road, distance sixty-five miles; road good condition; stream low and clear; fish plentiful; camp privilege only.

Sulphur Mountain Springs, Santa Paula Creek – Same road to Fillmore; continue on to Santa Paula; turn right and go up six miles to springs; distance, eighty-five miles. A new road has been put in of concrete between Fillmore and Santa Paula. Fishing will be good here this year and the management of the springs promises "first-class accommodations."

Matilija Hot Springs, junction of Ventura and Matilija River – Take State highway to Ventura; turn off to right at bridge and follow road to springs. The county has built a new road up the river which will be open before May 1. The springs have opened up under the management of Gilbert Bros. and they promise to take good care of every fisherman that stays there. Distance, 100 miles.

Wheeler's Hot Springs, north fork, Matilija River – Same road to Matilija, then turn to right to end of road. All Ventura River and tributary streams were heavily stocked last fall and plenty of large trout have been seen in streams.

Fishing Fair:

Agua Blanca – Take San Fernando road to Saugus. Then follow Southern Pacific tracks to Piru. No auto road up river, but horses may be obtained at livery at Piru. Fishing will be very good on tributary streams; water low and clear. Distance, fifty miles.

Lathrop Camp, Upper Sespe River – Take State highway to Ventura, then river road to Nordhoff, thence by horseback over Griddley Trail to camp. Fine Fishing is to be had in the Sespe and tributary streams. Water clear and low and good fly fishing is assured.

April 27, 1917 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Exactly! Our Prize for the first Trout weighing Exactly One Pound, One Ounce on our scales—a 50-pound sack of Rosebud Flour.

For the second Trout weighing Exactly One Pound, One Ounce—a 25-pound sack of Rosebud Flour.

For the third Trout weight Exactly One Pound, One Ounce—a 10-pound sack of Rosebud Flour.

Weights on Dressed Fish Only. Time Limit—Monday Noon, May 7th. No other restrictions. Go to it. We want you to use Rosebud. We sell it and Fishing Tackle. Cash Commercial Co. We Sell For Less.

ADVERTISEMENT – Are you going Fishing? We have one of the finest assortment of Fishing Goods in Fillmore. Rods, reels, creels, leaders, trout flies, salmon eggs, etc. Everything for the Fisherman. J.C. Dunn, Hardware, Plumbing and Tank Building.

May 2, 1917 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT PLENTIFUL AND WILLING TO BE HOOKED – The 1917 trout-snagging season was ushered in yesterday with the customary limits caught by the experts and an unusual number of limits landed by the more inexpert anglers. The season looks as though it might live up to advance notices, which is going some.

(Paragraphs about fishing limits outside of Ventura County.)

…Albert Geyer telephone in from Wheeler's Springs last night with some reliable dope on the fishing conditions in those parts. He reports excellent fishing at Wheeler's; nine limits being landed early in the day, all the fish being of the rainbow variety.

At the Sespe the fishing was said to be splendid, many of the anglers reporting that they caught the limit in well under two hours and the report coming in later in the afternoon that every angler on the stream landed the limit.

At Matilija the average size was reported to be only fair but one steelhead of twenty-one inch length was landed and several others almost as big. The Ventura River fishing was reported to be about as good as last year with steelhead predominating.

May 3, 1917 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING SEASON OPENED TUESDAY – The fishing season opened Tuesday morning and it would require more space than is at our command to give the names of those who were "among those present." Suffice it to say that just about every body went fishing and, from reports received, it is judged that the majority were successful.

May 4, 1917 – Fillmore Herald

SOME FISH AND SOME STORIES – Opening Day of Season Sees Some Fair Catches Made Near Fillmore.

The trout season opened Tuesday morning, and notwithstanding the counter attractions of the May Day festival, quite a number of local nimrods got out and whipped the several streams near Fillmore.

H.H. ("Dad") Hayward was the first man to report in the morning, getting back to town in time to change his clothes and show up for the gladsome May Day doings. He claims he caught the limit, but the only one we saw to substantiate his statement was a big steelhead measuring 23 inches, which by some hook or crook he managed to entice out of the water.

Arthur Garrison came in with one measuring 21 ¾ inches, 1 ¼ inches shorter but of greater rotundity than Hayward's.

Dr. Dr. Henry Wyatt has the honor of catching the first trout limit in Ventura county, reporting at Santa Paula at 7:35 on the morning of the first with fifty beauties that measure a total of 23 feet 3 ¾ inches. The fish were caught in Santa Paula creek, and while the doctor broke one record in catching them, he broke another record in driving down the canyon road to register his catch at the Primmer Cycle and Sporting Goods house in Santa Paula, where he was awarded a prize of a $15 book of flies and tackle. His daughter caught 29 fish the same morning, and his wife 25, making a total of 104 fish for the family on opening day.

Raymond and Leon Harthorn, Jim Haynes and Seth ("Doc") Maxwell journeyed to Hopper creek, where they cast lots to see who would get the first chance at the big holes. "Doc" won out and as a result caught thirteen big ones totaling 4 ½ pounds. The largest was a rainbow trout measuring 17 inches, which is considered some fish for that species.

Bill Cooney reported a quarter of a hundred.

W.W. Newcomer went Cooney better.

E.C. Myers and son Merle fished with good luck south of the Sespe bridge early opening day, the former getting 40 trout and the latter hooking ten fair size fish. The catch was made in about four hours.

C.H. Sundquist was seen hobbling home Tuesday morning about 9 o'clock wearing a brand new pair of heavy boots and a broad smile. His creel contained the limit of fifty fish. He was one of the first anglers to bring in the limit.

For the first-time angler, Mss. Mae Morrow did well on May Day when she landed 14 good trout. Her brother-in-law, Lisle Ingalls, who accompanied the fishermaiden to one of the fishing holes near town, came back with 31 speckled beauties.

J.A. Kreiter, L.F. Robinson and C.N. Bozarth started out by the dawn's early light and prospected Hopper creek, but not finding a pay streak they trekked over to the Santa Clara river near the mouth of the first-mentioned stream, and worked (word used in the fullest sense) to Fillmore. Had Jerry been a little "more on the job," and that proud twin-seventeen model father slackened up a bit honors would have been all around. As it was the score stood 12, 14, 15. The fish were uniformly of a fair size, ranging around ten inches, the measurement being indicated by the outstretched pals of our narrator, whereby they probably lost nothing in size.

Clarence Young, who is now assistant bookkeeper at the Fillmore State Bank, went fishing May Day up the Sespe river beyond the pipe line which crosses the stream, and he was home again by 6 o'clock with the limit trout.

The limit of trout was caught by Ward Tallman on opening day before 7:30 a.m., the catch being made back of John Lawton's place.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bradley, Miss Effie Carrico and William Diehl fished all day up the Sespe and Diehl caught the limit. Bradley had 30 and the two ladies had varying luck. Floyd Hickey was with the anglers part of day and he had only "so so" luck.

Harry Schumacher is one of the Fillmore anglers who claims to have caught the limit of trout on May Day. His angling was in the Sespe, up near Mose Fine's lace.

A. Garrison says he is not only got the trout limit opening day, but that a three-pound beauty was also hooked by him in the Sespe, the prize measuring 21 ½ inches.

Al. Burrows hooked 20 fair-sized trout in the Santa Paula canyon, four of them measuring ten inches.

SESPE – Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Hall and daughter Margery of Van Nuys were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jack McQuaid of the Rancho Sespe from Monday until Wednesday. Mr. McQuaid and Mr. Hall tried their luck at fishing and had a good catch.

LOCAL – A large picnic party went out from Fillmore to spend May Day up the Sespe, fishing being one of the objects of the spring outing. One particular feature was a turkey spread, to which probably a score of picnickers did full justice in honor of the occasion which centered about Parker Dear, Jr. and his brother Jim, whose birthday anniversaries rolled around. Among the picnickers were Mr. and Mrs. Parker Dear, Sr., and John Dear of Alhambra, Miss Florence Thompson, Mrs. Carl Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Soper of Los Angeles, Mr. and Mrs. Parker Dear, Jr. and baby and J. de Barth Dear. Fairly good fisherman's luck attended the party angling efforts.

BARDSDALE – Ted Zimmerman and Dode Beckman were among the early fishermen to bring home a "catch" Tuesday.

May 10, 1917 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT SEASON STARTS OFF IN FINE SHAPE – The best trout fishing the sportsmen of this county have seen for many years was started May 1, when Dr. D. Henry Wyatt brought in the first limit from the Santa Paula at 7:35 a.m., winning the prize given by the Primmer Cycle & Sporting Goods Company.

The prize for the longest string of trout was won by John Uffen with a string of 27 feet, five and one-half inches, from the Sespe.

Limit catches were the rule for the first day and fishing has been very good since, but is a little slow at the present time on account of the moonlight nights, the trout feeding at night. This condition will soon be past and we will continue to have the same good fishing that we had at the first of the season. The fish have been rather small this year, although a great many from nine to eighteen inches have been caught and it is well known that there are lots more of the same left in the streams.

Fred Pressier fished in the Santa Paula, Saturday, and says that the only way that he could catch a trout would be to send and get a submarine and then he thinks he might catch one.

Fat Brown fished the first day and has had a bandage on his head ever since, so it is supposed that he tried the submarine plan.

Parties from Santa Paula have fished all the streams from the Agua Blanca to the Santa Ynez and all report fishing good.

In a short time there will be good fishing in the Santa Clara river, it being especially good as the fish are full of life and can always be depended on to put up a good scrap.

May 11, 1917 – Fillmore Herald

SOME BIG FISH STORIES – Two prizes, offered by the Co-op for the two largest trout brought in by 9 a.m. May 2, were awarded to Harry Hayward with his 23-inch trophy, and Armour Garrison, with a 21 ¾-inch speckled beauty. The first award was a fine fishing pole and the second, a fishing basket.

Comes Hayward next to Hickey Bros. hardware store and shows his trout to the proprietors and they too hand over to him their prize for the biggest fish. This was a fine suitcase fishing pole and inasmuch as the winner had already bought a swell new pole to go fishing with on opening day, he now owns three new poles.

But there is still another fish story. Wednesday of this week Lisle Ingalls went in the early morning up a little distance in Sespe and in a short time returned with a 20-inch trout, weighing three pounds and two ounces. Yes, he's some proud, sure.

Sam Akers holds a fine record, too for he took a trout to Hickey Bros., which was said to measure 22 ½ inches.

LOCAL – Ed. Warring and Ralph Wells went up Hopper creek fishing last Saturday. Ed. caught two while Ralph landed five. Upon returning home Sunday they divided the spoils equally as follows: Seven divided by two equals three and a half.

The *Ventura Daily Post* states that C.P. Esovedo was the prize fisherman last week, he having landed a trout 32 inches long, which is "the second largest fish caught so far, A.L. Christ of Los Angeles still leading with his big fellow of 32 ¾ inches.

Mr. and Mrs. George McGinley and two children were week-end guests from Santa Monica at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lisle Ingalls. The two men went fishing about 2:30 a.m. Sunday morning, up near Camp Henley in the Sespe region, and when they returned home about 8 o'clock they had the limit, that is, the booby limit of two or three baby trout of the "minny" size.

"Many of our fish would weigh a pound," is what one person in a party of anglers said upon their return from a Sunday expedition up the Sespe where the day was passed picnicking, a fine rabbit dinner being one of the features. As the trout caught were quite small, "many" no doubt would make a pound.

SAW MANY DEER SIGNS – Trio of Fillmore Sportsmen Take a Great Trip Horseback. Back Sunday morning from a week's horseback outing, fishing and roughing expedition, came Dr. H.B. Osborn, William Hager and James Walker who had the time of their lives on what they style "a wonderful trip" which took them to the Agua Blanco, Alamo mountains and the upper Sespe. Fishing was good and as the commissary department traveled on the backs of two pack animals inasmuch as William Hager was pronounced "some dandy cook," one can leave the rest to the imagination when it comes to camp "eats." The trip rejuvenated the Fillmore sportsmen who report they saw many deer signs, which augurs well for a good hunting season.

SESPE – Justin and Gerald Snow are combining business and pleasure this week in Piru canyon where they are looking after their father's bees and between times trying their luck at trout fishing.

LITTLE LOCALS – County Manager C.E. Markey of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., and the local manager, Parker Dear, Jr., will swap fish stories upon their return from an expedition via horseback to Agua Blanca where they go tomorrow morning on pleasure bent, angling for trout.

May 25, 1917 – Fillmore Herald

SESPE – A party of autoists from Los Angeles who fished in the Sespe last Sunday and afterwards called on friends and relatives in our vicinity, were Mr. and Mrs. F. Green and Mrs. Anna Walker.

June 1, 1917 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Friday – Fish Day, and it will find us with a fine line fresh fish which will include every variety that is now being caught. Don't Forget—Our Saturday Meat Specials. They will afford a big saving of money on your Sunday Dinner. C.C and E.C. McClintock, McClintock Market Co. Phone 344. (Editor's note: The significance of this advertisement is that the meat markets rarely advertised fish for sale, but because of the war and food shortages, fish was being pushed as an alternative to pork, poultry and beef.)

September 12, 1917 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

Letter

Sisson, California.
September 12, 1917.

Game & Fish Prot. Ass'n.,
C/o. Mr. M.N. Shedenhelm, Sect'y.
Santa Paula, California

Dear Sir:

Inclosed herewith please find receipt for 4,000 rainbow trout that were delivered you at Brownstone on August 31. These were fish that parties at Lang failed to call for, and the receipt is necessary to complete our records. Kindly fill it out and mail it to me in the inclosed envelope at your early convenience.

Yours very truly,
Fish & Game Commission,
Superintendent.

September 26, 1917 – Oxnard Courier

PERSONAL AND LOCAL NEWS ITEMS – Steelhead trout are reported to be entering the mouth of the Ventura river already. Season for this fishing is open through the winter.

October 19, 1917 – Fillmore Herald

STREAM STOCKED WITH TROUT FOR NEXT YEAR – Extra Allotment Received From Fish and Game Commission. Wednesday morning a stocked car of the Fish and Game Commission was attached to the Espee arriving from Los Angeles and at Brownstone 100,000 steelhead trout in 25 great cans were unloaded for the Sespe river, the consignment being placed in the river from the Sespe dam to the Big Sespe wells. The allotment is larger than heretofore furnished and anglers may look forward to next season with particular interest.

The trout are from Lone Pine, Inyo county, hatchery. They are said to grow one pound a year. Considerable care has to be exercised in turning loose the fish from the very cold water in which they are shipped to that of a warmer temperature in the river.

Deputy Game Warden Parker Dear received the trout consignment. He was very greatly assisted in work of stocking the river by F.E. Snowden, manager of the Ventura Refining company, who placed at the deputy-s service a big Refiner truck and two men to help, and also to the Ventura County Co-Operative association, and Hickey Bros., for trucks loaned, and to Frank Atmore who drove his Doge in the good cause. Others assisting in the work of planting the fry in the stream were Alfred Stone, Phil Critton, Wm. Benner and E.A. Pyle. The men were busy with the work until mid-afternoon.

October 19, 1917 – Oxnard Courier

STEELHEAD TROUT PLANTED IN STREAMS – A special car of the State Fish and Game Commission brought 140,000 young steelhead trout to the streams of Ventura county yesterday. Deputy Game Warden J.J. Barnett received the young fish and with several assistants liberated them at several points in the county's streams.

October 26, 1917 – Fillmore Herald

PIRU – The State Fish and Game Commission sent a fish car through the county Monday, leaving cans of young fish to be "planted" in the various streams. This party of the county received 135,000 trout fry, so if the two-legged skunks who sometimes infest our valley will just keep away with their dynamite, there is prospect of pretty good angling next year.

December 2, 1917 – Los Angeles Times

NEXT YEAR'S TROUT LIMITS – Far-reaching plans for extensive stocking of the State with trout have been devised by the Fish and Game Commission's cultural experts, and this winter a novel experiment will be attempted at the new Mt. Whitney hatchery, when a "winter run" will be undertaken on 100,000 brook trout eggs imported from the East, and 75,000 Loch Leven eggs brought down from the pond fish kept for "breeders" at Mr. Shasta hatchery. These varieties are somewhat more resistant to "slush ice" than the native "rainbow" and should it be found as expected that there is a practical

possibility of working them in winter and the others in summer, the capacity of the State's hatcheries will be almost doubled.

December 14, 1917 – Oxnard Courier

STEELHEAD OPENS FOR WINTER – The fish and game commission sends the following:

Surprising interest has sprung up among angling licensees in the mid-winter steelhead fishing, which becomes legal Saturday, December 15, in Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and other coastal counties north. For the first time in several seasons, the trout angler now finds work in winter for his tackled, under a five-trout-per-day limit, regardless of variety, and on any part of the streams, the season continuing until March.

Passed at the desire of the up-coast fishermen, the midwinter trouting makes almost a year-round sport of angling and is proving decidedly popular with sportsmen in the other southern counties where the season still remains closed until next May. The fine weather has left roads excellent, and made a trip to the mouth of the Ventura streams a matter of but a few pleasant hours' riding. Lack of rain will confine the fishing mostly to the river mouths where the large steelheads are "bar-bound" mostly awaiting a freshet to run up; but quite a few will avail themselves of the law to snatch out a mess of smaller fish for the pan in combination with hunting trips. The fly-fishing is still good in spots, and a goodly number of fish appear to have been left over.

1 9 1 8

Rainfall – 19.84 Inches

January 5, 1918 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

Letter

Sissons, California.
January 5, 1918

Mr. H.H. Elkins
Fillmore, California

Dear Sir:

We have not as yet received cans Nos. 19 and 49 that were left at Buckhorn, or Fillmore, on October 22, with fish for you. If you will kindly look them up and forward them as soon as possible to Fish & Game Commission, Sisson, California, on Southern Pacific Baggage Pass A-25861 we will be greatly obliged.

Yours very truly,

Fish & Game Commission.
Superintendent

January 20, 1918 – Los Angeles Times

STEELHEAD CONDITIONS ARE VERY GOOD – Big Business in Steelhead. That the midwinter trout dispensation in behalf of tourist-sportsmen who wish to taste the joys of steelhead fishing has been appreciated greatly by the residents is the word given out yesterday by the Fish and Game Commission. A steady sale of angling licenses totaling 1560 on the new year—an average of 100 a day since they came in—is offered as the "documentary evidence" of this particular fish story.

Despite lack of heavy rain thought necessary to start up a real "run" of the big breeder trout from the set, a number have reported their five-fish-per-day limit, and some whose size is suspiciously like salmon, suggest that the Fish and Game Commission's annual plantings for the last four years have established this valuable species also.

Tempted by continuance of the wonderful winter weather, numerous parties of angling enthusiasts left yesterday for the mouths of the up-coast rivers where the best sport is being enjoyed. The fish are still "bar-bound," but seem plentiful in the tidal lagoons.

Ventura sportsmen have found better success in the Santa Clara than in their own municipal river, although some limits have been taken at the mouth of the Ventura, and one twelve-pounder was reported, with a fish of twelve and a half landed at Surf, the

station for the Santa Ynez. The railroad has opened a ditch through the bar at the mouth of the Santa Ynez.

Good Sport in the Santa Clara makes a decided hit with Los Angeles licensees as it happens to be the nearest and most easily accessible, a boulevard nearly all the way, and done in three hours readily.

The old controversy—"steelhead or rainbow?"—supposedly forever laid, has drawn another breath under the resuscitation of the mid-winter "steelhead" season, as so many anglers persist in miscalling the winter opening on all trout in the up-coast counties under a five-fish-per-day limit. One hears as many "argiments" as at Bear Lake. It may be interesting to anglers to learn that the ablest fish culturists in country are not as yet of one mind either, although opinion is shaping to believe that if any constant difference ever existed between the sea-run and fresh-water living forms of the indigenous trout, it has been interbred away until the present differences are due to the richer, heavier food of the sea and the easier life condition of the large quiet lake-like water.

Several years ago, Frank A. Shebley, now in charge of the great new Mount Whitney hatchery under the Fish and Game Commission, and then superintendent of Brookdale in Santa Cruz county, conducted a series of experiments to prove his own contention that the difference between the steelhead and rainbow forms of the rainbow trout were caused by food and environment, and that there was not constant difference of species.

Talking fish from the same eggs and trough as fry, he placed them in separate troughs side by side. To one lot he fed the rich crustacean food of the sea. To the other, the insect life of the streams. Those fed on the sand fleas and other crustacean protein, grew three times as fast, attaining a much larger size in the several years he kept them under observation. They became silvery of scale, and red of flesh. The others remained typical "stream fish" throughout, and got to be about a foot long eventually. By this, Mr. Shebley thought he had proved the case.

Anglers of Bear Lake experience have noticed that the lake fish become dark of color losing their silvery scales, and white of flesh when they ascend the streams, or become washed over down Bear Creek; in the spring, fish in every shade and gradation from the stream type to the smaller-headed, thicker-bodied silvery-scaled, red-fleshed salmoid type of midsummer in the lake are taken. This tends to confirm the Shebley theory, despite the sweetness of Bear Lake's water, as the rocks are covered with the Gammarus, a species of crustacean, making virtually the same rich protein as the sea foods.

Among others, a party of expert Los Angeles fly-fishermen headed by the redoubtable Charles S. Van Horn propose to give the up-coast steelheads a chance to show themselves as game as their northern relatives by trying them out fully on "feathers." Up north, by fishing "wet"—very wet indeed—skilled fly casters such as Fish and Game Commissioner Ned Bosqui, Nat Boas and their like, take big steelheads regularly in the big rivers above San Francisco and the thing may become feasible here, although spoons and bait are the most effective method at present.

March 8, 1918 – Los Angeles Times

THE TROUT SEASON – The trout season in Districts Nos. 1, 2 and 3 will be thrown open on April 1. Is the date a coincidence? The Sespe, Ventura and Santa Ynez will have the most fishermen.

March 24, 1918 – Los Angeles Times

HERE ARE SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CONDITION OF STREAMS – As has been the custom for years a motor party made the trip to all the important trout streams in Districts 2 and 3 to provide the fishermen with authentic trout fishing information for the opening day.

…According to Al Reid, who is perhaps one of the best versed fishermen in Southern California, and whose experience dates back over fifteen years in this section, this should prove a banner year for trout fishermen. In spite of the dry winter and late heavy rains all the streams are well stocked with steelhead.

…On the return trip the Leach-Dyas party scoured the Ventura River to its head waters and all the favorite pools seemed well stocked with trout. To the pioneer fisherman this district presents an entirely new profile, for in addition to the fire-scarred hills which were burned down in the forest fires of last summer the whole district now seems modernized. The picturesque roads and fords are gone. The river road has been abandoned for the paved highway from Ventura to Nordhoff, and from Nordhoff to the Matilija, and Wheeler's a new road has been constructed high above the river.

It was the purpose of the Supervisors in building this road to avoid washouts and the destruction of the road by the creek. However, they are now facing a more serious problem. Inasmuch as the road was blasted out of a sheer cliff, many overhanging and projecting boulders were necessarily left. These have been loosened by the recent rains and have come dashing down on the roadway. Motor parties who entered Wheeler's prior to the recent storms are still marooned there.

Scores of men, mules and scrapers are at work putting this road in condition. The blasting sounds like the battles of Verdun might have sounded. King fishermen rules supreme; everywhere preparations are being made for his comfort and pleasure. In many places the mud was so deep or the silt so loose that if it had not been for the power of the King eight or the nonskids on the Horseshoe tires it would have been necessary to use outside assistance in pulling the party through.

Matilija will provide accommodations for an army of fishermen and the usual Wheeler's accommodations, which all fishermen have learned to appreciate, will be continued this year under the management of Webb Wilcox. This resort is really the Mecca of fishermen in that district.

On the return from the Matilija the King eight, with its party, was headed to Santa Paula over the Triangle road, but after proceeding a mile or two this was found to be impossible and it was found necessary to go back by way of Ventura.

The Santa Paula Creek offers the same attractions to the fisherman as previous years, and it has one advantage, for Santa Paula holds out to the fishermen the best accommodations anywhere in districts 2 and 3.

From Santa Paula to Fillmore there is a paved highway, but from Fillmore to Sespe there is the same old dirt road.

The Leach-Dyas party was unable to reach Henley's Camp owing to the narrowness of the road and washouts. They were advised that it would be dangerous to proceed farther, so they made use of old shank's mare and hiked the balance of the distance. Henley's Camp does not offer any accommodations this year other than camping ground, but to the fisherman who wants to get the limit the Sespe is worth the effort of carrying your own provisions and blanket.

The lower and upper Sespe have both been restocked by the Fish Commission and the big steelheads there look almost hungry enough to bark. This stream should carry off the blue banner this year, as it has always done in the succeeding years.

March 28, 1918 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT SEASON OPENS ON ALL FOOL'S DAY – April first sees the opening of the local trout season and fishermen are looking forward with keen anticipation of good sport during the next few weeks after the season starts.

Santa Paula is always a center for fishing and this year promises to be no exception to the general rule, for in days like those when all of us are busy most of the time, and some of us are busy all the time, men feel that that they owe it to themselves to take a few days' trip "far from the madding crowd" and go back to nature among the hills and fishing.

"Fishin' Time" is almost here again; and trout-anglers have been busy squinting skyward for signs of more rain than their favorite game can use just now.

Opening the season a month earlier up the coast fell on unusual conditions in late rains which indicate that sport on the Santa Ynez and Ventura will be much better later.

The great number who consider trout merely an excuse to get out will find some badly washed dirt roads enroute to the upper creeks where the best early fishing will be, but Ventura county has teams and scrapers busy already. Without further storms, the roads will be passable enough.

Until the last storm the water conditions were ideal. When about three inches of rain came atop of everything previously soaked there was a big run-off at bad time for the

natural propagation. The upper creeks everywhere were full great "breeders"—the "steelhead" form fresh-run from the sea. They were spawning in the gravel-beds. The rain made a big run-off and stirred up the bottom altogether too much for the best interest of the fish crop.

Anglers take comfort in the heavy plantings made by the State in the upcoast rivers last year, when the first of the Snow Mountain "steelheads" reared in the new Mount Whitney Hatchery were liberated in the Ventura and Santa Ynez systems, together with rainbow, Loch Leven, Quinnat salmon and a few thousand Eastern Brook from the mother-hatchery at Mount Shasta.

Without the last rain, the fish conditions would have been the best in history. Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner John J. Barnett, on daily patrol of the Ventura creeks, said last week that the steady increase in fish in his territory could be attributed chiefly to the heavy State plantings which he saw were made according to the expert's directions.

So many fish entered Coyote, Matilija and the other Ventura river creeks this spring that Barnett believes the capacity of the streams will be supplied between nature and the plantings of last year, which will be of catchable size by mid-summer.

In all, Mount Whitney hatchery delivered 240,000 steelheads to Ventura county streams, while Mount Shasta sent 25,000 salmon, 40,000 rainbow, and 8,000 Eastern Brook trout.

The Sespe river, now that it is open to the general angling public, was given a most liberal planting of 50,000 steelhead and 25,000 rainbow, which had a hard time of it in surviving the very low water of the winter, which made it too easy for their enemies to pick them out. However, many fish were seen by Deputy Barnett just before the rains, and a big "steelhead" run went up the Santa Clara.

Streams that Santa Paula and Fillmore sportsmen usually fish were all planted heavily. Hopper Creek got 50,000; the Sisar 10,000; Piru Creek 10,000. (Article concludes with information about the Santa Ynez valley area.)

March 29, 1918 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Opens Monday, April First. Be ready for the big opening day. Our complete stock of Fishing Tackle has just arrived. Tyee Salmon Eggs, Pole, Lines, Leaders, Reels, Creels, Egg Hooks, Fly Hooks, Bait Boxes, Split Shot—everything for the fisherman. Hickey Bros. Co. "The Store That Is Different"

TROUT FISHING SEASON OPENS MONDAY MORNING – Many large Steelhead Should Make Some Good Sport on the First Day. The trout season opens next Monday and although the rivers are high and the water somewhat riled, there promises to be the usual number of anglers out whipping the Sespe on the morning of the opening day. There are many big steelhead in the stream, and there may be great sport in playing with them if they are hungry enough to gobble up the bait.

April 4, 1918 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT FISHING ON IN EARNEST – Monday, April 1, Santa Paula's annual holiday—the opening of the trout season, found all of the fishermen and fisherladies who could possibly get away, along the different streams of the county together with the usual crowds from Los Angeles and other places.

The streams being rather high, there were not as many trout caught on the opening day as last year, but the opening being a month earlier than last year means that the fishing will improve for a long time instead of all the trout being caught the first day as in other years.

Dr. Millham and partner both caught the limit on the Sisar.

Mrs. R. Woodhouse proved herself the champion fisherlady of a party composed of R. Woodhouse, C. Van Horn, of Los Angeles, and others, by catching a 20 inch trout.

The following big trout were reported caught: A. Call, 28-inch; A. Elwell, 27-inch; S.T. Primmer, 27-inch; Dr. Richardson, 26-inch; J. Ufen, 24-inch and 18-inch; H. Decker, 22-inch; and many others were caught and not reported.

There has never been as large a run of steelhead up the Santa Paula in the many years that the old-timers have been fishing.

It was reported that hundreds of the big ones were caught in the Ventura River.

April 5, 1918 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – John and Gilbert Dear of Alhambra were guests of their brother, Parker, on a fishing expedition up the Sespe on the opening day of the season.

April 6, 1918 – Los Angeles Times

SESPE MORE DESIRABLE FOR FISHERMEN LATER – Late word comes to the Fish and Game Commission that the Sespe is rather a good place to stay away from just now. Several warm days haven't lowered the previously high water a bit. While there is good fishing in the side creeks emptying into the upper Sespe, and no end of fish this year, apparently, all this will keep. Fishing is bound to be quite the best in several years a little later on, unless the mysterious malady which killed so many trout there in some previous summers again manifests itself. Should it do so, an expert investigation is to be conducted to learn the cause and suggest the remedy if any be possible. Various theories which have been suggested as explaining this mortality of Sespe trout all failed to stand the analysis of the State fish culturists, who were unfortunate in not being called in until the fish had decomposed too far for accurate diagnosis. From the fact that many seemed to die in a very short time, it was suspected weather or pollution might have had some part in the mortality.

Several arrests of anglers for fishing without a license were made last week on the Santa Ynez and Ventura streams, although deputies all report that the license-law seems to be generally understood and better observed this year than ever before. They report it is now a rarity to meet an angler who "left his license in the other coat" or "at home," neither of which is any excuse in the eyes of the law. As all fish work is paid for in this State by the dollars collected from licensing anglers, every sportsman has a direct interest in seeing that every other "does his bit," hence the vigilance of wardens.

Conditions in the Ventura and Santa Ynez are growing better appreciably each day, but the best sport is yet to come. Small fish are in evidence generally, the earlier opening meaning a month less time for them to grow. There is a considerable proportion of big fish in most of the creels, particularly those of the "worm fishermen" who get right back to "first principles" when dealing with trout early in the season under conditions of high, cloudy water. "Back East" fishermen understating "bait-fishing" better than the natives usually do.

There is good fishing around Santa Paula, good considering its easy accessibility. The term "Good" as regards fishing in the near-by streams must not be confounded with what be admitted as "good fishing" in the wonderfully stocked waters of the Eastern Sierras, where a good angel can kill his limit of whatever size fish he prefers…

(Article finishes with conditions in other areas.)

April 9, 1918 – Los Angeles Times

GREAT CROWD GOES FISHIN' – Tempted outdoors by spring's most attractive mood, with trout calling from every up-coast creek, a good-sized army of licensed anglers invaded the streams of Ventura and Santa Barbara over the first week-end of the season. Fish everywhere were found plentiful enough for camp demands; not many limit were reported to the Fish and Game Commission yesterday, but some very fine trout were taken despite the rather adverse conditions of high, muddy water prevailing in so many of the watersheds. Warm weather started considerable snow melting in the higher ranges, and angling was limited mostly to bait methods; but on the whole, the creeks were clearer than at the opening.

Streams about Santa Paula yielded fairly well at the opening considering how easy it is to get at the fishing, and came in for liberal patronage again Sunday. Santa Paula sportsmen agree that never have they seen such a run of steelheads as came up their river this spring, and the liberal plantings turned out by the Fish and Game Commission for years past are being given full credit for their part in establishing this valuable self-stocking feature for the future generation of rodsters. Early opening of the season made it possible to enjoy this unusual treat, and most of the experts got a "good one," some landing two or three the first day. A.Call, 28 inches; S.T. Primmer, A. Elwell, 27 inches each; Dr. Richardson, 26 inches, J. Uffen, 24 and 18 inches; H. Decker, 22 inches, were some of the beauties that "didn't get away." To Mrs. R. Wodehouse of Los Angeles, on her first

trouting trip, fell a rare taste of "beginner's luck" in nosing-out the redoubtable Charlie "Van" Horn by landing a 20-incher while "Van" had the misfortune to lip-hook the mate to it.

…Matilija filled a lot of creels with little fellows Sunday and the usual sprinkling of the leviathan. On the whole, few disgruntled anglers returned, and those mostly expect too much fishing for too little traveling these days.

April 12, 1918 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – The Misses Laura and Annette Durrell of Oceanside, former well known local teachers, drove up Saturday from the seaside city and enjoyed week-end visiting friends and also a fishing trip up the Sespe.

April 14, 1918 – Los Angeles Times

LOCAL ANGLERS BECOMING EXCITED OVER OPENING OF TROUT SEASON – In its weekly digest of the fishing conditions up-coast streams for the benefit of the licensed anglers, the Fish and Game Commission's sporting experts and patrol deputies analyze the sporting situation as follows:

Conditions affecting trout fishing continue to improve slowly in the up-coast streams, and where angling is now permitted by law… (several paragraphs on fishing techniques.)

Santa Ynez – Water still rather fast and mud-stained, although clearer than last week and lowering noticeably. Fish still average of good size, probably the best of any of the streams now open. Big steelheads are in evidence; they are losing some of their silver, and now begin to look like overgrown stream trout. Salmon eggs are taking well in the Santa Ynez, likewise worm bait, particularly in the side creeks, which are unusually full of fish. All the conditions seem to favor the heavy State plantings of last summer, and the natural breeding is going on extensively, particularly in the Santa Cruz. There is fair fly fishing during the day in the warmer hours, particularly in the shallow cobbled riffles below the Red Gate, but it will be better later on, and though be prime in another month, although the fish are likely to range smaller as summer advances.

Ventura – Best fishing still on tributaries, although main stream is clearing. Matilija yielding well of four to five-inch fingerlings and big steelheads seem to be holding out quite well as nearly everybody reports a tussle with one wherein the fish mostly have the best of it. This is the unavoidable consequence of using the very light tackle indicated by the refusal of the big fellows to become interested in stouter stuff. Coyote and Santa Ana creeks are in good shape. Santa Paula streams are yielding nice messes considering their ease of access.

April 19, 1918 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – Carl Smith of Los Angeles left Tuesday after a short visit at the home of his mother and while here enjoyed a little trout fishing in the Sespe. It might be stated that Carl was not fortunate enough to take a mess of fish to the folks at home as he says that only one bite was recorded on the trip, owing to the poor fishing to date in the river.

May 30, 1918 – Los Angeles Times

"HELP HOOVER", THEIR SLOGAN – Another week of chilly, cloudy weather culminated in spotted showers which turned to snow in the heights, putting a damper on the plans of many licensed anglers who had hope to render good accounts of the memorial holiday in terms of freshly caught fish for domestic food supply.

"Help Hoover" has become the slogan of southern sportsmen henceforth, whether bearers of rod, gun or rifle. Providing food has become a patriotic duty to the limit of personal capacity since world-wide war has put so practical and business-like a face upon even modest forms of production. Skilled sportsmen who, by way of recreation, have taken their pleasure afield in reaping the unsown harvest of the wild lands and the fish that have grown unfed since the State planted them are now aiding materially to conserve shippable foods. Such men are dedicating their spare time to the greatest good of the general public and deserve to expect from large holders of untilled lands that every possible aid be lent toward the widest exploitation of this natural crop that maintaining a future breeding stock admits. The epidemic of "posting" wasted lands has less excuse than ever. The class of men going afield nowadays is largely limited to those of mature judgment, with proper respect for all property rights.

(Paragraphs about quail hunting.)

…The best fishing this last week, ease of accessibility and chances of catch both considered, has been offered by the main Ventura River. Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner John J. Barnett, patrolling all the principal streams of that county, reported by telephone yesterday that "most any yellow fly, gold spinner, or the like" was good for a limit of five to seven-inch fish anywhere on the main stream from the ocean up, but the fish were running pretty small in the side creeks. Barnett covered the Sespe last week and says it is at least as good as it ever has been; no fish dying as yet, thirty miles of fine fishing from the Cold Spring down; eight and ten-inch fish.

(Remainder of the article about conditions outside of Ventura County.)

June 14, 1918 – Oxnard Courier

PERSONALS – Ben S. Virden, R.B. Witman, Lester Reed and John Arneill returned Saturday evening from a fishing trip to Lathrop's camp on the Sespe. They found fine fishing there betting plenty of trout eight and nine inches long.

June 4, 1918 – Oxnard Courier

TROUT COMING FOR COUNTY STREAMS – J.J. Barnett, deputy fish and game warden, has received notice that a shipment of trout fry for the Ventura county streams will arrive at Ventura early the morning of July 13. He wants autos to aid in the distribution of the fish. There will be about 150,000 fish in the shipment which will be mostly rainbow and steelhead. Tens cans of eastern brook trout will be included.

July 14, 1918 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

Fish Car Trip No. 4 Mt. Shasta July 14th 1918 – Leaving Sisson July 12th

H.J. Abels, Guadalupe – 5 LL, 2 EB
H.J. Abels, Surf – 21 SG, 13 Salmon
H.J. Abels, Santa Barbara – 21 SG
John J. Barnett, Ventura – 10 RB, 33 SG, 13 Sal.

September 9, 1918 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

Fish Car Trip No. 5 Mt. Whitney Sept. 9th 1918 – Lv. Lone Pine Sep. 8th

W.A. Phillips, Palmdale – 4 RB
S.H. Douglass, Saugus – 5 RB
Game and Fish Prot. Assn., Piru – 10 SG
Game and Fish Prot. Assn., Brownstone – 15 RB, 30 SG
Game and Fish Prot. Assn., Santa Paula – 10 RB, 15 SG
All cans returned

September 16, 1918 – Los Angeles Times

FISH DISTRIBUTION IS IN FULL SWING – State fish distribution is in full swing throughout Southern California this week. The Fish and Game Commission's fish-car 02 arrived "Registration Day" to add a quarter-million fish to the future fun and food supply of the people as its contribution to the patriotic activities of the day, and at once was switched onto the Santa Fe, scattering its cargo along the Sierra Madre and San Jacinto watersheds, almost a quarter-million trout fry. Last week a similar distribution was made in up-coast rivers of Santa Barbara and Ventura county, the Sespe, Santa Ynez and Ventura drawing heavy allotments. Next week, the car returns with a similar load which is to flow out the precedent of last year when a start at bringing the lakes and streams of San Diego county to their trout-rearing capacity was made. Experimental plantings in Cuyamaca Lake in 1913 have produced six-pounders this year and shown the feasibility of rainbow trout in those waters.

All the trout which have made the heaviest plantings possible that this end of the State ever has received, are coming from the new Mt. Whitney hatchery in Owens Valley, and they are the most gorgeous fish ever received here. The building up of the present stock

of trout under the adverse three days haul from Sisson under Mt. Shasta, with the side trips added, stands as a monument to the success of scientific fish-cultural work under the California system, and is the marvel of students of the art everywhere. Now the baby trout are only a night's ride away from their destination and are in far better shape to thrive when released in the creeks.

The new Whitney hatchery has had a wonderfully successful season for its first. It has splendidly vindicated the foresight that led to establishing the most modern hatchery in the world under the pure water of the Sierras. The fish are healthy, grow rapidly, and even the difficult golden trout have been reared under these favorable conditions with gratifying success. Promises that it would stock the south as never possible before are already verified by the new "fish-factory" in Owens Valley. Next month it will send forth over half a million golden trout for the Sierra lakes and streams where alone can be found the conditions essential to propagation of this beautiful species, so prized by anglers.

September 27, 1918 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – Mono county seems to be the Mecca of Fillmore sportsmen this year. Sunday Judge C.C. Elkins and son Hess left for the east side of the Sierras on a hunting and fishing trip, and may continue up to southern Oregon before turning their car about for the homeward journey.

December 11, 1918 – Oxnard Courier

ROD AND REEL – This business of trout fishing in Southern California is fast getting to be a sort of "continuous performance" of licensed anglers under the winter opening in the up-coast counties which turns the rodsters loose again next Sunday, December 15, on the streams of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. Anything for an excuse to get out in the country and cheat the "flu" is nowadays the sportsman's slogan

Wrestling with the big roe-laden "steelheads" in the breakers at the mouths of the Santa Clara, Ventura and Santa Ynez, or in the tidal lagoons that form their estuaries, is a rare and novel form of trout fishing, as odd as its season, which is the winter when few men think of angling. Those who have bucked the breakers, and whipped their brass and copper spoons about with stout fly-rods, preferably of the light salmon type, have found it a most satisfying game, an the prime, fat fish are prizes well worth the while of the ablest. One must dress warmly in wool, prepared to get wet; some manage with hip boots, but unexpected breakers usually fill them before the day is done. This year the surf is warmer than usual in December, and when properly clad, with dry clothes for a change, one does not take cold.

The fish come both long and heavy; a "steelhead" the length of a gun barrel and to weigh six to 10 pounds, is nothing uncommon. Some days on favorable tides, early in the present year, good fishermen managed to get several of these beauties, but one or two is enough to satisfy any sportsman, particularly as they are full of roe.

Last spring's sport was about the best on record, due mostly to the long delay in the rains which kept the river low and prevented the roe-bearers from passing the bars at the beach. The early rains of this season doubtless will allow the steelhead—or sea-run "rainbows", for that is what they are—to enter the streams whenever their roe is properly ripe. Therefore there will not be so prolonged a congestion of fish at the surf, but as they do not all mature at the same time, expert anglers by fishing the high tides, when the big trout approach, seeking the fresh eater, will no doubt have good sport. While some years are better than others, there is always good winter tidewater fishing in the mouths of the Santa Ynez and Ventura, and often in the Santa Clara also.

These streams being easily accessible from Los Angeles boulevards, and only a pleasant drive's distance away, they will be thronged Sunday. The winter open season is a particular compliment to Southern California's tourist sportsmen, who are thus enabled to get a taste of royal sport while sojourning here.

After January 1, the 1918 anglers' licenses will be due, so those playing the steelhead game would do well to "order early and avoid the rush". The 1918 license cover all lawful fishing until the end of the year.

Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner Jack Barnett of Ventura has been looking over the Ventura river for signs of steelhead, and says some already have gone up the river, but he believes those who fish the surf Sunday and on good tides thereafter will enjoy very good sport, despite the early rains.

Equipment is very important for this game; a heavy 10 or 11-foot fly-rod with 30 yards of cheap, but stout dressed line, and the necessary small spoons, with a big reel, and 150 feet of six-thread linen for "backline" in the event of hooking a big one, or snagging onto a real salmon, is advisable, lest the "big one gets away". The spent fish usually are landed by beaching, but some use a gaff, and a few, a net.

1 9 1 9

Rainfall – 12.31 Inches

January 3, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

ROD AND REEL – That "steelhead" fishing under the special mid-winter open season provision in behalf of visiting tourist anglers will be better about the middle of next month is the verdict of Deputy Fish and Fame Commissioner Jack Barnett of Ventura county who says the law should prohibit stream fishing. He finds quite a few nice baskets of 10 and 12-inch fish now being made at the mouth of Ventura river. Some big fish of 20-15-inch length have come in with the tides and fallen to lucky anglers already.

February 12, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

CAMARILLO – Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Marshall fished at Hueneme Monday. They had poor luck there, but Mr. Hamlin landed a big steelhead in the Ventura river Saturday. He hooked several others but could not land them.

February 17, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

LOCAL HAPPENINGS – Ed Petit, Lee Ross and Art Caldwell went fishing today for steelhead on the Ventura river.

February 24, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

LOCAL HAPPENINGS – Fishermen were very much in evidence yesterday in Foster Park and along the Ventura river. Steelhead trout were biting freely and many fine specimens were exhibited by the lucky fishermen.

March 14, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – In preparation for the opening of the trout season, April 1st, Hickey Bros. store have a half page ad in this issue as a forerunner for all local nimrods to lay in a supply of tackle so as to be on hand bright and early on the morning of April 1st.

ADVERTISEMENT – The Big Fishing Season Opens April 1st. Poles, Lines, Reels, Eggs, Creels, Hooks, Leaders. Are you all ready? Better get out that old pole and look it over—may be you'll need a new one. Take no chances on that old line! Hooks and Eggs of course you'll need. If you have no Poles or Lines, you should be ashamed of yourself and get busy selecting them. At any rate come in and look over our new stock of Fishing Equipment. Hickey Brothers Company. "The Store That is Different"

March 15, 1919 – Los Angeles Times

FISH AND GAME DEPUTIES TO SET ABOUT CLEANING REFUGES – Winter Trout Fishing Season a Thing of the Past. Closing of the winter fishing season in upcoast counties February 28 found general regrets that so many big breeders had been sacrificed to snaggers, gaffers, pitchforkers and the manifold other types of violators who do not confine themselves to fishing "in the manner commonly known as angling" when low water has made the big ones easy to see as they concentrate in up-stream pools. The fish wardens made numerous arrests, but could not be everywhere at once. Deputy John Barnett estimated that 5000 ripe steelhead were taken during the season. This probably is excessive, although the warden knows of some who took their limits regularly. Leigh Garnsey knows of one pool from which a native took no less than eighty-seven fish. Other State deputies familiar with the fishing of this year cut Deputy Barnett's estimate to 3000 or 3500 fish. However, Barnett resides in Ventura and had conditions under continual observation throughout the season. As each mature fish is the carrier of at least 2000 eggs, or equivalent weight of milt, the solicitude of Ventura sportsmen for the future of their fishing streams after this drain of natural reproducers becomes apparent. Assemblyman Joseph Argabrite has asked the Fish and Game Commission to aid him in drafting an amendment to forbid all winter fishing above tidewater. There, it does relatively little mischief, and fair sporting methods are perforce followed.

March 21, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

PERMANENT FISH LADDER – To be Installed at Dam in the Sespe River. A.E. Doaney of San Francisco, a member of the State Fish and Game Commission, and Game Warden John J. Barnett of Ventura were here on Monday. Accompanied by Parker Dear, deputy game-warden, the gentlemen visited the Fillmore Irrigation company's dam in the Sespe river, which is a barrier to trout going toward the headwaters to spawn. At the conclusion of their inspection, Mr. Doaney said that a permanent ladder would be installed at the dam within the next thirty days.

As the dam exists now, hundreds of big fish can daily be seen butting their heads against the dam in a vain endeavor to get up stream. With the installation of a proper ladder, allowing the trout to migrate to shallower waters to spawn, fishing will greatly improve in the Sespe.

Under the present fish and game laws, fishing is prohibited within 150 feet of a fish ladder. An amendment introduced at this session of the legislature changes the law to prohibit fishing within 300 feet.

March 27, 1919 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Has Arrived! A new stock of B.H. Dyas Co.'s Fishing Tackle just received. For information on Fishing and Camping, see Sam. The Primmer Co. Fishing Licenses. Fire Permits.

March 29, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

GAME NOTES – This has been "Tackle-Fussing Week" among the licensed angling fraternity, whose month's rest since winter steelhead fishing closed in the up-coast counties has been just about long enough to repair damages and get gear organized for another raid on the rainbows next Tuesday. The season is due to open again in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo, as well as the farther counties. In the winter, they call them steelheads; in the summer, it is rainbows' but to the rank and file, they look much like different names for the same thing, all according to whether the fish in question has had any experience in the "big swim" of salt water. If he—or she—has, and lives to tell it in the stream, coming back a full grown and real fish, then we say steelhead. The little chaps that go to make up these big, burly breeders are generally set down as rainbows.

There will be the usual scramble for the up-coast streams early next week is conceded. While winter fishing somewhat took off the wire-edge of angling enthusiasm, the way the fish and game commission has been handing out license books to its re-sale agents scattered throughout every little town, tells the story. Yet there is plenty of water to fish this year. There will be no concentration along tiny streams to compare with last season. Yet there is no prospect of the casual angler becoming lonesome. The rods will be bending and swishing along the Sespe, Ventura, the Santa Ynez and all their tributaries. Provided the present fine weather holds, and neither rain nor melting weather raises streams, some good sport will be enjoyed despite the high levels prevailing.

Trout fishing will be no sucker game this season. The fish will be protected by water enough to scatter them, placing a proper premium upon skill and experience in locating them. They will be well fed also. It is a year for the crack bait fisher, particularly under April opening. Those who fish late will fare better than usual, as no great damage will be done the streams early. The best summer's sport in several years may be expected. Fly fishermen must expect their innings later; there will be nothing doing for them on most of the up-coast creeks next week.

Word from the streams where fish and game commission deputies are on duty to assure all an even break on Tuesday morning, indicate that very little illicit fishing has been tried in the last month. The deputies find the water high, but not prohibitive of some good fun. Roads mostly are recovered from the rains, and the streams are readily accessible.

Quite a number plan to leave Sunday, taking a couple days to get into the upper reaches of the stream, risking b ad weather to get away from the crowds. Many will leave Monday and quite a few early Tuesday morning. Ventura is now accessible by numerous good roads including the new Santa Susana highway via Moorpark. This is a wonderful road, about the last word in modern construction. In general, the lower reaches of the steams will be high.

March 30, 1919 – Los Angeles Times

FISHING SEASON TO OPEN TUESDAY. – "Watching and waiting" has been the policy pursued by Southern California's host of licensed anglers since closing of the winter steelhead season. Next Tuesday, after a month's rest, the trout of Ventura, Santa Barbara and other up-coastal counties again are opened to the rod and reel fraternity. March having brought the most bountiful rains of the present season, showers nearly every week, there is every reason to predict the best fishing ever known during the coming summer. It is a late spring, however, and even without further rains, streams will be generally high, and turbid where flowing through clayey or muddy beds. Warm weather will swell the creeks by melting snow, and even more adversely filling of creels with the fifty fish per day allowed by law. So the best outlook for the opening day species of angler will develop through continuance of the present temperate weather with a bright, sunny Tuesday to speed up the trout's appetites somewhat. High water brings down so much feed that the fish are certain to be satisfied early in the day.

That there is plenty of snow in the heights this year is one of the winter's most favorable developments toward maintenance of trout. Low water last summer and during the fore part of the winter open season, left the fish altogether too much at the mercy of even unskilled anglers, who could locate them too easily in the scanty upcoast creeks. These late rains have sustained the breeder runs from the ocean unusually well. All through March the big fish have been crowding on up into the uttermost headwaters, made easily accessible by the high levels sustained by frequent rains. In this way, much of the damage done by allowing fishermen on the streams in winter will be repaired. Incidentally, those who fish early in April this year will stand chances of an occasional tussle with these big fellows, but such are essentially picture fish when one does get them. Spent of their spawn and flabby, they are far more imposing upon a photograph than at the table, hardly worth fishing for except from the viewpoint of those who love to pose as "big fishermen," and take pride in exhibiting the pictorial evidences of their prowess to the uninformed. Those not learned in sporting lore do not realize that all there is to these once glorious finned gladiators is their impressive appearance: the hooked jaws studded with teeth, the huge savage-looking heads belie them. Hooked, these poor wrecks put up about the same character of resistance that a soaked sack, whirling in the current, might be expected to offer on whippy trout tackle.

Chance of high water will not discourage a great out-turning of the spoon-spinning, bait-bleaching and fly-flickering fancies of the trouting fraternity, whose dollar license bids fair to pay record dividends this season. The greatest interest ever known in outdoor sport seems certain to feature 1919, and already has been discounted for an assured fact by the Fish and Game Commission. This board is intrusted with turning license dollars into more and better sport for the ever-increasing demand of those who "pay the freight." A big job, it is become still bigger with addition to last year-s record interest in sport through so many former sportsmen coming back into the game from overseas service, and eastern camps. Men who have learned to sleep out beneath the stars under the adversities of warfare will certainly enjoy doubly the comforts of modern camping. The primitive pleasures of hunting and fishing are sure to find their most ardent devotees

among the home-come soldiers, who crave the manliest of sports. Many were keen sportsmen before they went across. That many more will embrace their opportunity now is no less certain. All this involves an enormous increase in the demand made upon California's natural wild-life resources. The fact is less interesting than the means that State conservation authorities are employing to meet this added drain. One of the most important measures is a substantial increase in the fish-rearing facilities, despite the handicap this late spring has brought in delaying the take of trout eggs, upon which essential all such work must be founded. Ordinarily, millions of eggs are in hand by the time that this preliminary work was well started this year.

Superintendent of Hatcheries W. H. Shebley who for thirty-five years has raised fish for the State, sporting and commercial species both, has prepared a comprehensive programme for all the existing twenty-odd hatcheries and spawn-taking stations operated by the Fish and Game Commission. Everywhere, it has been arranged to push the egg-take to the limits of practical possibility.

…It is safe to predict that all the more easily accessible creeks of Ventura county will be well whipped. …Many will fish the Sespe, and those who go well up will find good sport. All the Ventura streams were planted most liberally with trout last summer by the Fish and Game Commission.

April 1, 1919 – Los Angeles Times

BIG BUSINESS "ON" UP COAST – With the opening of the trout season in district three this morning, anglers promise to be as plentiful as the proverbial sands of the sea, along the rivers of that region. Yet the experts who have been following weather and fishing conditions for the past few months are unanimous in their faith in the abundance of sport for every fisherman.

Careful surveys of the entire district have been made within the past few days and the condition of the streams with regard to angling prospects has been thoroughly investigated. All reports agree that the Ventura, Santa Paula and Santa Ynez streams are in the best conditions in years. They are equally together in stating that the lower Sespe and adjoining streams are still too muddy to make for the best angling. The Upper Sespe, near Wheeler's and Cold Springs, is also in excellent shape, having escaped the epidemic of mud which mars the lower stretches of that stream.

Reports that the fish are more numerous than they have been in the past twenty years are an old story. Yet that is the unbiased verdict of such keen observers as Fred Hartman of Ventura and Ceph Salisbury of B.H. Dyas, who recently returned from a week's inspection tour. There have been no floods to wash the fish out to sea, and the result seems to be plenty of trout for all comers.

The enormous interest being manifested in outdoor sport of all sorts this season, since the boys are coming back from war, is taken by fish and game conservation authorities as indicating the need of most careful regulation of the so-called "taking privilege" by laws,

which now are in the making at Sacramento. New resort hotels are springing up everywhere, capitalizing the people's wild life attraction. …Meanwhile the Fish and Game Commission is planning to stock the streams even heavier in hope of keeping pace with the fast growing demand.

…Two warm days started considerable snow melting in back ranges of Ventura, and in some of the streams, notably the Sespe, considerable "snow water" was running, which greatly curtails catches. The Ventura is coming up, but on the whole is furnishing about the best fishing considering the great crowding that results from its ease of access. The tributaries are thronged with anglers, actually getting in each others' way on some of the smaller side streams.

April 3, 1919 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHERMEN'S LUCK – April First—not All Fool's Day, but the opening of the trout fishing season in this region—was observed by all of the local fishermen and boys who were not bedfast by illness nor prevented by some other equally unavoidable cause from going out on Tuesday morning.

Fishermen went out in motors and on foot, small boys were excused from school for the great event and wonderful tales were brought home of the sport they had and the fish they caught—or failed to catch.

Sam's store was the busiest place in town all day Monday with the local Waltonians making their preparations for sport, and there was a general exodus up the Santa Paula canyon, to the Sespe, in both its upper and lower waters, and along every stream where the sport was good.

April 4, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

PLENTY OF FISH DOWN IN THE BROOK – Opening Day Sees a Number of Good Catches Made in the Sespe. Probably there was a little less liquid bait used Tuesday but in all other respects the opening of the trout fishing season saw the usual rush and excitement along the Sespe of those eager to catch the limit on the first day.

Altogether it may be said that the opening day gives promise of one of the best fishing seasons that the Sespe has known in a number of years. A few limit catches were made and nearly everyone who went out caught enough of the gamey little fish to appease their appetites.

If a census taker was on the job he must have enumerated a thousand or more people engaged in the pleasant occupation of whipping the stream Tuesday. From the point where the river empties into the Santa Clara to the narrows several miles above the west fork every hole and riffle that looked at all promising had one or more nimrods working it as assiduously as an old prospector would a mining claim. People in all walks of life were there without discrimination of religion or political belief. Rev. F.W. Otto was

there with a rod, line and hook persuading the fish into a Methodist creel and we presume that Rev. Shoemaker was at the same time casting into the waters some Presbyterian bait. Rev. Lowman of the Brethren church says he let the first day slip by but he will make up for lost time later in the season. The two *Herald* editors were on the job at daylight and managed to divide one limit between them. Walter Newcomer was not there but was ably represented by this assistant "Doc" Maxwell. Julius Balden, Doc Manning and Dick Stephens were among those who could not resist the temptation. Romaine Young and Everett Gibout were among the Bardsdaleites fishing in the lower Sespe. Lyal Ingalls was in a good way of reaching the limit when last seen making his way up stream toward the bridge. Bill Cooney and his father-in-law, C.A. Lowell of Alhambra, were among the more successful fishermen. Mr. and Mrs. Parker Dear and their guests from Alhambra and Los Angeles, John Dear and Miss Florence Thompson, fished in the upper Sespe and caught some of the larger fish that abound in the higher waters.

F.P. Yearick and Dick Stephens tried out Pole creek, the former getting a mess of twenty-seven and the latter twenty.

Dave Metzger and J.N. Garrison went after the big ones but did not meet with much success. Bill and Jim Cornett, the well-known Los Angeles sportsmen, were "among those present" on the Sespe. Hugh Warring, Bill Whitaker, Gus Johansen and Mr. Covington formed a quartet from Piru fishing on the Sespe. Chas. Balden was one of the first to bring in the limit. Mrs. Balden also caught a nice mess. M.B. Dresser, phone trouble-shooter, was in the game early but is somewhat reticent about his luck.

Considering the fact that there is a big volume of water in the river and the good catches made on the opening day, the conclusion is reached that there are more fish in the stream than there have been in any one of the past several years. Another peculiar feature of the opening day was the fact that many fish were seen jumping out of the water, leading to the belief that fly fishing will be good this season.

LOCAL – C.A. Lowell of Alhambra came up from the southern city Monday to show his son-in-law, E.E. Cooney, some fine points of the trout fishing game on the first day of the season. Mr. Lowell was one of the few securing the limit. Bill had to content himself with a catch of about half the size of Mr. Lowell.

John Dear of Alhambra and Miss Florence Thompson of Los Angeles motored to Fillmore Monday evening and were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Parker Dear, the quartet joining the pilgrimage to the Sespe on the opening day of the trout season. Mrs. Dear was one of the luckiest anglers on the stream, landing a nice trout that weighed four pounds.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Is In Full Swing. Are you prepared to go fishing during the week end? If not, why not? We have a complete in Rods, Tackle, Bait, etc. The Co-Op Hardware Department. H. Patterson, Manager.

April 4, 1919 – Los Angeles Times

"SOME OPENING," ANGLERS AGREE – In its first weekly summary of conditions along the streams for the information of the licensed anglers, gathered from reports of deputies on daily patrol since the opening of the season in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, the Fish and Game Commission finds that for once the general average of sport has exceeded its advance notices. Predictions of better fishing than was to have been expected from the lateness of the rains and the dark weather, appear to have been very generally verified. Some of the streams were muddy or snow-stained, and this accounted for such "hard-luck" stories as were heard. The larger rivers were mostly in prime fishing condition, with enough water, but not too much; while a truly wonderful "opening day" of warm, springlike weather after the early fog lifted was a great stimulant to the appetites of the fish.

…Deputy Les Hare, himself one of the ablest fishermen, reports one of the best openings we have ever had on Ventura River, where he was assisting Deputy Barnett in handling the most wonderful turnout of anglers that ever gathered upon any stream. There seemed to be a man every twenty-five feet, but the Ventura was simply loaded with fish that average six inches in length, the further down, the larger the fish. In fact the best catches were made at the bridge just out of Ventura. Hare states few of the big spawners are being caught, the water is low and those of the "breeders" that escaped the winter slaughter are congregated in the deep pools mostly, and are spent of their spawn. Paul T. Williams of Compton took his limit in the Sespe Tuesday and fished the Ventura Wednesday, getting thirty-five small trout and one prime four-pounder, two feet long and in excellent condition.

The Sespe was very muddy, yet furnished far better sport than was to have been looked for, the heavy State plantings of trout made since the road was opened having apparently worked wonders for this stream. Many went no further than Henley's, and those who know the roily-water game had a good sport even in the lower Sespe.

…Great praise is being heard on all sides for the State's fish-cultural work, which, despite the steadily-increasing drains upon the streams, has succeeded in improving the sport so much. Nearly all who participated in the opening day crowd and saw for themselves the greatly increased drain these rather scanty streams are called upon to stand are loudly favoring closing down all fishing above tide water in winter so as to give nature every possible chance.

April 11, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

INSTALLING FISH LADDER – Under supervision of Game Warden Barnett work was started Wednesday morning on the fish ladder in the Sespe at the Fillmore Irrigation company's dam. The ladder, which is really a succession of concrete tanks, enable the fish to go up or down a stream on the same principle that the locks serve for vessels in going through the Panama Canal.

It is being installed under orders from the State Fish and Game Commission, after an agitation covering several years conducted by Game Warden Barnett and Deputy Parker Dear.

LOCAL – F.P. Yearick, E.W. Hadley, Jr. and Warren Galvin composed a party to the Agua Blanca Saturday night whether they remained until Sunday fishing, the result being about 115 nice-sized trout. The trip was made on horseback and the members of the party report the "going" as being pretty rough.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL – Dr. F.C. Young and wife of Glendale spent Tuesday with Dr. Kerr. While here they availed themselves of the fishing in the Sespe and went home with a nice string of trout.

April 12, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

MUST INSTALL FISH LADDER ON SESPE – Another week of fine weather, apparently settled at last for the summer, sent forth a host of licensed anglers yesterday, promising such another convention of casters as made the first of April memorable on upcoast streams of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties where trout fishing is now legal. Whether the total of a man to every 20 yards of the Ventura's more accessible extent will be equaled today or not, there will be such an array of rodsters whipping the streams as must be seen to be believed. All trout fishing is now concentrated on relatively few creeks, and the warm, pleasant days seem to be enthusing everybody with the idea of trying the gentle art that made Walton famous.

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Bringing in the latest information on stream conditions to the Fish and Game commission, Deputy Les. Hare, fresh from patrol in Ventura stated yesterday that the best fishing is yet to come, as countless thousands of small steelhead of five to seven-inch lengths are now swarming in the lagoon at the mouth of the Ventura, where anyone fairly expert with the fly on a quiet day can easily take his limit in two hours. Hare thinks these fish are fresh run from the ocean and bound upstream, predicting that in five or six weeks they will give some of the greatest sport on record. The river is so full of feed that fish will grow an inch in that time. The next two weeks will show which way these fish actually are traveling. In the Santa Ynez, trout of this size in April are usually dropping down to the sea for the first time, and the same conditions may obtain in the Ventura, although the silvery scaling of the little fellows suggest salt water.

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Fishing everywhere on the upcoastal river systems continues excellent, the heavy drains of the first week having made little impression up on the supply except to make the trout wilder and harder to catch. They Sespe is still muddy and likely to continue so. The last few miles of the road are rough, but easily negotiated by any good driver.

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Those going far up the Matilija around Ortega Hill, "hiking up" from the "head of auto navigation," are catching fish of nice average size, seven to eight inches, a happy exception to the general small-fish rule of the Matilija. The other side streams of the Ventura have yielded well of "good ones" also.

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The Fish and Game commission thru Deputy Jack Barnett recently served notice on the Sespe Water company to install at once a fishway thru the dam on that stream, plans for the fish-ladder having been drawn by the commission's screens, dams and fishway engineer, A.E. Doney, who has passed the greater part of a lifetime at this work. Henceforth the big breeders will find nothing to bar their way to the spawning beds above, and natural propagation may become possible again in the Sespe. This stream carries a better flow than any of the other Ventura water courses; the Ventura system is rather low. Work on the Sespe fishway is in progress, and it will be posted to keep anglers 300 feet away so as to protect the steelheads when they gather in great numbers below the dam in winter, should attempts fail in stopping winter fishing on the up-coast streams.

April 13, 1919 – Los Angeles Times

"FISHIN' TIME" HERE FOR SURE – Another week of fine weather apparently settled at last for the summer, sent forth a host of licensed anglers yesterday, promising such another "convention of castors" as made the first of April memorable on up-coast streams of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties where trout fishing is now legal. Whether the total of a man to every twenty yards of the Ventura's more accessible extent will be equaled today or not there will be such an array of rodsters whipping the streams as must be seen to be believed. All trout fishing is now concentrated on relatively few creeks, and the warm, pleasant days seem to be enthusing everybody with the idea of trying the "gentle art" that Walton made famous. (The rest of the article was a repeat of information from April 12, 1919.)

April 15, 1919 – Los Angeles Times

MORE LIMITS FOR ANGLERS – Favored most bountifully by a "made-to-order" day for angling, several thousand of Southern California's sporting licensees enjoyed to the full their week-end outings along the up-coast streams, where trouting is now lawful game. The Sespe, Ventura and Santa Ynez were comfortably crowded, and yielded a great total of limit creels, despite the intensive fishing they have sustained since the "first." While the trout taken averaged of small pan size, they were very generally eager for the fly-most anything that looked or acted like one—and many a man reported the sport with five and six-inch "fingerlings," which made up by their snappy gameness for any "shortcomings" in size. Everywhere the air was redolent with the angler's matutinal

aroma of "fresh-fish" friend n bacon fat, until it was indeed a "bum fisherman" whose appetite was not satiated.

Joe Welsh, the Pasadena expert, and numerous other capable casters, report the lower Ventura so full of small, silvery "steelheads" which have put on their seagoing clothes for the baptism of salt water, that even the clumsiest flickers of flies could take their limits, two and three at a haul. There is a sprinkling of splendid males in the lower reaches of the stream, occasionally adding a serio-comic touch to the average "run" of snatching out the little fellows, every now and then something fastening itself that will not budge, and instead "sets back" with a vengeance usually ruinous to the tackle.

Good reports came so generally to the Fish and Game Commission yesterday from anglers enthusing over the success of the State's planting that it is difficult to direct the sport seeker to any one place as much better than another. Ease of accessibility is the consideration this season, where hitherto it has been a case of going where they are, however hard. Thousands of sportsmen have driven right to their camps this season, and taken their fish within a few hundred yards of their cars, almost too easy.

April 18, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – C.C. Elkins, Sr. and Wm. Roe returned Tuesday from several days of fishing at the Agua Blanca.

April 18, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

WINTER STEELHEAD FISHING DOOMED – Assemblyman Argabrite's bill prohibiting steelhead fishing in winter, except in tide water, has passed the assembly and has good chance of passing the senate.

May 9, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – A picnic and fishing party in Pole creek canyon was enjoyed last Sunday afternoon by the A.G. Gates, W. E. Cooney W.R. Manning and Herbert Walker families of Fillmore and Mr. C.A. Lowell of Alhambra, father of Mrs. Conney, and Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Clarke of Piru.

May 15, 1919 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHERMEN TO SESPE – Walter M. Wright of Corcoran, a former Santa Paula resident, was one of a fishing party which went into the Sespe on Friday of last week. The others who made the trip were William Frey, L.E. Mills, M.L. Shendenhelm and C.E. Sheldon. Their report on their return home was that the fishing there is only fairly good, the water being lower than is usually found at this season of the year.

May 22, 1919 – Los Angeles Times

THREE MILLION IS FISH TOTAL – Nearly 3,000,000 trout were planted by the Fish and Game Commission last summer, in the lakes and streams of Southern California, for the benefit of anglers, whose license dollars pay for all such fishcultural work in their behalf.

Over two-thirds of this great total were the old reliable rainbow and its steelhead, or coast-stream form; but 250,000 of the rare and wonderful golden trout from Cottonwood Lakes eggs were reared and distributed from the new Mt. Whitney hatchery to the lakes and selected streams of Mono county. Eastern Brook, Loch Leven, black-spotted trout, and 50,000 Quinnat salmon made up the remainder of this 3,000,000 allotment.

In these days of loose talk about millions and billions, few have any adequate idea of the work comprised in taking, fertilizing, sorting, by "hand-picking" and transporting from a dozen spawning stations to as many hatcheries, enough eggs to successfully rear 3,000,000 trout. Added to this is the time, labor and expense of rearing the young fish to proper size. This done, the distribution must be handled expeditiously and effectively. When it is considered that some 1500 large-sized milk cans would be needed merely to transport this number of trout, a better idea of the State's task in Fishculture in the south alone, may be gained. Special fish cars, in charge of veteran experts, large and small motor trucks, pack trains, and even individual "pack-can" distribution of fish to remotest headwaters, all figure in the proper planting, which is a matter of time and hard work, as well as expense and constant attention to details seemingly unimportant to the uninitiated.

Most of the Southern California distribution was made from the wonderful Mt. Whitney hatchery above Independence, on the Eastern Sierra slopes, far-famed as the most modern and finest trout "factory" in the world.

May 22, 1919 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH COMMISSIONERS MAKE LOCAL SURVEY – Commissioners Westerfield and Bosqui of the State Fish and Game commission, made a trip of investigation to Ventura County last week for the purpose of looking over the site of the proposed fish hatchery and surrounding territory. While there they were taken over the county by representatives of the local Fish and Game Protective Association and were shown the various features which make this district so desirable as a place for the establishment of a fish hatchery. The visiting commissioners were taken up to the Sespe region which plays so important a part in Southern California fish interests and also to the Matilija district. A beefsteak barbeque was served them during the course of their tour of investigation.

Both commissioners expressed themselves favorably in regard to the selection of the proposed site for the hatchery, giving their opinion that the location was suitable, but they have not the power of decision for the state commission, as this district must now be visited and inspected by Superintendent of Fish Culture W.H. Shebley, who tests the waters and make the ultimate decision in regard to the establishment of the hatchery. As

contemplated the hatchery will be of a capacity for about 1,000,000 trout annually. Local enthusiasts now await with interest the *epronuncimento* of Superintendent Shebley after the two inspectors have given their favorable report on the proposed site of the hatchery and the tributary waters of Ventura County's much fished streams.

May 30, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

SESPE – Among the first of the season's campers and fisher folks to leave for the well known trout waters are Frank (Buck) Atmore and his sister, Miss Grace Atmore, and Harry Peyton, all of Sespe, who started Sunday afternoon last in Mr. Atmore's Dodge touring car for Bishop and Silver Lake, which section is rapidly becoming famous with local people.

June 4, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

OFFICERS REPORT TO SUPERVISORS – Appointive officers of the county have filed reports of their work done the preceding month:

…Game Warden. The county game warden reports the water so low in the Santa Clara river that it is dry under the Montalvo bridge. Dying trout along the stream were reported to him because of little water flow, but tho he investigated he found none. He thinks the fish have taken to the sea. A report of game shooting in the Sespe developed that about a dozen soldiers were camped there on a fishing trip and were shooting at targets with revolvers.

June 11, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

AFTER FISH HATCHERY FOR VENTURA COUNTY – Game Warden Barnett is in Los Angeles for the purpose of consulting with the fish and game commission there the proposition of establishing a fish hatchery near the mouth of Casitas canyon, near the Canet station, a short distance from Ventura.

June 13, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – The establishment of a fish hatchery is being agitated in this county and Game Warden Barnett has been detailed to look into the matter. A point on the river, near the Canet place is deemed a suitable location.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Pyle started yesterday morning for Silver Lake, where they will spend three or four weeks camping, fishing and living an outdoor life generally, and where Everett hopes to be free from continual nightmare of city affairs, which continually break into the rest and peace of a city trustee at home.

June 18, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

GAME NOTES – Changes of interest to licensed sportsmen of the up-coast counties were made by the late legislature in enacting laws to regulate hunting and angling for the

ensuing two years, but on the whole, the changes are rather few, easily learned, and generally in line with what the farthest sighted sportsmen have asked.

Pending the completion of the gamelaw booklets and the abbreviated card summaries, which are being rushed by the Fish & Game Commission as rapidly as is consistent with the accuracy necessary, bulletins giving the main points of interest in the new laws have been issued in each of the districts now comprising Southern California.

The counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, the western part of Kern, are still in fish & game district three. The Sespe game refuge in Ventura county was picked up bodily by the legislature and moved east several miles to take it away from the headwater country that is easiest of access from the chief resorts. By this, equally good deer country was preserved, while the "happy hunting ground" of the native sportsmen in the relatively accessible Upper Sespe basin was left open.

Probably the most popular change made in the laws was the limiting winter fishing for "steelhead" trout during the breeding season to the lower, or tidal waters of the rivers, prohibiting any fishing above tidewater. This will stop "snagging", "gaffing", and "picking 'em out"—"hand-picking trout", as some of its opponents called the vicious abuses that developed from permitting men to be fishing with a legal excuse on the low streams of early winter. Those who believe natural propagation maintains the coastal rivers can rejoice in the new law, while others who give scientific fish cultural methods the full due of credit, seem equally well satisfied. (Remainder of article is about deer and quail hunting.)

July 2, 1919 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

Fish Car Trip No. 3 Mt. Shasta July 2 & 3rd 1919 – Lv. Sisson July 1st

H.D. Bergher, Atascadero – 12 RB, 9 LL
All returned
A.J. Abels – 7 LL, 13 Sal., 3 EB
All returned
John J. Barnett, Ventura – 9 RB, 33 SG, 13 Sal., 2 EB
All returned
Abels, Surf – 12 unidentified cans
Abels, Carpentaria – 5 unidentified cans

July 4, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

187,000 TROUT FOR TWO STREAMS – (From Monday's Daily Courier) Game Warden Barnett distributed 187,000 trout Thursday in the Ventura river and San Antonio creek. The plantings included 46,000 rainbow trout, 100,000 steelhead and 25,000 salmon, the balance being eastern brook trout.

August 1, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

PROTECTING GAME – Game Warden Barnett has his eyes open for fish and game law violators, says the *Post.* J. Coyne of Los Angeles was arrested by Barnett for fishing in the Ventura river without a license.

NO FISH PLANTING – The water in the streams of the county is so low this year that the usual planting of fish in August has been called off, following an investigation of the conditions of the streams by Mr. Pritchard of the Fish and Game Commission and Game Warden Barnett of Ventura.

September 12, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – M.B. Dresser, O.E. Pearson and W.W. Newcomer hiked up the Sespe on a fishing excursion Monday night. Dresser caught nine, Newcomer eight and Pearson seven. Above Red Rock canyon the water grows less and less and fish are scarcer than five dollar bills in a church collection basket in Fillmore.

October 2, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

GAME NOTES – The heaviest possible plantings are to be made this fall in the up-coast counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara, which have to bear the full brunt of the springtime angling ardor with their season opening a month ahead of the rest of the south, not to mention the winter steelhead fishing. These attractions serve to concentrate attention upon the Sespe, Santa Clara, Ventura and Santa Ynez systems, which need all the fish that scientific propagation can give them.

October 3, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – The State Fish Commission is to ship 170,000 trout into Ventura county shortly.

October 8, 1919 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

Fish Car Trip No. 7 Mt. Whitney Oct. 8th 1919 – Lv. Oct. 7th

Game & Fish Prot Ass'n., Santa Paula – 14 RB, 5 EB
Returned
J.J. Barnett, Ventura – 14 RB
Returned
J.R. Hall, Santa Barbara – 3 RB, 2 SG
J.J. Abels, Santa Barbara
Lompoc Junc. Guadalupe – 57 SG
All of Abels cans returned to car Oct. 9th

October 10, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

STREAMS OF COUNTY STOCKED WITH FISH – Already a Quarter of a Million Have Been Placed in Nearby Streams. Freshly arrived overnight from the big granite hatchery under Mount Whitney on the eastern slopes of the Sierras, a second carload of the lustiest, largest young trout that ever were planted in the streams of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties are being packed into such tributaries as recent investigation by Fish and Game Commission disclosed as carrying sufficient water to rear them.

The car was loaded at 5 o'clock the afternoon before, and Wednesday morning it arrived with some 50,000 fish for Santa Paula creek, an equal amount for the upper Ventura and Sespe, and about 100,000 for the Santa Ynez system. These trout are being handled by the Fish and Game Protective association of the Santa Clara valley, by Webb Wilcox, and Deputies John J. Barnett and Henry J. Abels of the Fish and Game Commission, who are using every effort to get the young fish far enough up into the headwater creeks to give them the best possible chance for their growth.

Immediately following this present carload, as soon as the car can return and the emptied fish cans be collected at the hatchery, another carload will be made up, mostly for Ventura county, and this, representing the heaviest plantings that ever have been possible to make in the upcoast streams, will wind up the work for the season.

In the carload that was received Wednesday there were 40,000 fish. This makes a total of 230,000 this month to Fillmore, Santa Paula and Ventura. So far the total for the year is 380,000, which is a remarkably fine showing.

Realizing that the Ventura and Santa Barbara streams, because of April opening, and the winter steelhead season in tidewater, were compelled to bear the brunt of angling enthusiasm for the entire south at times when the seasons were closed elsewhere, the Fish and Game Commission has devoted particular attention to the problems of artificially maintaining the sport against this annual drain.

Superintendent of Fishculture Shebley looked over suggested hatchery sites a few weeks ago in the Santa Paula section. The promptitude with which trout-fry can be delivered from the new Mount Whitney hatchery, and the ideal water conditions there for rearing trout, backed by the much greater economy of raising the young fish in a large and thoroughly modern plant are having such a demonstration this year that most well-informed sportsmen see little need of local hatcheries except in points impossible to serve so satisfactorily from large central stations.

The Mount Whitney fish have established records for growth which the thirty-six years' experience of Superintendent Shebley with California fishculture have failed to attain heretofore, some of the lots showing a uniform average of an inch per month, which is taken as the utmost possible in rearing rainbow trout.

By way of assuring the plantings are made to the best possible advantage in the coastal streams, the Fish and Game Commission this fall entered upon the new plan of running the fish-car clear through on each of its trips, delivering relatively few fish at each stop in place of the entire allotment. In this new way, the fish can be taken care of immediately, arrangements can be made for pack-train distribution to the headwater creeks where the fish should go, and no group of willing workers is ridden to death trying to do it all to the best advantage. Another year, this plan will be carried further than is possible after the innumerable delays and setbacks of the present dry season, railroad strikes, early rains, etc.

October 14, 1919 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

Fish Car Trip No. 8 Mt. Whitney Oct. 14th 1919 – Lv. Lone Pine Oct. 13th

Santa Paula G. & F. Prot., Ass'n., Piru – 7 SG, 7 RB
Santa Paula G. & F. Prot., Ass'n., Buckhorn – 5 SG, 5 RB
Santa Paula G. & F. Prot., Ass'n., Brownstone – 30 SG, 20 RB
Santa Paula F. & G. Prot. Ass'n., Santa Paula – 10 SG
J.R. Hall, Santa Paula – 2 RB, 3 EB

October 16, 1919 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH PLANTING CAR BRINGS PROMISING CARGO – The special car of the Mt. Whitney fish hatchery, under the direction of the California Fish and Game Commission, engaged in the work of planting trout in streams of the State, made a stop over Tuesday in Santa Paula after leaving some 300,000 fish for the streams of the Sespe region. This car, which carries a crew of five men, Superintendent Phelps and four assistants, is an extremely interesting vehicle, with its load of immense tin cans, similar to the familiar milk cans, in which the tiny fish are carried from the hatchery to the streams in which they are planted.

The fish brought on this trip are of the Rainbow and Steelhead variety and about six months from hatching. This will make the trout from ten to twelve inches in length, on an average, when the open fishing season arrives next year.

A Westinghouse air-pump, operated by steam, is a part of the car's equipment and through a system of rubber tubes forces air into the cans containing the fish. In addition to the accommodations for the cargo, the car also contains living quarters, compactly arranged for the men on board, with office, berths, kitchen and other domestic arrangements.

It is four years since a car of this sort has visited Santa Paula, although fish have been planted from time to time in this vicinity, and this visit is through the activities of the local Fish and Game Protective Association members of which are always active in assuring good sport for fishermen and hunters of this section.

FISH AND GAME LOVERS PLANT LOCAL STREAMS – Trout to the number of 50,000 were last week planted in the waters of the Santa Paula creek by local fishermen and devotees of the rod and reel. Another lot was planted in this vicinity on October 14, and all fish and game enthusiasts are asked to help bear their share of the cost of this planting by paying their dues, 50 cents, to the local fish and game association.

Forest Ranger Geo. Bald gave valuable assistance in the work of the planting of the fish, assisting the volunteer workers very materially by his efforts.

Either Sam Primmer or S.L. Lothridge may be seen by citizens who wish to bear their share of this sportsmen's provisional measure to insure good fishing in the local waters.

October 17, 1919 – Fillmore Herald

PLANTED FINE FISH IN NEARBY STREAMS – State Hatchery Sends a Large Shipment of Fish to Fillmore Waters. About 150,000 rainbow trout were released in the streams in and about Fillmore on Tuesday of this week. This shipment came from the state hatchery at Sisson, and was made up of rainbow trout. The state commission ships the fish out in installments, and volunteer workers attend to their distribution in the surrounding waters. Altogether this year they will have planted in Ventura county streams close to 300,000 fish. Which should go a long way towards keeping the anglers of this section of the state busy next year.

The shipment that came to this section on Tuesday filled sixty-four cans. Each can contained anywhere from 2,500 to 3,000 fish. They came through in fine shape, there being very few dead ones upon their arrival here. They were safely planted in the various streams around here long before nightfall.

Of these fish the greater majority were placed in the Sespe, being carried well up the streams before being released. Eight cans were taken up Pole creek, and four cans were taken up Hopper canyon. The rest were all destined for the Sespe.

It takes constant work to keep the fish in these streams replenished, owing to the ease with which thousands of anglers can reach these waters by auto from Los Angeles, and from practically all this section of Southern California.

After their arrival here the cans were loaded in motor trucks and taken as near as possible to the point of release. Those who volunteered to furnish the trucks for the purpose were: Montebello Oil Co., Hickey Bros., Co-Op Co., Frank Atmore and the Arundell brothers.

October 27, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

STEELHEAD TROUT IN VENTURA RIVER – Steelhead trout have been seen at the mouth of the Ventura river—and some have been caught. Others will be, judging by the activity of some of the fishermen.

December 5, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

STEELHEAD FISHING OPENS DECEMBER 15 – (From Thursday's Daily Courier) The game law will permit fishing for steelhead again on December 15. The new law changes the old order of things, and fishermen will now be permitted to fish only 100 feet above the Ventura river bridge, or at tide water.

December 10, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

SURF FISHING AND ALL ATTENDANT JOYS OPENS DECEMBER 15 – After but two weeks of legally enforced rest, the licensed anglers will resume operations against the big trout in tidal waters of the up-coast rivers in Ventura, Santa Barbara and other counties beyond, on and after next Monday, December 15.

Weather permitting, the sportsman may continue taking his "five fish per day, regardless of weight" and only "in the manner commonly known as angling"—i.e., with rod and line, on the lower lagoons of the Santa Clara, Ventura and Santa Ynez rivers, right on thru the ensuing two months, finishing the last day of February.

The persecuted trout will then have the month of March under protection, wherein to discharge their duty by Nature and the licensed angler. Verily, trout fishing is pretty close to a continuous performance in Southern California, considering the diversity in seasons between fish and game districts four and three-rather too nearly continuous, in the opinion of fish and game commission hatchery experts who realize fully how valuable is the natural propagation in those larger coastal streams. However, the limiting of winter fishing to tidewater only during the "spawning run" is a very great conservation measure, as it puts, automatically, an end to the "snagging," "gaffing," "herding" and other hand picking methods that so disgusted true sportsmen with the entire business of winter trout fishing during the past two seasons.

As a matter of fact, tidewater fishing for these big breeders is decidedly a man's game, sport of a high and eminently respectable order, not by any fair means to be condemned because of the abuses that developed from allowing fishermen an excuse to be on the smaller streams with tackle during the run of spawners.

The man who teases two or three of these splendid, silvery trout from the surf in any one day, not to say the lawful five, is enjoying something that is not finished with the beaching or boating of his sleek, lusty beauties. There is a royal feast of fish for friends in store besides. These shining spanners are in the very pink of their condition. Nature having so ordered it that a fish is in its prime, at the reproductive period of its life, deteriorating immediately it spends it spawn.

Deputy Harry I. Pritchard left Los Angels today to co-operate with Deputies John J. Barnett, Henry J. Abels and Harry D. Becker in staking off thus designating officially in behalf of the fish and game commission, the tide water limits in the various streams up the coast, above which marks no fishing will be permitted. This will be done prior to the

operating of the season, and the limits will be strictly enforced, as public sentiment up the coast is very bitter against such spoiling of the streams as took place under the laws of 1917-18, and judges will probably be disposed to impose heavy fines upon any who attempt to stretch these already liberal boundaries and privileges.

The tidal lagoons at the mouths of the largest three up-coast rivers will be open territory to the winter angler again this year. No true sportsman would care to fish above, as there is abundant water open to accommodate all comers below. As yet, not enough rain has fallen to open up these streams freely to the sea, and the first run of ripe steelheads is yet to take place, so there is good grounds for hopes of a repetition of the phenomenal sport of the last two "dry" seasons, when the fish were bar-bound and concentrated around the trickling outlets of fresh water until reasonably skilled anglers were able to catch all of these fine trout that they wished.

December 13, 1919 – Oxnard Courier

STEELHEAD FISHERS MUST BE CAREFUL – All preparations for the proper patrolling of the up-coast rivers to enforce the new law limiting winter trout fishing to tidewater only have been completed by the Fish & Game Commission in readiness for the grand opening of the steelhead season Monday, December 15.

The high water limits have been staked off by Deputy H.L. Pritchard acting with the local deputies, Jack Barnett and Henry Abels in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties respectively.

As the Ventura streams, because of their proximity to the larger centers of population will be fished most extensively. Deputy Pritchard first looked over the Santa Clara and Ventura. Writing Thursday before the rain, he states for the benefit of the licensed anglers who have planned to be in at the beginning that the Santa Clara was running the most water, but muddy, while the Ventura was clear, and both were delivering a good stream into the ocean, although hardly enough to attract many of the big breeders as yet. For that matter, it is still early in the spawning period.

The Santa Clara has a lagoon running parallel with the beach a mile long, while the Ventura lagoon is about half as large.

Extending 250 feet north of the railroad bridges at both places, the deputies have staked off tidewater limits with signs reading "High water limit", and the same is being done at the mouth of the Santa Ynez farther up.

The forays of illegal trawlers, sneaking hauls inshore and perhaps picking up a few steelheads, have had the early attention of the Fish & Game Commission's sea patrol, which left for a general clean-up of the illicit operators in the Santa Barbara channel. While it is not that any great damage can be done the steelheads by this netting, it is unlawful proceeding anyway as all dragging is forbidden within the three-mile limit,

although the high prices of fish prevailing for some time past keep the state patrol authorities on the qui vive in many places at once.

1 9 2 0

Rainfall – 14.24 Inches

March 8, 1920 – Oxnard Courier

FISHING PROSPECTS IMPROVED BY RAINS – Bountiful rains of the past two weeks have completely changed the prospects of the licensed angling fraternity in Southern California, most of whom had about lost interest in trout-fishing because of February bringing virtually no rainfall up to the middle of the month.

Since Walton, the angler has been full of hope; but without water, the most enthusiastic can not fish. Now abundant water is assured, early in the season at least. To maintain prolonged flow in the streams will require a greater precipitation than can be expected henceforth.

With fishing opening in Ventura, and other up-coast counties again after a rest of the present month, interest of sportsmen has concentrated on the Sespe, Ventura and Santa Ynez systems, which were about at "low-water-mark" last month, but now are carrying a fine flow of water.

Deputies Barnett and Abels report to the Fish and Game commission that the flood waters now running are admitting a heavy "run" of belated steelheads to the streams, with every prospect of normal fishing conditions, when April Fool's Day arrives, the prospect being that the fish, rather than the fisherman, will be "fooled."

The new lake being formed behind the Gibraltar Dam in the Santa Ynez is filling very fast, and probably will reach its height. This bids fair to add materially to the trout-fishing attraction of that section, and its value is fully appreciated by the Santa Barbara Water company, which has complied cheerfully with all State law requirements in behalf of the fish. The new lake is not only stocked naturally, but has had special attention from the Fish and Game Commission. This will be the first year, and it is sure to come in for a heavy "play," as the Santa Ynez Valley always has been a Mecca of trout-anglers, and more so henceforth than ever.

March 25, 1920 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – TROUT season opens in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Kern Counties, April First. Now for the big ones, fellows! They are challenging you from clear, cool depths. Look over your Fishing Tackle and other equipment, see that everything is in readiness.

If you need new equipment—Get it at Santa Paula Hardware Co. Rods, Reels, Lines, Hooks, Creels, Flies, Spinners, Leaders, Tyee, Salmon Eggs, all kinds of Camp Stoves, and in fact everything for the angler.

Get your 1920 Fishing License at Santa Paula Hardware Co. F.G. Schulze, Proprietor.

FISHING TO BE GOOD IN VENTURA COUNTY STREAMS – Ventura County's enthusiastic interest in angling was well recognized in last year's trout plantings by the Fish & Game Commission, whose experts realized the excessive drains imposed upon her streams by the concentration of fishing thereupon under the ill-advised "Winter Season" and the April opening. These left the fish but two and one-half months rest during the year, and the ready accessibility of Ventura's larger rivers by automobiling parties assured an excess of popularity among the licensed angling fraternity.

In all, 400,000 fish were consigned to Ventura County and divided among its three great watersheds, Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner Jack Barnett and co-operating sportsmen attending to the distribution.

The Ventura system was awarded the lion's share because having to bear the brunt of angling exploitation because of its accessibility, receiving 182,000 fish in its various tributaries. The Sespe was allotted 122,000, the Santa Paula 80,000. Beside these, Hopper Creek was given 10,000 Rainbow, Lockwood Creek 4,000 and Timber Creek 2,000 of Eastern Brook trout. Coyote Creek 4,000 was intrusted with the job of rearing a canful, or 2,000 Eastern "Red Spots," while the favorable water conditions of the Santa Paula were felt to warrant a good trial of 10,000 of those boyhood favorites.

Both Mount Shasta and Mount Whitney hatcheries contributed the total. The fish from Whitney were conceded by all who handled them to be the largest, lustiest and liveliest trout fry they had ever seen. This held true of all species reared in the cold but richly food-laden waters of Oak Creek on the Eastern Sierras, where trout grow an inch a month under modern scientific fish cultural methods in the most advanced hatchery in the world.

Certainly, if Ventura sport does not satisfy its patrons this summer, any short comings can be ascribed to previous "over fishing," rather than to any deficiency in either quantity or quality of last fall's fish plantings. More trout were planted better than ever has been possible heretofore. Yet further improvements in diversifying and splitting up the distribution are planned with the co-operation of willing sportsmen-anglers this summer.

Now that the natural "spawners" are protected, once in the streams, by the wise "Tidewater Steelhead" limitation, State Supt. of Fish Culture W.H. Shebley believes that time and plenty of artificially propagated trout added can repair whatever damage has been done under previous abuse of the winter fishing privilege. This veteran expert, who has supervised fish propagation for the State during 37 years, is in favor of greater legislative protection in behalf of the fish. He views with considerable alarm the spreading of roads and increasing use of motor cars, realizing the impossibility of raising fish to sporting size when taken out a year after they are put in.

By breaking up last summer's distribution and running the fish cars straight through their route on every trip instead of swamping willing workers with their entire seasonal allotment to handle in a single day, the Fish & Game Commission last year established a

precedent for the efficient handling of trout fry. It is expected to go far beyond this during 1920 by rendering pack train distribution to the headwaters easily possible for those willing to contribute so much of their time and labor to the improvement of the sport.

Water conditions this spring have been far more favorable to the fish than appeared possible six weeks ago, when an extreme adverse season seemed certain. There will be too much, rather than too little, water this year for the early April angler.

TROUT FISHING DAYS ARE NEAR AT HAND – Is there something the matter with you these bright, warm spring days, and you don't know what it is?

Do you look around at the grass starting and the trees in bloom and the birds flying around and everybody making gardens, and feel kind of fussy way down inside of you and wonder what it is that makes you wish that you were a boy or girl again running around barefooted and tearing your clothes and not mother telling you what the old H.C.L. is going to make us pay for new clothes?

Sam Primmer of the Primmer Cycle and Sporting Goods Company says this is all caused by the closeness of the trout season, which opens April 1st, and raves on in this way (he never quite gets over one opening until the next is here):

"From the experience we have had in fishing for trout, we look for the best season we have had for several years, as the streams here, thanks to the efforts of our local sportsmen, have been stocked heavier than ever before, so many of the other streams in the southern part of the state not having enough water last fall to justify the planting of trout, and as a result of the personal visit of some of the fish and game commissioners to these streams, we got more than double our usual allotment of trout and there having been no heavy storms to kill them while they were small, there should be plenty of fish for everybody.

"The Sespe and Santa Paula and Ventura streams at the present time are in the best of condition and of course that means that the streams flowing into them are also in fine shape. Those who are in the habit of fishing in the Hopper, Pole and other small creeks will probably be disappointed this year, as they were either planted light or not at all, and having only the natural increase of trout, which has been estimated by many fish authorities to be from 7 to 14 percent of the eggs laid, while the hatcheries by artificial methods get from 70 to 85 percent.

"We also want to mention the Santa Ynez, which we think one of the prettiest week-end trips in this part of the country. You can leave here Saturday, drive to the stream, making camp in a place which at this time of the year is a beautiful natural park with big oak trees and lots of green grass and as this is not a rocky stream, but more like the Santa Clara, it is perfectly safe to take the children along and not have to worry about their falling off a rock and getting drowned. While the trout are generally small, it is no trouble for almost anyone to catch a limit in a short time.

"It is expected that there will be lots of steelhead in the streams this year, as on account of the late rains they are only partly through their run now."

March 26, 1920 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Ventura County Co-Op Ass'n. Trout Season opens April 1st. The indication for a splendid fishing season are well nigh perfect. Secure an outfit, trek your way to any of the nearby mountain streams, know the satisfaction of having spent a "Perfect Day." Bring home a well filled basket, cook'em browned well—Umh! We have just received a full supply of fishermen's equipment in Rods, Reels, Lines, Flies, Leaders, Spinners and Baskets. Fishermen's Licenses issued at our office.

ADVERTISEMENT – For Men Only. Slipping along the stream, carefully, from rock to rock: sighting that quiet hole deep in the shadow of the overhanging bank where the stream wings aside at the bend just ahead—

But why go on? You know what the sensation is, and it makes me all nervous and fussed up to even write about it.

Shucks! Get out that pole and line and look it over; it's nothing to be ashamed of—that sensation—and you'd just as well be outspoken and admit it. It's a weakness that's quite general, among mankind, being slightly more in evidence among the male of the specie, especially those who get a genuine love out of living.

By the way, while looking over your outfit, you might stop in at the store—Hickey Bros. Co., you know—and look over some of our new stuff. We've got in one of the prettiest lines of fishing tackle you ever laid eyes on, and extras too, such as metal tips, guides, sockets, shanks and all the life for upholstering your old pole, if you're going to chance it instead of buying a new one.

Anyway, come on in and let's talk it over. I like to talk fishing; it's almost as much fun as the fishing is. Hickey Bros. Co. "The Store That is Different"

March 31, 1920 – Oxnard Courier

TOMORROW IS FISHING DAY AND PROSPECTS LOOK GOOD – One warm sunny Sunday, alone seems enough to stir latent ardor of angling enthusiasm into the real flash of spring fever that is normal at this season of mating birds, budding trees, blooming flowers and buzzing bees. Now, every "he man" and many a lady indeed, feel it's high time to get into a trout brook and "treat 'em rough" to the limits of law and light tackle.

With opening of lawful fishing in Ventura, Kern and counties in beyond but a few hours away, the fish and game commission worked overtime yesterday speeding out books of angling license to sporting goods and hardware dealers, who retail them to the fellows whose dollars thus contributed, keep trout on the map as "going business" in our

overworked creeks. Yesterday's frantic scramble around sporting goods emporiums indicted angling certainly is a going business this week. The exodus is starting already among those who mean to go as far as they can, seeking that chimera of the trout fisherman, "an unfrequented stream". "There ain't no such place" in this Southern land of nigh 40,000 anglers.

General Stream Conditions. The Sespe, Santa Paula and Ventura watersheds will naturally come in for the heaviest play from the licensed angling fraternity. Ventura county boasts enough Waltonian disciples without the metropolitan reinforcements that her improved boulevards and ready accessibility of her streams assure in this southern Mecca of motorist-sportsmen. Unless present signs lie, there will be a demand for uniform opening dates on all sporting seasons in the south after the demonstration of interest presaged by the ante-season angling license sales.

Salmon eggs having reappeared in stocks somewhat, those not yet graduated into the comparatively creditable and scientific grade of worm-wriggling can hope to grease the camp pan, while "crabbing the game" for those who come after, as the doped spawn does. There is a steadily increasing opposition to salmon eggs which scarcity and high cost of past seasons may have helped; but they can not become too scarce or high to please most of the men whose hearts really ring true to propagation and conservation of trout.

Skilled "spinners" who understand the really fine art of properly presenting a spoon, will enjoy satisfactory sport in the Ventura. Deputies Barnett and Hare have been on daily patrol of that splendid trout stream, and report that the heavy rains swept the whole system clean of moss, and before the last showers the bottom could be seen almost anywhere. This will be good news to wormers and spinners.

Plenty of Big Ones Left. The deputies also report an unusual number of big steelheads remaining in the deep pools owing to the unusually well sustained flow due to the lateness of the rains. These picture fish can be teased into taking an honest grab at a change of roe occasionally; but none of this gaffing or netting stuff will be likely to get by, and anything resembling "snagging 'em" will go good for a pinch and pungle in Ventura. The local judges saw more than enough of such abuses under the winter law prior to the limitation to tidewater. The judges have assured the fish & game commission that they will co-operate toward enforcement of the law limiting fishing to the manner known as angling, and that stiff fines await the transgressor.

More good news comes from Deputy Barnett, whose experience with Ventura conditions as a sportman-angler is second to no man's. Barnett says the fish he saw between rains all months averaged much larger than in other years, and he saw many running up stream. This is explained by last year's low water, which forced many trout to sea as yearlings, or even less. They grow faster in the richer food of the ocean; and will attain ten-inch length where their brothers remaining in fresh water will hardly average seven. Anyone who knows the difference between four and seven-inch trout realizes that it represents comparing mere bent-pin slaughter with really passable sport; and every inch atop of

seven counts double against the light fly-rod in time, skill and personal satisfaction of the angler.

Even to those to whom trout fishing spells nothing unless they can flick the artificial fly may find some passable fun to their ultra fancy by going afar up the small creeks to their headwaters, where water is clearer and lower. Here, some sport during the warmer hours is possible.

April 1, 1920 – Los Angeles Times

PLENTY TROUT FOR LICENSEE – Despite the combination of general forest fires, and low water last summer, with railroad strikes tying up transportation, and the unprecedentedly-heavy rains of last September, the Fish and Game Commission during the fall of 1919 succeeded in making the heaviest trout plantings in Southern California sporting history, and to generally better advantage in up-coast streams than ever before was possible.

The plantings made up the coast summarize as follows by streams and species, the initials denoting the kind, RB for rainbow, EB for eastern brook, LL for Loch Leven, SH for steelhead, QS for Quinnat Salmon, totals also given for systems, as the stream stock will mix in their natural scattering after being distributed:

Ventura county—Main Ventura, 75,000 SH, 25,000 QS; North For, 20,000 SH; North Fork Matilija, 30,000 RB, San Antonio, 20,000 RB, Coyote, 5,000 RB, 2,000 EB, Santa Ana, 5,000 SH, total Ventura system, 100,000 SH, 55,000 RB, 25,000 QS, 2,000 EB, or 182,000 fish in all. Upper main Sespe, 74,000 SH, 44,000 RB, Piedra Blanca 4,000 RB, or 122,000 trout in all. Main Santa Paula, 30,000 SH, 10,000 RB, 10,000 EB, North and South Forks, 30,000 RB, or 80,000 in all. Hopper Creek, 10,000 RB, Lockwood Creek, 4,000 RB, Timber Creek, 2,000 EB; or total for county, 300,000 fish in all.

April 1, 1920 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens in Ventura, Santa Barbara and Kern Counties Today. Santa Paula Hardware Co.

April 2, 1920 – Fillmore Herald

OPENING OF FISHING BRINGS BIG CROWDS – As usual Los Angeles Anglers Were Much in Evidence. The fishing season in this section opened yesterday. And it opened with a rush as usual. The highways and the short drive, make the trout streams of Ventura county very alluring to the thousands of Los Angeles fishermen. Owing to the closing of the Piru-Castaic road not as many of these came through Fillmore as in other years. But Ventura caught its usual large crowd.

Hundreds of local fishermen were off up the Sespe Wednesday night, or early Thursday morning. Before noon stories of the fishermen began to drift back to town.

The general verdict seemed to be that the recent rains had left the stream too high and not quite clear enough for fishing purposes. The wise old fishermen all declared that the fishing would be better a month from now than it was yesterday. But that did not prevent nearly every enthusiastic angler in town from getting out yesterday morning. At some spots it looked as though there must be at least one fisherman for every fish.

Which, of course, is an exaggeration. As the state commission put more fish into Ventura county streams last summer than in any previous year. And if anything they were better planted.

Stories of local fishermen who "got the limit" were by no means infrequent. But the stories of extra large ones were few and far between. The fisherman who got them anywhere between six and nine inches was really playing in fairly good luck.

As has been its custom for several years the hardware department of the Co-Op offered a prize of $5 to the first angler who reported with "the limit." This year the prize went to an "outlander." The first fisherman to report there with the limit was P.J. Dillon, of Los Angeles.

April 2, 1920 – Oxnard Courier

BIG ONES CAUGHT AT VENTURA – Ventura fishermen report the following big catches for the first day of the season, according to the *Free Press*: Art Chrisman caught the biggest fish. His trout, which he believes is the biggest caught today, measures 29 ¼ inches and was caught in Coyote creek. Fred Chapman is next with a 22-inch trout and another 18 5/8 inches in length, both caught at Casitas park. A.C. Figueroa caught a 25 ½ inch and 20 ½ inch fish at Foster Park bridge, and Mrs. Ted Henderson caught one 22 ½ inches long at the same place. These fish are on display in Walter Jones' sporting goods store display window.

H.H. EASTWOOD GETS BIGGEST FISH – H. H. Eastwood landed an 15-inch rainbow trout yesterday, near Matilija, while fishing with Grant Fraser and George Bartlett. This is the largest reported caught by local fishermen.

The fishing yesterday was very good in the early morning and again toward sunset, but poor during the day.

The best fishing of all was reported in the Sespe.

April 5, 1920 – Oxnard Courier

LITTLE STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE – C.A. Miller, R. Frenzal, J.A. Glove and C.W. Pohlman formed a quartette of fishermen who went to the Sturgis ranch on a fishing trip Saturday nigh, returning last night with a fine catch of fish.

Among the big catches of the fishing season were those of Charles Rodaway when he landed a 21-inch steelhead trout last Friday and a 26-inch salmon which weighed seven pounds last Sunday, both fish being caught in the Sespe river.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Orpin and family of Los Angeles were guest at the R. Beck home driving up her Saturday afternoon. Mr. Orpin and two sons, Carl and Bob, spent Saturday evening and Sunday fishing in the Ventura river and succeeded in bring home a large catch which was subsequently enjoyed at the Beck home Sunday morning.

May 6, 1920 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WHAT PRIMMER SAYS ABOUT FISH AND FISHING – Sam Primmer says that now the fishermen of Ventura County can settle down and do some real trout fishing, as the opening of the season in Districts Four and Four and One-Half will take away most of the crowd from outside counties and give the trout here a chance to come out from behind their rocks without having to dodge all the feet and legs that hey have had to dodge the first month of the season.

Exactly opposite to what the conditions were at the opening of the season, the trout will now be found well up in the streams, and for those who are willing to take the trouble and time to walk a few miles up in the Sespe there waits some of the finest fly fishing to be found any place in the state, while one can get all the fish that he wishes to use in any of the streams with a little effort on the part of the fisherman.

One of the traits of a fisherman who depends on fly and spinner for his fish is that most of them get sport enough out of a few fish to be satisfied and not care about getting the limit as long as he has what he wants to use and while we by no means wish to condemn the bait fisherman and think that especially at the first of the season bait is justified and do not hesitate to say that at the first of the season we use it ourselves, we are going to be mean enough to say that we think that the use of salmon eggs by the thousands of fishermen who visit our streams the first month in the season when the trout are spawning and fish eggs are the natural food of the trout, take out hundreds of trout which are not large enough to take the hook and only have hold of the egg when they are landed and which would grow much larger if they were only tempted with fly, spinner or old fashion garden tackle sometimes called angle worms.

The fishing in the Bishop country has every indication of being up to its usual high standard this year, but reports are that this year on account of the snow, it will not be very good until near the first of June, and our advice to the one who wants the best fishing is to go early and not wait for the thousand or so people who will be in there in August.

May 28, 1920 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – W.W. Newcomer has been away on a fishing trip this week. He was expected home last night, unless some big fish might have pulled him into the Sespe. “Shorty” was accompanied on the trip by Emil Kirschbaum of Bardsdale.

KEEP ALL OUR MOUNTAINS CLEAN – Every mountain, canyon and beach highway in the southern part of the state is to be kept clean this summer through the efforts of the State Board of Health and the Automobile Club of Southern California, according to an announcement just made.

A drastic campaign of widespread influence will be launched by state and club officials in the first concentrated effort to make the canyons of Southern California look less like refuse "dumps" and more like pleasure grounds.

Up to this year there has been very little attention paid to the sanitation of the canyon streams along the roads in the vacation areas, it is pointed out by the auto club. The number of people affected, however, is becoming so great that it has been thought necessary by the State Board of Health to start a systematic and extensive campaign looking toward the cleaning up of these places.

Some of the canyons late in the summer resemble outfall sewers more than picnic places, say the authorities, and it is because motorists persist in throwing empty tin cans everywhere, apparently with the idea that they are never coming back to the same place anyway, so why worry?

There are many sports along the highways and popular drives and picnic points within the boundaries of Ventura county to which the above description fittingly applies, the more's the pity.

…Thousands of signs will be placed along the roads warning motorists that polluted water is as dangerous as a plague and asking them not to throw refuse in the streams.

August 6, 1920 – Fillmore Herald

CAMPING OUT – It costs a good bit of money to buy, build or keep up a summer cottage or bungalow in these days. Hotel prices are very high. Hence a multitude of people are returning to first principles and simple life, by "camping out." The tent makers must be doing a tremendous business. Last summer 1,000,000 campers were declared to have camped in the national forests of California alone, and it is predicted that in a few years 5,000,000 will have enjoyed outings in these reservations.

October 14, 1920 – Oxnard Courier

LITTLE STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE – Some 400,000 trout are to be planted in Ventura county streams next Tuesday. Ventura river will get the largest share, 120,000; Wheelers will receive 26,000 and the remainder will be scattered thruout other streams.

October 15, 1920 – Fillmore Herald

MANY FISH PLANTED – In the fishing streams around Fillmore on last Tuesday they turned loose 60,000 trout from the state fish hatchery. Most of these were taken up the

Sespe by the following volunteer workers: Ranger De la Riva, driving a truck donated by the Orange Lea; Ray Lindenfeld, driving a truck furnished by the Co-Op, and Parker Dear, driving a truck furnished by the Willard Oil Co.

Frank Arundell made the distribution up Pole creek, while Charlie Rehart turned two cans of them loose in Fish Slough.

October 19, 1920 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

Fish Car Trip No. 4 Mt. Whitney Hatchery Oct. 19th 1920 – Lv. Lone Pine Oct. 18

Fish & Game Prot. Ass'n., Buckhorn – 5 RB
Fish & Game Prot. Ass'n., Brownstone – 25 SG
Fish & Game Prot. Ass'n., Santa Paula – 5 RB
C.S. Saxton, Montalvo – 2 RB
Geo. A. Bald, Ventura – 4 RB
Wheeler Hot Springs, Ventura – 10 RB
J.J. Barnett, Ventura – 20 RB, 25 SG
All Returned

November 2, 1920 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

Fish Car Trip No. 7 Mt. Whitney Hatchery Nov. 3 1920 – Lv. Lone Pine Nov 2, 1920

Clyde Spencer, Piru – 10 SG
Fish & Game Prot. Ass'n., Brownstone – 30 RB
Fish & Game Prot. Ass'n., Santa Paula – 5 RB
Walter F Emerick, Santa Barbara – 2 RB
H.J. Abels, Surf – 25 SG
Abels cans returned to car at Surf

November 4, 1920 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RAINBOW TROUT PLANTED – Ten thousand rainbow trout were planted in creeks back of Sulphur Mountain Springs on Wednesday morning by Warden S.T. Primmer and his assistants. The previous planting of trout, set out a few weeks ago, were found to be growing and thriving in their location, only a few found dead of all the hatch.

December 31, 1920 – Fillmore Herald

FILLMORE AS AN OLD-TIMER SEES IT – by Major H.W. Patton (Article appeared in the *Los Angeles Examiner* and was reprinted. It was reminisces from the 1880s to present and is a booster piece about Fillmore.) …I also had the honor to meet John McNab, whose father was instrumental in moving the townsite from Sespe to Fillmore. After leaving him I learned that he had married Miss Conts my old friend. Mr. McNab is a great friend of J.J. Mellus of Los Angles, who used to go up the Sespe to Dr. Crawford's

cabin and fish. He claims to have caught a fish 36 inches long and its outlines are drawn on a board in the old cabin…

December 31, 1920 – Oxnard Courier

COUNTY SPORTSMEN WANT LAWS CHANGED – Sportsmen all over the county met at Fillmore this afternoon at 2 o'clock for the purpose of considering certain proposed changes in the fish and game laws.

According to Game Warden Barnett, the sportsmen of this county seek to have the quail laws so changed that the season will open here on October 1 and not November 15, as prevails at this time.

Owing to the influx of Los Angeles sportsmen here the first two weeks in August for the deer season, the hunters of this county seek to have the season here open on August 15, the same date as it does in Los Angeles. As it is now, it opens on August 1, giving the sportsmen of that county an opportunity to come here and clean out the best hunting before the sport opens in their own county. And they do come here in numbers.

The sportsmen also seek tidewater fishing for steelhead and to close the trout season to May 1. As it is now it is closed to April 1.

1 9 2 1

Rainfall – 17.28 Inches

February 4, 1921 – Fillmore Herald

GAME WARDEN BUSY – County Game Warden Barnett was a busy man during the month of January, according to the report which he has just filed with the board of supervisors.

Every day during the month the game warden has been busy in various parts of the county checking licenses, investigating fishing in the Ventura and Santa Clara rivers; making investigations as to the killing of deer on the Broome ranch and other sections. …Mr. Barnett reports that many fish are going up the Ventura river. …The more serious aspect of this report is that the oil from the sump holes at the Ventura oil wells is contaminating the water of the Ventura river and that he believes complaint will have to be filed to stop the oil wells from turning the refuse oil into the river.

March 17, 1921 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT SEASON WILL OPEN APRIL 1ST – Only nineteen more days—count them off on your calendar, fishermen—until the trout fishing season opens in this locality. Fishing for trout in these streams commences April 1st and experts say there are plenty of fish to be found.

March 18, 1921 – Fillmore Herald

THEY'RE MY FISH – by William Hamilton Miller. Had a talk with my good friend, Stanley Lothridge, the other day. Stanley goes about with fear and trembling in his heart lest the august Fish and Game Commission of this state be legislated out of existence. He need have no fear of any action on my part. I would be the last one to lay a profane and desecrating hand upon that splendid organization as now constituted. No "Salmon Shepherd" under the jurisdiction of the commission need shake in his shoes because of anything that I will attempt to do.

The mainstay of the argument put up for the preservation of the commission in its present form is this: "It is a commission that is entirely supported by license fees paid by men and women who fish and hunt. Therefore, per se, those who pay the hunting and fishing licenses should be permitted to dictate absolutely how the money should be spent, and under what regulations."

Which argument would be perfectly unanswerable—provided these people who fish and hunt were fishing and hunting their own fish and their own game. Which, unfortunately, is not so.

For they fish MY fish and hunt MY game. Sometimes they may imagine that the fish in the streams and the game in the forests are THEIRS. But the fact is that they are OURS. Belonging to tall of the people—or to the state—which is just another way of saying the people. (In theory).

Therefore if all the owners of the fish and game see fit to taken any particular action for the protection of THEIR property it will ill befit any minority of them to raise a howl about how we do it—even though each of them pays a fishing or a hunting license.

And it is all right that they should pay, and keep on paying, regardless of what shape the fish and game commission may eventually take. For they are the people not only FOR who we protect OUR fish and game, but they are also the very birds FROM who we protect them.

Fish need no protection from those of us who do not fish. Wild game needs no protection from those of us who are so soft of either hand, or head, or heart, that we see no "sport" in sending a bullet crushing into the heart of some beautiful and harmless creature of the wild wood that looks towards the threatening rifle barrel with eyes as clear and innocent as those of a baby.

Just let that soak in.

March 19, 1921 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Now For the Trout! If you are going after them, get ready and don't leave things until the last minute. Look your traps over NOW and get everything in order. And be sure to test your line carefully and see that it is right. Better still, get yourself a KINGFISHER LINE and be sure your are right. Let the other fellow tell the hard-luck story about "the big one that got away." You can always trust the KINGFISHER for they prove our slogan—"THEY CAN'T GET AWAY FROM A KINGFISHER LINE." Come in and see us, anyhow, and swap fish yarns and talk it over. We are never too busy to talk about fishing and there are lots of "new things" to look over. We carry a carefully selected stock of the most up-to-date tackle and everything for the fisherman. A fine new stock of Winchester Fishing Tackle. Be sure and See It. Agents for the famous "Kingfisher" line. Santa Paula Hardware Co.

March 21, 1921 – Oxnard Courier

TROUT SEASON TO OPEN APRIL 1ST – Local sportsmen as well as fishermen from all parts of the state will be glad to hear that the 1921 fishing season opens on April 1. The glad season is only two weeks off and already many fishing lovers are getting out their rods and flies.

The best trout fishing for local sportsmen will be found at Sespe, near Fillmore. Ventura county is no good for fishing this year. According to old-time fishermen the Ventura

river will not hold much interest for sportsmen as there was no heavy flow of water to wash the sand away from the mouth and no fish were able to get to the source to spawn.

Santa Clara river was more fortunate, although it had not real torrents to wash away the deltas. But nevertheless many steelhead managed to make their way up to the Sespe, and it is learned that the biggest school ever seen there is now swimming about awaiting the season to open.

March 24, 1921 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISMENT – Complete Trout Fishing Outfit, $7.55. Saturday only $6.50. Fire Permits. Fishing Licenses. Primmer Cycle and Sporting Goods Co.

March 31, 1921 – Los Angeles Times

SPRING FEVER' GOIN' FISHING' – Trout season opens on "April Fool's Day" in the counties north and west of Los Angeles under the most encouraging weather conditions that have enthused the licensed angling fraternity thus early in several years.

Warm, wonderful days seem to have made "spring fever" epidemic among the south's ever-recruiting army of over 40,000 loyal supporters of the State's fish cultural and protective work in their behalf. The "April Fool" part of it bids fair to run all against the fingerlings from last fall's plantings. With generally low, clear water, and apparently an unusually large early-season angling interest, the little things are certain to be hard hit this coming month.

…The Sespe probably will draw most of the attention in Ventura county, being quite the highest of the water systems thereabouts, and rather roiled last Sunday as seen by Deputies Hare and Barnett of the Fish and Game Commission, who laid for the sooners at the Sespe Dam, and got one three ways, for fishing before the season, without a license, and within the prohibited distance from a fishway. It cost him $50 and added another proof to the fact that ante-season trout are about the most expensive fish per pound in history. (Article also includes Santa Barbara and Kern counties conditions and persons of note planning to fish.)

March 31, 1921 – Oxnard Courier

LITTLE STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE – H.H. Eastwood was busy today hunting up his rod and tackle to get first whacks at the trout in the coming fishing season which opens tomorrow.

Ralph Anderson of Oxnard and R.E. Christie of Santa Paula will leave tonight for Santa Ynez on a fishing trip expecting to be gone for a few days.

March 31, 1921 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHERMEN GETTING READY FOR THE ONE BIG DAY – Fishermen are in readiness for the one big day of their life, Friday, April the first, when the trout season opens in Ventura and Kern Counties. Sam Primmer, who sells the anglers licenses here, hadn't even time to talk fishing this week for the steady run of applicants who were getting their official permits to follow their favorite sport. And when Sam is too busy to talk fishing, he's some busy.

Reports from the Sespe and other favorite haunts of the elusive trout come in to the effect that the sport is good. The returning fishermen will have to verify or contradict this, according to the results of their attempts. At any rate, many are to set their Big Bens for an early hour tomorrow morning and try their luck with reel and line and fly.

There is absolutely no significance says Primmer, in the coincidence that the opening of the fishing season comes on All Fool's Day.

April 1, 1921 – Fillmore Herald

ADVERTISEMENT – Ventura County Co-Operative Association. Toggery. The Fishing and Outing Season is here! Remember we are prepared to meet your requirements in Outing Clothing. We are headquarters for Khaki Breeches, Khaki Shirts, Khaki Coats, Leather Puttees, High-Cut Boots. Where Quality and Price Meet.

April 1, 1921 – Los Angeles Times

ALL READY FOR FESTIVE ANGLER – Trout Season, in all districts from Los Angeles to Ventura except four and a half (the southern district,) opens this morning with the usual wild batch of demon Isaak Waltons on hand for the festival. Experts predict it will be the best season on record.

Sharp-eyed scouts, who have been peering into the limpid depths of the Santa Ynez, Ventura, Santa Paula, Sespe and other streams, have brought back the information that the scaly beauties are to be had in larger and more plenteous quantities than ever before.

The Sespe particularly is said to be well stocked with steelhead, and in the Ventura small stream fish from the Casitas bridge and above Lyon's Camp, can be had in quantities. Fred Thatcher, who never missed a trout season opening in his life, says the West Fork around Wheeler's camp, will also provide good sport, as will Piru and Santa Paula, but Thatcher, as well as the rest of the advance seekers for favorable localities, predicts the Sespe, in the place, at least for early fishing.

…Ventura is expected to be the county invaded by the heaviest horde, although good reports on trout conditions have been coming from all streams to open. Peterson, however, tells us on the side that Santa Ynez and Kern rivers will be the best bets. Other streams that will open and from which good reports have been heard are Santa Paula,

Ventura, Sespe, Santa Ynez and Sisquoc. (Article finishes with persons of note and where they plan to fish.)

April 2, 1921 – Oxnard Courier

SEVERAL CATCH LIMITS SINCE SEASON OPENS – "Whew! I must have a big one on here," and he must have, for Lee Ross got the biggest trout caught so far. It was a beautiful fish weighing 16 pounds. This made Art Caldwell envious, but did not help him catch one. Ross and Caldwell went out yesterday morning along the Matilija and got back last night with the prize catch.

William Ross, brother of Lee, came all the way from Los Angeles to have a taste of the delicious 16-pound trout caught by his brother. He intends going back to Los Angeles tonight.

Elton Fulton, a high school boy, did not catch such big ones but he did get the limit. He and Bent Puntenney and Douglas Green went up to Lyons Springs yesterday and had a most successful day.

George Bartlett got a good catch as he sent 12 of the best fish to Ed Davision of Oxnard. He caught about 40 at the camp.

George Austin went up to Camp Bartlett for the day but found the sport a little slow, although he got a fairly good mess of fish. He did not go until the afternoon, and the fish were not biting as good as they were in the morning. He said the water was low and there was lots of moss.

Austin, who is an authority on the sport, having watched the streams in Ventura for the past 15 years, says that there is nothing in the Ventura river, but elsewhere the fishing is good, except in the lower end of Ventura.

He said he was talking with a man from Santa Paula, and the latter said that it was an easy task to go out to Sespe and come back with the limit before 9 o'clock in the morning. Rudolph Frenzal and All Miller picked up limits at Sespe and said there was nothing to it.

Yesterday and today have been great days for those who love angling but tomorrow will be greater still. Everyone will be free, and in the morning they will be making their way to the creeks and streams with their rods. It is expected that every stream in the county will be strewn with anglers eagerly trying to rid the waters of their precious fish.

April 7, 1921 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES – The Trustees very generously gave us Friday as a holiday on account of fishing season opening that day.

FUN GALORE—BUT FEW FISH – Another of the fishing parties that went out for the opening of the season was that composed of Geo. W. Caldwell, W.J. Wise of Los Angeles, James Wester of La Habra, and W.C. Snyder of South Pasadena. Santa Inez was made the destination of this party, where among the mountains of that resort they found a pleasant stay of from Thursday till Monday, but few fish.

LOCAL FISHING PARTY – Fenton Norman, Sam Primmer, Andy Elwell, Charley Carver and E.M. Elliott, fishing in the lower Sespe, report light batches and fishermen so numerous that they roiled the stream. The fish caught, however, were of fair size and were caught very early in the morning, taking any offerings. After sunrise they suspended business entirely.

FISH STORIES AND FISHERMEN'S LUCK – "Friday, April 1st, saw the opening of the trout season in this district under very peculiar conditions, this being the first season when there were enough people on the streams (under our present laws) to keep our fishing from being spoiled but reports show that the first half hour in the morning gave some excellent fishing, and after that the crowds might as well ask a trout to bite here on our Main street, as I doubt if there were as many people," said Sam Primmer, the *Chronicle's* fishing authority.

"I fished the first morning at the Sespe and caught 15 nice trout in the first half hour and at the end of that time some brush was floating in the stream and by 9 o'clock there was so much brush, leaves, mud, salmon eggs and profanity floating down the creek that I thought it was time to leave even though Friend Wife had not caught enough trout to make it necessary to build another fish hatchery to replace what she caught. But now that the first of the season is past and some of the excitement is over, I can see that it was really worth while to go out the first day and see the different people who go out—the different costumes, the different kinds of tackle, and the unholy methods of fishing that some of them use. Just citing one instance, I was shooting a fly in a long pool that was entirely unsuited to salmon eggs fishing when an old man came along with (it seemed to me) a piece of gas pipe for a rod, a half inch cable for a line, an anchor for a sinker and his hooks were so entirely covered by salmon eggs that I won't make a guess as to what they were; but, anyway, he stopped and asked me if I was catching any fish, I told him a few and caught one. We talked some more and I caught another, then "Splash" in went cable anchor, and eggs and I moved on down stream, so don't know whether he caught the limit out of that pool, but suppose he did.

"I have not heard of very many limits being caught except those from away back in the Sespe. Lafe Brown brought in a nice limit from below Lathrop camp; Herman Keene and Byron Snyder brought in two of the finest baskets of trout that I have ever seen in a long time, caught near Alder creek; George Caldwell and party fished the Santa Ynez and report plenty of trout but rather small.

"There is a bill pending now at Sacramento which, if passed, will open our season at the same time as Los Angeles county and will eliminated about half of our opening crowd and give us better fishing all year and will more than repay us for all the dues we have

paid our local Fish and Game Protective Association which is the father of the bill," says Primmer, which sounds like common sense.

GAME COMMISSIONER IS AFTER LAW VIOLATORS – Deliberate disregard of signs posted by the Fish and Game Commission around the Sespe Dam calling attention to the law forbidding fishing within 250 feet of a fish-dam, cost five anglers $25 apiece when Deputy Les Hare took them into the nearest court.

Hare was stationed there to see that any "spawners," which might seek to use the fish-ladder in ascending the Sespe would not be disturbed as the law is aimed at preventing people from taking these big, valuable "breeders" out of pools, which are established like flights of steps to enable them to ascend over the dams by a succession of easy jumps with resting places between.

This year's "run" of "spawners" in the Sespe already has been a record-breaker. Much oil escaped into the Ventura River despite the Fish and Game Commission's early efforts to make the oil companies prevent their sump-holes from overflowing into that river.

As a result, many "breeders" which ordinarily would enter the Ventura went up the Santa Clara and found their way into the Sespe. This should make the fishing even better next year than this; and thus far the Sespe has provided by far the best sport of any of the up-coast streams which opened Friday.

It provided a strange paradox, according to Deputy Hare. The first day, best sport was well down the river; but Sunday, those who went as far as they could hike, got fine creels of 8 to 12 inch fish, having splendid sport, while little was doing down below.

April 8, 1921 – Fillmore Herald

REAL FISHING ON THE PIRU – Among the many local people who took advantage of the opening of the fishing season were Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Heying, Mr. Heying's cousin, Fred Heying, of San Diego, and his brother, Ernest Heying, of Anaheim; Miss Naomi Draeski, of San Diego, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Potter. The party went by auto up Piru canyon as far as they could drive and from there had pack horses to the Agua Blanca. They were gone from Thursday to Sunday evening and report a fine time and some good fishing.

FISHERMEN WERE AS PLENTIFUL AS FISH – The fishing season in this district opened here last Friday, April 1st. There were as many fishermen as there were fish up and down the Sespe, which does not mean that there were not plenty of fish for there were lots of them. But up the Sespe there were at least two or three fishermen on every rock all the way up.

As usual Los Angeles sent hundreds of anglers up here to take advantage of the fact that the fishing season opens a month earlier in Ventura county than it does in Los Angeles. It is confidently expected that a change in the law will fix this matter before the opening

of another season. It is a condition of which the fishermen in this section have been justly complaining for a long time.

Not all the fishermen were visitors, however, because the local fishermen were out early be scores and hundreds. Among the early birds were Harry Hastings and Joe Basolo who were among the first to come in with limit catches. As in years gone by the Ventura County Co-Operative association offered a prize of $5 in merchandise for the biggest one brought in at the opening of the season. This prize went to Armor Garrison, an expert and crafty angler who brought in a steelhead that measured 22 ½ inches in length.

Many fish were caught in the opening days of the season, although the reports of "big ones" were scarcer than in former years. The general judgment is that the fishing will be better in a month than it is now, and better next year than now. The number of limit catches from 12 to 18 inches in length was large at that.

For several years the fish and game commission has planted 100,000 trout annually in this stream. Now that a proper fishway has been installed more "spawners" than ever went up the river this year.

County Fish and Game Commissioner Barnett and several of his deputies were up the Sespe the opening days of the season. And they were needed. Several of the Los Angeles bunch ignored the provision of the law that there shall be no fishing within 250 feet of a fishway. Evidently there are lots of them who cannot read, as there are abundant signs posted calling attention to that fact. Five of the city rodsters were arrested for this offense, each of who paid a fine of $25 in the court of Judge Barnes in Fillmore.

<u>April 12, 1921 – Fillmore Herald</u>

PREACHERS FISHING FOR FISH – Man of the early disciples were fishermen. Yesterday the Methodist preachers of the county became fishers for fish instead of fishers of men and went up the Sespe for two days of fishing. At least one of the number is a real fisherman and is expected to catch the limit.

<u>April 12, 1921 – Oxnard Courier</u>

"BUCK" SEBASTIAN'S FISH STORY IS GOOD – Talking of fish stories, here is a good one on Buck Sebastian, or possibly it is Buck Sebastian who has it on the other fishermen? He was talking outside Virden's drug store this morning and was relating how he had poor luck as an angler in the wild streams of Matilija and other brooklets, but at last he has achieved the best possible. He caught a 17 ½ -inch trout!

Of course the catching of the prize fish greatly tickled Sebastian, but what tickled him more was where he caught it. The average thinking person would never guess. It was in the irrigation ditch on the Ditch road near Diedrich's. It sounds like a real fish story, but it's a fact, and Sebastian will back his statement.

It happened that the screen across the upper end of the ditch had been left off and several trout had scampered into the artificial stream. Sebastian may have had bad luck out in the country but when he threw his line into the irrigation ditch he certainly caught something.

April 15, 1921 – Oxnard Courier
April 22, 1921 – Fillmore Herald

SIDELIGHTS ON ANGLING – Fishing in the lower Ventura is better now than at any previous time since the season opened. Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner Jack Barnett, who also is county game warden of Ventura, was in town yesterday, and states that a large influx of decent sized fish and has entered the river since the fish and game commission got the oil companies into line, and put an end to their pollution of the streams by overflow of sump-holes, etc.

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Barnett says a new run of "steelhead" has shown up also, quite a few big fish having been seen going up the stream of late. Thus far, the fishing in the Ventura has been a case of snatching out the "fingerlings" from last year's plantings. This week, Val Ruiz, well known expert angler of Ventura, took 40 nice, silvery trout averaging six inches right out of the big pond behind the gas-house in the town, the fish looking as if they had just come up from the sea.

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Numerous catches have been made in the mouth of the Ventura the last few days. It is no job to get a nice mess any afternoon now, and a good flycaster can get his this way.

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Deputy Barnett says the best fishing on the Sespe is around White's about nine miles above the Hot Springs toward Lathrop's; but anywhere near the mouth of the Hot Springs canyon now, nice trout can be caught, fish from eight to 15 inches. They will take a fly in good shape. It has been cold up the canyon, weather unsettled.

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The best day's fishing in Ventura warden has enjoyed in years was at the first of the season on the Piedra Blanca, one of the tributaries of the Sespe coming down off the snowy slopes of Pine Mountain. Barnett has fished the Sespe 30 years; but not in the last 20 has he had such sport. He stopped well short of his 50-fish because he had already gone to his "ten pounds and one fish." The biggest fish recorded from there this year was 12 ½; but another angler got one 15 ½ inches; and Barnett had his fish cleaned by 9 o'clock.

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The mountaineers up in the Sespe watershed all claim this year is the best fishing they have ever had. The biggest fish recorded from there this year was a 33-inch "steelhead" caught by a Ventura boy below Henley's.

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Deputy Barnett reports that the steelheads have been seen up the Sespe as far as Alder creek this year; the farthest ever known, and made possible by the "fish-ladder" enforced over the Sespe dam by the fish and game commission. Hundreds, if not thousands have

gone up it. The record fish brought into Fillmore a 28-incher, in fact, was caught at the mouth of Alder creek.

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The trout in the Sespe this year are all carrying spawn from six inches up, which indicates the wisdom of putting off the opening of the trout season until May 1 all over the South.

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If we do not have some bad floods the next two years, the Sespe will show the finest fishing ever known, as the fish and game commission has been planting well over 100,000 trout there for each of several seasons—127,000 last year—and all conditions for natural propagation have been favorable.

April 21, 1921 – Fillmore Herald

SESPE – Mr. Cornelius received a visit this week from a party of friends and relatives on their way to Henley's Camp for the fishing. They were Mrs. Westover and daughter, Mrs. Fraser, Mr. Roberts and Miss Edith Cornelius, his niece.

April 21, 1921 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BIG FISH CAUGHT IN SANTA PAULA CREEK – A steelhead caught by a high school boy in Santa Paula creek was probably the biggest fish of the season. It was 23 ¾ inches long and weighed four pounds.

April 27, 1921 – Los Angeles Times

WHERE TO STEP TO CATCH FISH – The usual horde of trout fishermen will be wending their way into the streams and mountain canyons of Ventura, Santa Barbara and Kern counties, on the first of April, to be on hand for the opening of trout season in these districts. To give this horde of fishermen an idea of what they are going to find when they arrive at their chosen fishing ground, the B.H. Dyas Company and the Warner Motor Company this week sent a Mitchell scout car into this country to gather first hand information about fishing conditions:

…Ventura River, which is the haunt of thousands of fishermen each year, above the oil well has quite a good many fish in it, but the water is a trifle low, and has a wee bit of moss in it. There is good fishing here, however, but below the oil wells there is lots of oil, consequently no fishing, so you will save time, as well as your disposition, by not fishing in this section of the river.

People staying at Wheeler's Hot Springs are very enthusiastic about the coming season. Many fish have been seen in the water in this district, and the new road, which recently was completed, cutting out the hard climb, which used to lead from the Matilija swimming plunge, will eliminate a lot of rough touring for the motorists. This section should be very popular for the trout fishermen this year.

At Lathrop's Camp, on the upper Sespe, the scouts obtained excellent reports on fishing conditions. Here it is that the fisherman's problem is going to be in carrying his fish home. There are thousands of good-sized trout, running from seven to nine inches that will readily take a spinner or a fly. The fly fisherman is the one who is going to get a full creel here, not the salmon-egg fisherman.

The Santa Paula River is in fine condition this year, clear water and plenty of fish, more than have been known for many years in this district.

Joe Russell, a well-known character of this Northern Sespe, informed the scouts that there are more fish than he has ever known to be in the creek. Fishermen and campers will have a delightful time in this beautiful canyon this year, because during the past two or three years the Fish and Game Commission has planted hundreds of thousands of trout, which, this year, will be old enough and large enough to rise to a fly.

Piru Creek at the present time is filled with muddy water, and does not look as if fishing will be good there until a little later in the season.

April 29, 1921 – Fillmore Herald

SESPE – The Ernest Case home was the scene of a merry house party from Friday until Sunday. The Case family and guests spent Saturday up the Sespe fishing, where they were rewarded with some success, and Sunday at Hueneme, where they held a barbeque.

June 24, 1921 – Oxnard Courier

TROUT FISHING LAWS HAVE MANY CHANGES – Under the new trout laws effective July 29, licensed anglers of all California will get acquainted with a 25-fish per day limit during a virtually state-wide season opening May 1 and curtailed to closed October 31.

This will come as no special shock to the lower counties comprising fish and game district four. Phenomenal growth of our cities has reflected itself in an abnormal increase of rod and reel enthusiast, so congesting the relatively few trout lakes and scanty streams adjacent thereto that all true sportsmen long since advocated shorter seasons and lower limits.

Trout fishing in the extreme South had to come be very much a matter of the fish and game commission planting each year more heavily of fry to be snatched out prematurely as sorry "fingerlings" by the early spring "salmon-eggers" before the poor little things had been left long enough in the streams to attain decent size.

Little opposition is expected to deferring the opening, and such as develops will be limited to chiefly to those putting their own immediate enjoyment ahead of maintaining the future supply of trout. The majority everywhere will appreciate the necessity of allowing the preceeding fall's plantings a change to gain an inch.

Earlier closing represents a month's cut in the fall angler's innings in the lower counties but it affects only those experts who have learned that to be the best time for taking big fish from the streams.

The controlling limit remains at the now well understood "ten pounds plus one fish", as regards the mountain lake fishing which has yielded so bountifully of these "poundage limits" thus far this season. Seekers after smaller fish of the streams must henceforth stop at 25 instead of twice that, which privilege will remain legal until July 29.

Reduction of the general limit to 25 trout will automatically encourage the releasing of "fingerlings" when uninjured, as people will worry less bout their total, and feel more like release the babies, since they can keep only half of what they did. More fly-fishing will be done, and sport will be better.

All trout fishing is limited to hook-and-line methods in the manner commonly known as angling. Sale of trout, except domestically reared fish under license, is forbidden. Numerous weakness in the old laws were braced up. Night fishing in fresh water is unlawful for trout or bass or other game-fish.

Valuable reinforcements of the laws preventing pollution of state waters, by including bird and plant life protection as well as fish, were secured. Further strengthening of the existing laws preventing obstructing streams, also was attained. After the legislature decided to defer to the defense of sportsmen by keeping the fish and game commission a separate department with no responsibilities other than wild life conservation in behalf of the only classes caring enough for its maintenance to finance the job—namely, sportsmen and fisheries interests—valuable and far-reaching additions to the laws protecting fish and game became possible, and received prompt, hearty approval from Governor Stephens, whose enthusiasm as a huntsman and angler is well known.

July 6, 1921 – Oxnard Courier

MANY SPORTSMEN ASK FOR FISH EGGS NOW – Although a new world's record was attained by the California Fish and Game commission this season by taking a grand total of twenty-five million trout eggs. Superintendent of Fish Culture W.H. Shebley finds applications of sportsmen and resortmen so far in excess of even this enormous total that no one should feel discriminated against if not allotted all the fish he applied for.

The "egg-take" represents "stripping" some thirty-odd thousand fish and handling of perhaps 50,000, with doubtless the trapping and holding of twice as many. Nowhere else have quality and quantity been so successfully combined in a wholesale production of trout as here in California, where our hatchery work has set pace for the fish culturists of this and every other nation.

Special efforts to safeguard the natural sources of trout and salmon eggs through strict enforcement of the new laws prohibiting obstructions in streams, requiring fishways or

hatcheries to be installed at all dams, and all diversions of water to be properly screened against the passage of fish, are under way.

September 26, 1921 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD & VICINITY – Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kindscher and Mr. and Mrs. Thad Sanchez of this city motored to Sespe yesterday, the occasion being Mr. Kindscher's birthday. The party left their machine at the Henley gate and walked to the river. Mr. Kindscher caught an 18-inch trout which he greatly prized. The party caught many others, mostly around 10 inches in length.

October 14, 1921 – Fillmore Herald

SPORTSMEN'S PARADISE – Our old friend Walt Myers, "Hermit of the Little Sespe," was in town Wednesday and while here made one of his most welcome visits to the Herald office.

Walt is comfortably housed at Squaw Flat in the Little Sespe back country where he is employed by big oil interests in looking after their property. During the summer months he has kept track of all those passing his station and everyone going to the hot springs or Agua Blanca have to pass that way. Fishermen led the list, a total of 171 being counted, and the hunters number 72. It will thus be seen that close to 250 people journeyed into that beautiful region during the summer. This of course does not include those who went up the Big Sespe or the Piru canyon to reach points beyond Walt's station.

October 15, 1921 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Loaded 100 cans of fish for Porterville, Dinuba and Fresno. The truck's arrived at the car from the hatchery at 3:30 p.m. and the load was all on the car a little after 4:00 p.m.

Left Lone Pine at 6:38 p.m. Train #401 arrived at Mojave at 11:25 p.m.

George McCloud, Jr. brought down the application for the Ventura and Santa Barbara allotments, also a list of cans for an extra trip through Tulare and Fresno Counties.

November 4, 1921 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

Fish Car Trip No. 6 Mt. Whitney Hatchery Nov. 4 1921 – Lv. Lone Pine Nov. 3 1921

C.E. Layman, Piru – 5 RB, 2 SH
Santa Paula F. & G. Prot., Ass'n. – 4 RB
Webb W. Wilcox, Ventura – 10 RB
John J. Barnett, Ventura – 37 RB
H.J. Abels, Surf – 40 SH
All Mt. Shasta Hatchery cans check

All Mt. Whitney Hatchery cans were to be returned to Lone Pine on this trip

November 5, 1921 – Oxnard Courier

BIG SHIPMENT OF TROUT FOR VENTURA COUNTY – Announcement was made yesterday by Game Warden Barnett of the arrival of 114,000 trout for streams in this locality. Of the amount shipped to Ventura county, 15,000 were placed in the stream at Wheeler's Springs and the remainder in the Ventura river. The shipment included rainbow and eastern brook trout.

December 9, 1921 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WILL KEEP SPORT IN BY BARRING SALMON EGGS OUT – Directors of the Ventura County Fish and Game Protective Association meeting at Oxnard on Tuesday evening, took measures that will lead to the bettering of fishing conditions throughout Ventura County and will improve this valuable adjunct to the sportsmen and fishermen of this district.

Action was taken committing the Association to a definite policy of opposition to the sale and use of salmon eggs for trout fishing. Anyone familiar with fishing usage and local conditions in particular understands the reasonable opposition being made against the custom and abuse of fishing with salmon eggs, thus practically cleaning up the streams of all small trout. Dealers in fishermens supplies have formerly lined up in favor of salmon eggs but are now coming to see that this form of bait in reality takes the true sport out of trout fishing and are helping in the regulation of salmon-egg fishing.

The proposition to place Ventura County in the same district as Los Angeles County, or to have the open season for fishing and shooting open at the same time for the two counties, was given the endorsement of the Ventura County Association. The good results hoped for from legislation to this end are obvious to all who realize that because of Ventura County's proximity to Los Angeles County, there is a too-common habit of fishers and hunters from the city coming into this county in advance of their own open seasons and skimming all the cream off Ventura's resources in both streams and hills.

In the work of preserving and safeguarding fishing and hunting and thus keeping up some of the most desirable resources of the county for its residents and its visitors, the members of the Fish and Game Protective Association are constantly at work. Legislative measures pending which are designed to regulate fishing and hunting conditions are given the most careful and thorough investigation before being indorsed or opposed by the association.

December 16, 1921 – Fillmore Herald

PUSHING WORK OF FISH AND GAME PROTECTION – Eight directors of the Ventura County Fish and Game Association held a meeting at Oxnard. They outlined a

program that will do much, if carried out, to protect the fish and game of this section. In addition to this they elected the following officers for the coming year:

President, J.N. Proctor, Santa Paula; Vice President, F.A. Snyder of Simi; Second vice president, Fred Harpman, Fillmore; Secretary-treasurer, J. Stanley Lothridge, of Santa Paula.

Present at the meeting were R.B. Witman, Gorge P. Austin, James A. Gilson, H.B. Kayes and Ernest Case.

December 16, 1921 – Oxnard Courier

STEELHEAD TROUT NOW INTEREST SPORTSMEN BUT FEW INTERESTED – Little activity has been reported on steelhead trout since the season opened yesterday. Many sportsmen had forgotten all about steelhead season. The season opened in tide water but it is thought the sport will not be good until later in the season. When activity does livin up it will probably be centered around the mouths of the Ventura and Santa Clara rivers. At the present time there is little or nor water at all in either river. The fish will have no invitation for the head waters until after the rains come. It is hoped the rain will come early and wash away the sand bars at the mouth of the rivers so that the fish can make their way up the streams to spawn. They can be caught as far up the river as the tide goes.

December 20, 1921 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Sporting Goods. Steelhead Trout Season is Open in Tidewater. Give Him a Rod, Line or Reel for Christmas. The Primmer Co. Santa Paula, Calif.

December 29, 1921 – Oxnard Courier

FISH AND GAME IN VENTURA CO. BEST IN YEARS – The outlook for the coming fishing season in Ventura county is the best in five years, says George Austin, authority on the subject. Fishermen may look forward to a true sporting season as the rivers and streams in the county are filled and running high. The snow on the mountains will keep them going for some time.

The recent rains have washed away the sand bars at the mouths of the Santa Clara and Ventura rivers allowing steelhead trout to make their way up to spawn. Fishing is permitted in tide waters at the mouth of the rivers, which takes in about 300 yards of the Santa Clara river and up to the railroad bridge in the Ventura river. Fishing is not so good now as the water is muddy. When it clears the sport should be splendid. Fish are going up stream in drives now and all streams should be teeming with trout this season.

Already a good number of steelhead have been caught off the wharf at Ventura. Some have been as long as 28 inches. (Remainder of the article is about duck hunting.)

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Rainfall – 21.10 Inches

January 3, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

WHEELER'S SPRINGS RECEIVE 22 INCHES RAIN – Twenty-two inches of rain at Wheeler's Hot Springs from the storm, is reported by Manager Webb Wilcox. This is said to be the heaviest precipitation for the storm in Ventura county. Sportsmen say the heavy rainfall will make trout fishing good in that section next spring.

March 30, 1922 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MAY FIRST WILL OPEN TROUT SEASON IN PLACE OF APRIL FIRST THIS YEAR – Any trout fishermen who go out on April first this year will find that it is April Fool's day for them, for the open season commences this year in Ventura county on May first, in place of one month earlier than that date, and all fishermen are warned to take notice of the change in time.

The reason for this change, which is one of the results brought about by the vigilant efforts of the Ventura County Fish and Game Protective Association, is that, in the past few years, the open season in Ventura coming one month earlier than in Los Angeles and other near-by counties, has permitted outsiders to come in and get not only their fair share of the fishing in Ventura county streams, but also a good deal more than their share.

The change in the open season will make for greater fairness in fishing conditions throughout Southern California and is welcomed by Ventura county fishing enthusiasts in particular.

So remember, devotees of the line and pilgrims to the mountain streams, that your fishing tackle need not be ready till May Day and that April first in this year's fishing calendar, is no different from any other day.

April 10, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

20 DAYS MORE BEFORE FISHING SEASON OPENS – There are only 20 days for sportsmen to wait for the fishing season to open. Each week-end eager hunters have been making trips to the hills to look at the streams, but they can look and that is all. George Austin, local sportsman, went up to the Ventura river yesterday and above Matilija and reports that the streams are running high. He forecasts the best fishing season he has ever seen. He said it was all he could do yesterday to keep himself from getting into the stream with his rod, but decided it would be best to wait until the first of May, when the season opens.

While some have studied the game laws there are many who do not know that the limit this year has been reduced from 50 to 25 trout per day. It is understood that game

wardens are going to see that this law is enforced so it is well for sportsmen to take heed and not take home more than 25 trout. Twenty-five seems like a large number, said Mr. Austin, but that is nothing for a good sportsman. Of course there are some who are lucky if they give five. It is not such much the number of fish, it is the sport of going after them, said the local nimrod.

April 25, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

INTEREST RUNNING HIGH IN APPROACHING FISHING SEASON; ALL WAITING – Although everyone in Oxnard is interested in Elk activities at the present time, sportsmen of this section are not unmindful of the fact that the fishing season opens next Sunday morning. They are preparing for one of the greatest seasons ever known here. According to George Austin, one of the most ardent anglers in this city, hundreds of licenses have been purchased so far and a great quantity of fishing supplies have been sold by the dealers of the city.

George Austin gives the following places to fish:

Good fishing is to be found in the Sespe. Mr. Austin had a report from a Sespe resident yesterday that the streams were filled with trout.

Lyons Springs promises good fishing, says the angler. The water is clear and from all indications looks fine.

The Ventura river is expected to afford wonderful sports, all the way from Matilija to the mouth. Best fishing might be found just this side of Matilija or near the mouth.

Coyote Creek, which runs into Ventura river near Foster park, this side of Shepherd's Inn, is said to be teaming with fish for its size, also the Upper San Antone creek, this side of Ojai. Both these streams should be good for sport during the first part of the season.

See Saw creek, about six miles above Ojai, is high this year and promises good fishing for at least the first few days of the season.

Game wardens are patrolling he streams from daylight until dark to prevent any one from fishing before season opens. It is said they will be strict this year and will enforce the law pertaining to the limit of 25 trout instead of 50, as it was last year.

Speaking about the project on foot to have the opening date of the season changed from May 1 to April, as in former years, Mr. Austin said he was strongly opposed to it. He mentioned many other sportsmen from this locality who also were opposed. He thought the suggestion of having the date changed arose in Los Angeles county where sportsmen wanted the advantages of being able to fish Ventura county streams April to May 1 and then go back to fish their own streams when their season opens May 1. He thought every effort should be made here to kill any such suggestion. He believed there should be enough sport available in both counties to take care of sportsmen residing here.

Get your rod, tackle and bait and be ready for next Monday morning. The season will be open until November 1, 1922.

April 27, 1922 – Santa Paula Chronicle
April 28, 1922 – Fillmore Herald
May 1, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

BIG TROUT PLANTING THROUGHOUT THE STATE – More than four and a half million trout were raised and distributed last year by the California Fish and Game Commission in the lower counties of the "Southern Division," nearly all from the new "Mount Whitney" and recently enlarged Bear Valley Hatcheries. With the trout season opening Monday, May first, all over the state, these plantings will prove of timely interest to the licensed angling fraternity. In the following compilation the initials denote species—R rainbow, S Steelhead, E Eastern brook, L Loch Leven, LL large lake trout; the proper names are of creeks or lakes planted.

In Santa Barbara County the plantings were as follows:

Santa Ynez River, 80,000 Steelhead; 25,000 quinnat salmon; Gibraltar Dam, 10,000 Loch Leven, 4,000 Eastern Brook; Sisquoc River, 8,000 Loch Leven, 2,000 Eastern Brook; Wild-horse Range Canyon, 2,000 Eastern Brook; Cold Springs Creek, 2,000 Eastern Brook; San Jose Creek, 2,000 Loch Leven—total, 135,000, planted by Deputy Henry J. Abels; (Mt. Whitney 80,000; Mt. Shasta 55,000, including salmon.)

In Ventura County the plantings were as follows:

Matilija, 55,000 Steelhead; Upper Matilija, 8,000 Eastern Brook; No. Fork (Wheeler's). 20,000 Steelhead, 30,000 Rainbow; Upper No. Fork, 10,000 Rainbow; Main Ventura River, 65,000 Steelhead—total for Ventura River system 197,000. Sespe River, 75,000 Steelhead, 45,000 Rainbow; Fish Slough, 40,000 Rainbow—total Sespe system, 160,000. Santa Paula Creek, 40,000 Steelhead, 32,000 Rainbow. Sisar Creek, 4,000 Rainbow, Conejo Creek, 6,000 Rainbow. Total for Ventura County, 408,000 (Mt. Whitney 400,000) planted by Deputy John J. Barnett and Ventura Fish and Game Protective Association.

ADVERTISEMENT – Santa Paula Hardware Co., Santa Paula, Cal. Going Fishing? The Santa Paula and Sespe Invite You May 1st. A complete line of Fishing Tackle, Rods, Reels and Creels. Get This Catalogue "The Latest in Fishing Tackle".

April 28, 1922 – Fillmore Herald

FISHING SEASON OPENS – The fishing season opens on May 1st. That being the date of the local May Day celebration real patriotic fishermen will postpone their activities for 24 hours. The Co-Op hardware department is offering $5 in trade for the longest fish brought in by the close of May 2nd. Hickey Bros. Co. is offering a fine pole for the

longest fish turned in there the same day. A wonderfully effective window at the Hickey store announces the opening of the fishing season.

LORD HELP SESPE FISH – Especially when this bunch gets out after the poor things. Venturans are preparing to take advantage of the opening of the fishing season May 1st. Attorneys Drapeau, Orr and Gardner, all of whom are ardent fishermen, will take turns whipping the streams. Attorney Don Bowker and Auditor and Recorder Haydon will go back on the Sespe for a couple of days and there will be several thousand more citizens who will likewise be hurrying to the streams of Ventura County.—*Ventura County Post.*

April 28, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

MANY MORE TROUT FOR VENTURA COUNTY – That Ventura county has received the second largest number of trout in the state this year is the information which comes to Game Warden Barnett from the state fish and game commission. This county has received 438,000 fish and the only county which exceeds this number is Mono with 479,000.

Mr. Barnett says the fish are thick in the streams of the county this year and that the sport will unquestionably be good when the season opens next Monday.

April 29, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

FISHING SEASON TO OPEN ON MONDAY – Of course every fisherman is ready. He has been waiting for the day after tomorrow for the last two months or more and tonight he will dream of what he expects to bring home Monday night. Parties are expected to leave Oxnard Sunday to camp out over Sunday night so as to be the "early birds" first thing Monday morning. Almost any stream will be a good fishing ground this year, according to sportsmen who know conditions. They say that the good rain in this section to date have helped to make the fishing season of 1922 one of the best in years.

From both Joe Linnell of the Matilija Hot Springs, and Webb Wilcox of Wheeler's Hot Springs, comes the report that their respective resorts are booked full by anglers from all parts of the Southland who are coming to the streams of this section for the opening of the season sport.

Mr. Wilcox reports that at the Cold Springs and Lathrop Camp in the Sespe, both of which are under his control, the reservations are greater than at any previous fishing season.

George Austin, local music dealer and expert fisherman, when asked as to what kind of bait he uses, and he said tobacco for trout.

"Tobacco?" returned the astonished inquirer.

"Yes," answered Austin. "You see, it's this way. You throw a little ground tobacco on the surface of the water. Any good brand will do. The trout will come up to the surface to eat the tobacco. When they reach the surface you hit them with a club. Nothing more simple."

Mr. Austin had not time to say any more. His friend had vanished among the purple and white of Fifth street. Nevertheless, Austin can advise one on the proper kind of bait to be used but it is said he has to be humored.

May 2, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

FISHING SEASON IS GOOD THIS YEAR SAY NIMRODS – Fishing season is on. Every sportsman knows it and if he has not in some shady nook yesterday morning with his trusty rod he will be there before the week is out. Of those who returned yesterday from a morning's fishing who should be the man to get the best catch but H.H. Eastwood, the mayor of Oxnard. Only last shooting season he got a limit of ducks. Now he comes home with a limit of fish. The season must be good. He said he was about to leave for home after fishing all morning near Camp Bartlett, but when he counted his fish and found he had 24 good sized trout, he resolved to fish until he caught his twenty-fifth. It took him over an hour to get the last fish, but get it he would and he jumped and slipped over boulders for miles, it seemed, until he got his last precious trout.

George Bartlett got the biggest fish of the day, being a fine 24-inch trout. W. King of the King barber shop, got a nice mess of fish after a morning of hard fishing. W.R. Sanborne also caught a number of fine fish. George Austin, Grant Fraser, William Dunn, Harry Wolf, Jess Bryant, M.C. DeBrell, Leon Lehmann and others who went to Camp Bartlett all got a good mess of fish and were well repaid for the efforts on the first day of the sport.

The fish this year are better, according to H.H. Eastwood. Heretofore they have been small for the most part, but this season they all seem to be around seven inches long. There seems to be aplenty in the streams but yesterday it seemed that there were more fishermen than fish. The streams were lined with sportsmen. It is expected that next week-end the streams will see even a larger number of fishermen.

May 3, 1922 – Fillmore Herald

COUNTY BUSINESS -- …There are going to be a lot of fish in the streams of Ventura county this summer, according to the April report of Game Warden, Barnett. He accounts for this on the basis of the copious supply of water and the liberal planting, in addition to which the streams were carefully patrolled in April. No arrests were made for taking fish out of season, but nine parties were routed out whose intentions to fish illegally were plain. Of the 408,000 fish distributed in the streams of Southern California, this county got about half.

May 4, 1922 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING SEASON OPENED IN VENTURA COUNTY MONDAY, MAY FIRST – Monday, May first, was the opening of the trout season in Ventura county streams and fishermen, both local and from other counties, were ready at an early hour to go after the elusive but alluring finny prey.

Many of the local fishermen were rewarded for their early start by catching the limit and heavy planting of trout in the streams of the county made plenty of fish in the Sespe and the Sisar.

The anglers along the Santa Paula creek found so much oil in portions of the waters that in many spots all the fish taken were strongly flavored with petroleum.

Sam Primmer, the Chronicle's best bet in matters pertaining to fish and fishing, has been so busy selling poles and lines and bait and all that sort of thing, that he hasn't had time to prepare an account of all the big ones that were caught or got away. Sam says he will have more time next week, but that sounds kinda fishy, itself.

PERSONAL MENTION – Mr. and Mrs. R. Robinette were among the fishermen going up Sespe early Monday morning to chase the elusive trout in the beginning of the season. They caught a few small fish.

Lester Conn and Dick Malley, of Venice, spent the week end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Veale. The visitors left Sunday morning to tramp far up the Sespe to catch trout early Monday morning. They returned home Monday evening.

May 5, 1922 – Fillmore Herald

FISHING SEASON OPENED – Large crowds were out in pursuit of this sport Monday. Monday, May Day, was the opening of the fishing season, and many hundreds of enthusiastic anglers so celebrated the day. The fishing was good, practically all of those who went to the upper reaches of the Sespe getting the limit. Most of the fish, however, were small.

The prize for the biggest fish offered by Hickey Bros. Co. went to Armor Garrison, for a steelhead measuring 22 ½ inches.

The prize offered for the biggest fish by the Ventura Co-Operative store went to Paul McDivit, of Santa Paula, for a rainbow trout measuring 22 1/8 inches.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fish in Our Store for Good Fishing Tackle. Did you ever see a dog fish? (Picture of two dogs fishing and laughing) Stream and Ocean Fishing Tackle. See our combination Trout and Surf Pole. We have a fine stock of common Bamboo poles, 15c to 50c each. Extra ferrols and tips. We issue Fishing Licenses. Camping Equipment. Hickey Brothers Company. "The Winchester Store"

PIRU – by Adina M. Conway, Correspondent. A local fishing expedition tried its luck up the Agua Blanca. The members of the party were Hugh, Walter S. and Edward C., Floyd S. and Lester Warring. The fish were reported fine and plentiful.

The fishing season opened auspiciously for everybody but the fish on Monday, May 1st. Many automobile fishing parties came through laden with "whoppers" from the Sespe and Hopper canyon.

SESPE – by Mrs. Willet Hiller, Correspondent. Arthur Kurke of Los Angeles was a house guest at the Lawrence Peyton home a couple of days this week. He came up to have a try at the fishing.

Paul Goodenough and Mr. Morales of Sespe together with the Reverend Gammon of Fillmore left for the Sespe hot springs Tuesday and expect to return Friday. They also expect to get a lot of fish.

Mr. and Mrs. William McKendry, Clara and Ross McKendry, motored from Ojai Sunday evening, in order to start fishing at daylight. After getting their supply of fish they attended the May Day festivities, returning to their home Tuesday morning with the exception of Miss Clara McKendry who will remain as a house guest of the Harry Hillers for a week.

May 6, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

FISHING SPOTTED SAYS LOCAL EXPERT NIMROD – Trout fishing is spotted, according to George Austin who returned from a fishing trip up the Ventura river yesterday. The general opinion before the season opened was that a wonderful season was ahead, but now comes the report that possibly it is not. Mr. Austin says it depends upon the fisherman. Some have come to him saying the season is the best in years while others have told him of their "rotten luck."

Mr. Austin confesses that the best fishing this year seems to be nearer the hills. Most of the good catches so far have been made many miles upstream. The Ventura river is fairly good along near the Avenue by Ventura but is better near the source. Good fishing is to be found near the mouth. There are a few fish to be caught in the Santa Clara river from Saticoy to the mouth, owing to the muddy condition of the water. Mr. Austin states that the mud should clear away about June when good fishing should be found.

Good catches have been reported from the San Antone creek and from other streams around Ojai. Mr. Austin says that the sport this year is as good as the fisherman makes it.

May 8, 1922 – Los Angeles Times

LIMITS PLENTY; ANGLERS HAPPY – Reports gathered by the Fish and Game Commission from its patrolmen covering lakes and streams which opened to trout

fishermen May 1, indicate that on the whole, fishing was considerably better than expected, considering the generally high water and lateness of the season.

Five Pinched. By far the best stream fishing experienced was reported by Deputy Jack Barnett, who had his hands full keeping the "sooners" away from them Sunday, when he made five arrests for catching fish before the law. The lower down the stream the bigger the fish ran in size, evidently returning to the ocean; nine, ten and twelve-inchers were far from rare and limits were many. Handsome, silvery "steelheads" they were, mostly. Farther up on the tributary creeks, the usual "fingerlings" were in evidence.

Well Guarded. Deputy Hare patrolled the Sespe and inspected many licenses, posting the fishway to warn unsuspecting anglers to stay away form it, and no arrests were necessary there this year. The Sespe fish were soft and inferior, fishing was worse than the high water would explain, apparently. The plantings made last year seemed concentrated below Ivers' and toward Henley's. Likewise here, better fish were caught below. Two limits that would average eight inches were taken where the Santa Clara and Sespe join. (The rest of the article is about other areas in Southern California.)

May 11, 1922 – Oxnard Courier
May 11, 1922 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HEAVY SHOWERS HOLD UP NUMEROUS FISHERMEN THROUGHOUT ENTIRE STATE – While general regret is being expressed by hunters of experience because of heavy and unseasonable rains of this week, sportsmanlike anglers with fishing of the future in mind, are rather glad of the temporary setback in the salmon-egging raids upon last year's heavy plantings of trout-fry made by the Fish and Game Commission in all Southern California's "River" systems.

With more water added to already too much, it is certain that a much larger number of "fingerlings" will have more time to make the probably inch-a-month growth that they will come very close to averaging with the streams fairly thick with assorted food—worms, bugs, insect-larvae of every name and nature. Even before the storms, the little fellows were so "fed up" that it took something unnatural to tempt them much of the time. Here came in the "canned dynamite" possibilities of the salmon-egg, which has under the reduced "stream limit" of 25 trout not exceeding ten pounds and one large fish, assumed a new, but not unexpected, menace.

Deputies of the Fish and Game Commission repeatedly have had attention this year called to salmon-egg fishermen snatching tiny "fingerlings" from the streams and either hiding them in the brush to pick up later if needed and safe, or deliberately snapping them off the hook, regardless of releasing them uninjured, when possible. As the poor little things usually swallow the salmon-egg, most of them are killed anyway. Such a slaughter of the innocents is defeating the purpose of cutting the "stream limit" in two, and as the dollar-license contributions of anglers are not equal to keeping a Deputy at every fisher's elbow, it comes up to the true sportsman everywhere to constitute himself a "committee of one" to prevent this utterly indefensible and reprehensible practice in as

far as pointing out its consequences to the unthinking will accomplish. Otherwise, had fishing conditions improved this month instead of experiencing the present really welcome set-back because of the heavy rainfall, the expected excellent summer and fall fly-fishing would have been murdered in its infancy.

The drains made upon up-coast streams "Opening Day" were an eye-opener to many an observing sportsman, fishing conditions being on the whole more favorable up that way than in the drainage from higher watersheds south and east of Los Angeles. Many a man who heretofore viewed salmon-eggs as a sort of "necessary evil," was converted in the one day when he saw the streams running red with the "chumming" of the misguided, spoiling sport for those who came after, and greasing the rocks with the cleanings of small troutlings, when indeed they saved such at all.

It never seems to occur to many tyro fishermen of the "after me the deluge" class, that if they resorted to the "original principles" of boyhood days in high waters by working shotted leaders deep and baiting with red angleworms, they would get bigger and better fish than by poisoning last year's plantings with these damnable "pink pills" and spoiling the sport for all who come after. When fish get educated to this degenerated diet, which particularly appeals apparently to the tiniest, but from which even the big "Bear Lakers" are not immune they become impossible to "raise" to the fly; worms worked deeply and intelligently, are about the only effective lure for "quarter-pounders" and better. These then can be caught without such shocking waste of "fingerlings."

Just what can be done to prevent by law the spoiling of sport by the very classes who are paying for its maintenance, is a question bothering the authorities greatly this year, as it is imperative that the plantings be left in the streams at least a year if expected benefits are to follow this far-sighted and efficiently-executed public work.

May 12, 1922 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – Mr. and Mrs. Edward Heying returned last Thursday from a very enjoyable outing and fishing excursion in the mountains back of Fillmore. They joined Mr. and Mrs. Alfred L. Heying of Anaheim and Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Fuller of Santa Paula on a trip to the Agua Blanca. They report a fine time and some excellent fishing.

NORTH FILLMORE – by Mrs. W.A. Duncan, Correspondent. E.V. Foxley of Los Angeles, a close friend of the A.I. Gibson family, is being entertained this week at the Gibson home of the Edison substation. Mr. Foxley is spending much of his time catching fish in the Sespe.

May 19, 1922 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – Miss Gladys Christensen went on a week-end fishing party to Santa Inez in company with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Christensen and other Ventura folk. Miss Gladys says they didn't catch a fish, but that all had a perfectly fine time.

May 21, 1922 – Los Angeles Times

ABOUT SESPE FISHING – The Sespe Creek is one of the most beautiful of all our southern streams, flowing for nearly thirty miles through a marvelous canyon, with sheer walls of granite towering for hundreds of feet above the stream.

The creek bed is composed of huge boulders and immense rocks, through which the water wends its way, forming countless small falls and wonderful deep green pools.

Nearly every kind of tree and bush or wildflower found anywhere in the State grows here, thousands of small springs trickle down the steep sides, causing a profusion of ferns and green foliage to spring up. The walls of the canyon present many fantastic shapes as the sun shifts, causing the shadows to change, a spectacle is presented that is hard to forget.

The camp sites are ideal, being located along the road which follows the stream. This is for the most part bordered with trees which overlap and form a natural arch, through which the sun filters to the road. At no place is it necessary to camp more than thirty yards from the stream.

The stream is heavily stocked each year with Rainbow trout, and usually furnishes some very fair fishing, but owing to the extremely heavy rain and snowfall of the past winter, causing extreme high water, the fishing so far this season has not been up to standard. Many limits have been taken, but the fish are all small.

There are several ways of reaching this interesting spot, the best being via the San Fernando Boulevard to Saugus, taking the left-hand paved highway over the Ridge Route to a point four and three-tenths miles beyond Saugus, then paved highway marked Santa Paula and Ventura, continuing on this road to a point two miles beyond Fillmore. Immediately after crossing second bridge take right-hand turn over paved road, which from this point follows the banks of the stream. Four miles upstream is Henley's ranch. At this point is a toll gate across Mr. Henley's private road, a toll of $1 per car being charged. The road continues for one and one-half miles beyond this point to his north gate, after which the road is entirely washed away and impassable to automobiles.

There is a good foot trail upstream for an additional six miles, every foot of which is interesting.

On account of several oil wells being located some three miles above the last gate, the seepage from which finds its way into the stream, the fishing below these wells is never as good as it is anywhere above, the farther the better.

It is also possible to reach this beauty spot via Ventura, Matilija to Wheeler's Hot Springs, where it is possible to secure horses for the nine-mile trip to Lathrop's camp on the Upper Sespe, some twenty miles above Fillmore. Here the fish run to a better size and if anything the scenery is more wonderful.

For a trip requiring so short a time I do not believe a more interesting one is to be found in California, and I am sure it will repay the effort. The trip can be made easily in three hours, mostly over paved roads. At no point is the road dangerous, there being a good solid footing, though the last miles is a trifle rough.

May 24, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

GRUNNION KING MAY BE ABLE TO SOLVE MYSTERY – Much interest is being shown in the new kind of fish which has been seen in numbers entering the mouth of the Santa Clara river recently. Some say they are trout, while others declare they are grunnion. The county game warden has not yet started his work of determining what they are. It has been suggested that R.L. Peacock, national grunnion king, take a trip to the Santa Clara and examine the fish. Possibly he will be able to throw light on the subject. However, Peacock, being a beach comber, the question now is "How will he catch them; with a grunnion rake?"

May 25, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

SAYS STRANGE FISH AT RIVER MOUTH GRUNNION – R.L. Peacock says that the fish in the Santa Clara river which have been causing so much interest recently are grunion, absolutely. Local sportsmen and fishermen from Ventura have been puzzled over the fish which have ben entering the mouth of the river in the hundreds. It was thought that they were trout.

"They are grunnion," said Peacock. "There are millions of them there. You can't see them at night, but in the daytime they can be easily seen. If a person could get in along the edges of the river at night, after the full moon, he could get thousands. But it is a dangerous place to go. One might be caught in quicksand.

All along the Rincon wherever a stream empties into the ocean, grunnion will be found in large numbers. Many people will say that there are no fish. But if everyone who went to the beach would see that there were no camp fires lighted they would get more fish. The fish are wise. They do not come in until all the fires have been put out. To get grunnion fishermen should light no fires, nor show any lanterns.

June 13, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY SUPERVISORS – …May Report of Game Warden. Game Warden Barnett reports that his first work in May was to attend court in Ojai, where Alf Jones, L.J. Edmunds, James A. Clay, Victor Doucioux, and Lois Rerche were to appear in court to answer the charge of taking trout on April 30. They failed to put in an appearance and forfeited their bonds of $25 each. They were caught red-handed near Lyon Springs, gave Barnett the slip at the time and were later rounded up at Wheeler's Springs.

Barnett arrested H.I. Brown and Henry Noble on the Sespe for having more than the limit and rushed them to the Fillmore justice of the peace, who fined them $25 each. Later it was found that the two were carrying fish for fellow fishermen in their baskets and the fines were remitted.

H.M. Crowther of Los Angeles was arrested for taking fish from the fish ladder at Sespe dam. Judge Barnes fined him $25.

BEAUTIFUL SCENERY AND GOOD FISHING TRIP TO SESPE AND PINE MT. – That the vast country around Lathrop, Sespe, Piedra Blanco and Pine Mountain will be much traversed this year is the statement of Robert N. Miller, manager of Wheeler's Hot Springs, who with a party of friends just returned from a trip over that section. The party left Wheeler's on horseback and took two days to make the journey.

Mr. Miller reports the country beautiful. The scenery is grand and there is great fishing. The first afternoon was spent at Willets, ending with a delicious dinner of rainbow trout caught on the trip. The next day the party visited Piedra Blanco and Pine Mountain. At the former place they report a miniature grand canyon and several interesting caves. They said they saw many deer, which appeared quite tame. The spring rains have made good grazing for the animals which were seen all along the trip.

It is the intention of Proprietor Webb Wilcox of the Springs to establish camps at Pine Mountain for vacation parties when deer season opens. It is expected that many will go there to participate in the sport.

A long trip is soon to be made into the hills again by Mr. Miller and a number of others at which time a motion picture photographer will go along to take pictures of the country. Mr. Wilcox intends keeping a set of the films to show sportsmen what is in store for them in the back hills. It is expected that many of the pictures taken will go all over the world advertising Ventura county as one of the garden spots of Southern California.

<u>June 17, 1922 – Oxnard Courier</u>

GOOD FISHING REPORTED – Bob Miller, manager at Wheeler's Hot Springs, stated that the fishing has been reported good recently by sportsmen coming back to the Springs from the hills nearby. In the lower north fork of the Matilija river fishing is fair from the bridge to the gorge. Fish from four to nine inches were caught. It is said good catches may be made here with flies. In the Sespe, from Cold Springs to Willets, fishing is reported as very good, trout ranging from four to 14 inches in length being caught. It is said that spinners are being used in fast water with success. Salmon eggs and flies are also used with good results here. It is stated that the limit could be caught in from two to three hours. At Piedra Blanco near the forest ranger's station, the fishing is reported as being excellent.

June 18, 1922 – Los Angeles Times

SOOTHES FISHING ITCH – by George Thompson. If you long for the hills and the feel of a rushing trout against the spring rod of bamboo take your way to the upper Sespe Creek in Ventura county, for there you can catch the limit of twenty-five in two hours without walking a mile.

Long known as the best trout stream within easy reach of Los Angeles it has not been visited by fishermen to any great extent for lack of definite information of actual conditions. Last year with the water at low ebb most of the fish went down stream and stopped in the narrows in the pools, a section of the Sespe that is hard to reach as it is impossible to take pack animals within easy range of it.

With the rains of the past winter the trout are gradually working their way back up stream and there is not a rod of the creek between Lathrops and White's cabin that will not give up from one to a dozen fish. The big fellows are still in the lower stretches of the stream, but trout up to twelve inches are reported by nearly everyone who whips the stream with a trout rod.

Most any kind of lure seems to get results. The Royal Coachman is snapped at greedily as is the black gnat on a gray hackle. Small spinners get the fastest action of any of the artificial lures while salmon eggs are treated as a real banquet. It was found that still fishing in the bottom of the pools did not bring results. The fish struck at the lower end of the pools just where the water breaks into whirls where the stream it's some submerged rock. The riffles show some good sport, but you get only the smaller fry in the fast water.

As a stream that is easy to fish the Sespe is ideal. The canyon is quite open for mile after mile with a narrow place occasionally which requires climbing over some ten or twenty-foot high boulders, but wading is seldom necessary even for crossing the stream. Alders and willows line the creek, but usually only on one side, leaving the opposite side open for an easy attach with plenty of room for the longest casts you can make.

Every bit of the creek that was tested between Lathrop's and White's, a distance of eight or ten miles, was found good and even three miles further down the same condition exists. There is really no need to go either up or down from Lathrop's to quickly get the limit unless one wants a lot of solitude and there is plenty of that.

In a period of four days not another party was seen on the trail from White's cabin, which, however, is a poor place to camp as it is too far from the streams. In fact, there are no ideal camp sites. Firewood is not plentiful of a kind that burns well in the open and there is little or no suitable shrubbery with which to soften the ground under your blankets. It was found to be far more delightful to take advantage of the many comforts of Lathrop's and the wonderful eats that Chef Weymouth loads the tables with. Weymouth was once the chef of an ocean liner and for the sake of his little boy's health

went to Lathrop's last year and has stayed to delight the palates of mine host Wilcox's guests.

The camp at Lathrop's is a bit of a surprise after hitting the nine miles of good trail from Wheeler's Hot Springs. Over this trail the burros packed in oak tables, full grown dressers, rocking chairs and a man-size bathtub. The latter luxury required four days of burro effort to get into camp but it did not measure up with the top plate of the big kitchen range which was dragged over a sled as not a burro could be found to pack 400 pounds up hill, down or on the level.

To reach the Sespe, the better way is to take the State Highway or the Santa Susanna Road to Ventura. Just beyond the business district a paved highway turns to the right and leads to Nordhoff. This road is followed until within a half mile of Nordhoff where a sign plainly points the way to Wheeler's, twelve miles up the canyon, over a good dirt road easily negotiated in high gear.

At Wheeler's you park you car and change from a soft padded leather cushion to one that is not so soft or padded. You travel the trail on one of your Host Wilcox's one horse-power, four-legged motors. It takes three to four hours to make the trip over the hill to Lathrop's according to how much you enjoy riding or resting.

The trail leads through some very beautiful hill country and as you climb over the first switchbacks you find the trail wandering up a canyon with a creek and plenty of shade. On top you get into the sage covered hills where the grease wood is in full bloom with masses of feathery blossom of creamy white. From the summit there is a gradual drop down through a pleasant little valley until you get to Howard Creek

July 27, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

TROUT FISHING GETTING BETTER – Trout fishing in all parts of Ventura is getting better, according to anglers from Oxnard who have been out recently. The streams are getting lower and the fish are beginning to hunt for food. Many good catches have been made above Wheeler's and in the Matilija, also above Santa Paula.

August 24, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

TROUT BITING BETTER NEAR WHEELER'S – Trout are biting good in the streams, according to Bob Miller. The fish are larger now. Good fishing has been reported by anglers from all the sections around the Springs.

Stewart Holmes, noted screen star, has just returned to Los Angeles from Wheeler's with his faithful German police dog.

Another deer was brought into the camp this morning making the third bagged within the past week or so, shot within two miles of camp.

August 31, 1922 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH AND GAME CONSERVATION IN CALIFORNIA A CHARGE UPON THE SPORTSMEN ALONE – Among obstacles whose surmounting has been incidental to the really remarkable work California has been doing for her fish and game of late years is the chronic, case-hardened obstinacy with which politicians of certain insurgent and destructive type have persisted in trying to drag down wild-life conservation into the impossible mire of partisanship, where it cannot continue to function with its past success.

The latest effort along this line promises not only to prove abortive, but already is become a political boomerang as well. Opponents of Governor Stephens, gone mad in their anxiety to distort and discredit every official act under his administration with characteristic carelessness as to facts finally have let their enmity outrun their discretion by blindly and absurdly criticizing the State Fish and Game Commission upon the utterly unwarranted assumption that it has increased the costs of government upon the general taxpaying public.

Although campaign "roorbacks" began with the first election in the dawn of man, such an attempt as the present naturally begets wonder whether anything its proponents say is worthy of belief. Any effort to discredit a branch of public service which for fifteen years has been wholly supported by the men who hunt and fish, without one penny of charge upon the general taxpayer, is bound to defeat its dishonest purpose. So likewise will such an attack upon the all-too-slowly increasing expenditures of the Fish and Game Commission, which cannot go beyond the limits imposed by annual gains in license-funds as the number of hunters and anglers intrusting their dollars to it grows year by year. Since this license money is virtually a voluntary contribution to better shooting and angling, it carries as a matter of course, the responsibility of prompt investment in permanent improvement.

That this annual increase in income has fallen pitifully behind the truly enormous jumps in outdoor interest since the return of our young servicemen, inured to the roughest of "camp-out" overseas, and familiarized with firearms, is a situation that the sportsmen seem disposed to take into their own hands. It is they say, not their custodians, the Fish and Game Commission, who now ask an increase in license from the original dollar-unit established fifteen years ago when the dollar stood at par in purchasing power. The Sportsmen, as a class, appear to have recognized their responsibility for maintaining our wild-life attractions at their utmost; and the unassessed majority of the general public continues to figure as further incidental beneficiaries without paying any material part of the cost.

Conservation of fish and game in California for fifteen years past therefore has been a fair and typically American form of government, by and for, and wholly paid for by the class most directly benefited; but who can say truthfully that the sportsmen have been its sole beneficiaries? Here has gone on a great public work, which has functioned so efficiently in behalf of the entire population of the state in improving and advertising our

wildlife attractions that today California is famed as the "Land of Outdoor Sport" wherever rod and gun are in the hands of men. And all this has been done without drawing one penny from the general tax funds. The sentiment of the State's sportsmen, as crystallized in this "Fish and Game Commission" which they created and support, has been to build enduringly for all California, and to cheerfully bear all the burdens of conservation cost, growing like all else.

Surely, one need only suggest the innumerable enterprises built up directly around and wholly dependent upon our outdoor attractions to realize something of what their maintenance and all possible improvement means to every Californian, taxpayer or not. Our biggest asset has been our increasing population. Around it has revolved our entire material well-being; and most particularly our present prosperity. How important then are all factors contributing to California's attractiveness! The best sporting-factories in the country are merely goods stores and outdoor specialty the direct, more palpable evidence. What say the resortmen, the auto and accessories dealers; the transportation companies, by rail, auto stage, or by boat? What walk of life does not share in these attraction benefits?

But these are purely material things. In the background, overlooked by the superficial observer, but nevertheless of National as well as State importance, is the physical and psychological benefit that attends clean outdoor sport, taking our youth away from the temptations of town into healthful recreations of rod and gun; the sports that made young Americans soldiers with one tenth the training of any other nation—for, as Field Marshal Lord Roberts so tersely said: "The business of a soldier is to learn to shoot—and then shoot straight!"

VENTURA COUTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
By J.N Proctor, Pres.
F.A. Snyder, Vice-Pres.
L.S. Lothridge, Sec'y.
Executive Committee
George I Willard, H.A. Reed, John Burson,
N. Hearns, R.B. Whitman, Ben. S. Virden,
John A. Madison, Hugh Warring, E.A. Case,
H.B. Kays.

<u>October 3, 1922 – Oxnard Courier</u>

PICTURESQUE VENTURA COUNTY, KNOWN AS THE GARDEN SPOT OF CALIFORNIA – Ventura county appeals strongly to those considering new home locations and are looking for pleasant surroundings where prosperity and opportunity abound, where the people are progressive and make good neighbors.

…Two good rivers with numerous tributaries from the mountains furnish the water supply, supplemented by large wells, many of them artesian, from which an ample supply of water for all purposes is always available.

Ventura county is an all-year and all time resort, both for the hunter and nature lover. For the hunter there are deer and doves and quail and fur bearing animals, and for the fishermen there are the well stocked Ventura and Santa Clara streams where the abound the wily rainbow trout, together with other species…

October 11, 1922 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Arrived at Los Angeles this morning at 7:40. Car was transferred to Santa Fe depot and left at 9:10 a.m. for San Diego arriving at 1:00 p.m. Webb Morris was here to meet the fish, had the car unloaded in little after two o'clock. We had on this load 40 cans Rainbow and 65 cans steelhead; 75 cans for the Water Commission and 30 cans for Ed Fletcher.

October 12, 1922 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Car left San Diego this morning at 2:01 a.m. arrived Los Angeles at 7:15 a.m. Train struck an automobile at Orange wrecking the machine the driver was only slightly hurt. Transferred 3 fish cans from baggage car to fish car at L.A. this morning these were all the cans that got back last night. Our load in Los Angeles going out on 109 at 10:00 a.m. Edwin P. Hedderly was down to the car to-day and went over the application on the other trips. Loaded 3 tons of coal on the car.

October 14, 1922 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Loaded 59 cans of rainbow and 51 cans of Steelhead for Ventura County. George McCloud and wife came down in the Ford truck, they brought down six cans of Steelhead as they didn't have room on the big trucks for them. Left Lone Pine 7:40 p.m. Train 401.

October 15, 1922 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Arrived at Saugus at 6:10 a.m., left there at 10:40 a.m. One hour late on account train 107 from L.A. At Brownstone station we delivered to the Ventura County Fish and Game Ass'n., 75 cans of fish, 37 cans Rainbow and 38 cans Steelhead. Arrived at Ventura at 12:45 p.m. delivered to John J. Barnett 13 cans Steelhead, 12 cans Rainbow, and to Webb W. Wilcox of Wheeler Springs 10 cans Rainbow. The car was all unloaded at 1:20 p.m. The car is staying at Ventura to-night.

Got back 26 cans to-night, the other 9 will be shipped from Oxnard by baggage.

Fish Car Trip No. 3 Mt. Whitney Hatchery Oct. 15, 1922, Lv. Oct. 14, 1922

Ventura F. & G. Ass'n., Brownstone – 37 RB, 38 SG
J.J. Barnett, Ventura – 12 RB, 13 SG
Webb W. Wilcox, Ventura – 10 RB
All cans returned to car

Oct. 15 & 16th. 1922

October 17, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

ONE FULL CAR-LOAD OF TROUT FOR VENTURA CO. – "The better the day, the better the deed" seems to "go good" in fish-planting as well as other lines of human endeavor.

Yesterday leading Ventura county sportsmen "celebrated" the closing Sunday of the District Four deer-season in most practical manner by cooperating with their State Fish and Game Commission in carefully scattering one full car-load of rainbow and steelhead trout-fry fresh from Mount Whitney Hatchery, into the Sespe and Ventura river systems.

Ventura county again is favored with special attention from the sportsmen's commission this year. Arrangements have been made to divide the heavy allotment of 325,000 assorted trout into two deliveries, the remainder to come along in two weeks, the last Sunday of the month, for Santa Paula Creek, the Sisar, etc.

This enables sportsmen to get away for the day, and permits "packing-in" trout-fry to the head-waters, where they will produce the best results. The output of troutlings from Mt. Whitney Hatchery this year are a lusty, lively lot; big even for their age, which is older than desired, the delays being due to strikes and other conditions beyond the control of the State fish cultural experts.

Sunday, October 15th 37 cans of rainbow and 38 cans of steelhead were delivered to the Ventura sportsmen at the Sespe crossing; 35 cans at Ventura for Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner John J. Barnett to plant in the Ventura tributaries by co-operation of Webb W. Wilcox and others.

The latest carload, divided between the Santa Paula and one of the coastal creeks, and Santa Barbara streams, carried 50 cans for the first named.

With the streams at the present stages, and normal prospects that the first rains, soon due, will prove protective and favorable, rather than detrimental to the fry, it is expected the steady improvement in Ventura fishing noticed even through the recent cycles of adverse "dry-years" will be continued, notwithstanding the truly enormous increase of angling interest.

Enactment of a uniform May first open-season did much to relieve Ventura streams of the previous concentration of sporting demands under the former April opening; and now farsighted sportsmen are demanding similar uniform laws on deer.

October 16, 1922 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Left Ventura this morning at 7:50 a.m. at Fillmore we picked up 75 empty cans, these were the cans set off at Brownstone yesterday. We saw some of the

men that assisted with the planting of the fish and they were well pleased with the shipment. Car arrived in Mojave at 12:30 pm waiting here to go out to Lone Pine tomorrow morning at 3:30 a.m.

October 19, 1922 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PLENTY OF TROUT DELIVERED TO VENTURA CO. STREAMS – Taking special care of Ventura's demonstratedly-powerful angling attractions, whose excessive popularity all but de-populated the county of trout a few years ago under unwise concentration of sporting interest by allowing April fishing, the State Fish and Game Commission on Sunday the fifteenth delivered to its sportsmen-constituents there the first installment of their seasonal quota, one full carload of largest, liveliest Rainbow and Steelhead trout-fry, fresh-shipped from the splendid new Mount Whitney Hatchery on the Eastern Sierras.

Letting the "wind-up" of the Los Angeles county deer-season go by for practical and constructive sportsmanship, volunteer co-operators from the Ventura Fish and Game Association met the Fish and Game Commission's fish-car at the Sespe crossing and took some 150,000 fish up-stream to scatter them in most favorable stretches of that river-system. Meanwhile, Deputy Jack Barnett superintended a similar performance at Ventura, where the remainder of the carload, some 70,000 Steelhead and Rainbow, were apportioned among the Ventura River tributaries.

Arrangements were made by the sportsmen's Commission to divide up the allotment of 325,000 trout made this year in behalf of Ventura, into two consignments. The remainder, half a carload, will come the last Sunday of the month for the Santa Paula (Editor: the article says "Continued on Page 6", but I could not find the rest of the article anywhere in the edition.)

TROUT PLANTING WILL SOON BE ACTIVE – First of the carload-lots of trout-fry which the Fish and Game Commission will give Southern California this season, a full load of over 200,000 steelhead and rainbow "fry" passed through Los Angeles Wednesday morning enroute to the San Diego City water-supply reservoirs. Down there they respect anglers and angling as leading municipal attractions. Success of experimental trout-plantings in 1913 has warranted the fish and game authorities in seriously undertaking to add trout-fishing in the newer reservoirs to the already phenomenal bass-angling that has been built up under the State fishcultural policy.

Next week, another carload goes into the Ventura and Sespe River systems up the Coast under planting by the county sportsmen's association and Deputy Jack Barnett. Last week, the Kern County Association had a carload for Kern River and tributaries.

Riverside and Orange counties will get allotments by special messenger delivery in the latter part of the month. The San Gabriel River is to be heavily planted again, the fish car being side-tracked overnight at Azusa. Orange, perforce denied by the drought, is favored with a doubled allotment this season.

October 24, 1922 – Fillmore Herald

PLANTED MANY FISH UP SESPE ON SUNDAY – The State Game and Fish Commission is seeing to it that the supply of fish for the waters of this section is properly kept up. Their fish distributing car was in this section the last week and the first of this.

Altogether a total of 150,000 rainbow trout and steelheads were turned loose in the waters of this section. The assignment for the Sespe were contained in seventy-five cans that were received here early Sunday morning.

The distribution into the streams was made under the supervision of Parker Dear, the very efficient local assistant fish and game warden. Trucks and men for the job were very generously furnished for this work by the following: Ventura Distributing Co., Atmore & Peyton, Cash Commercial Co. and Snow Bros. Cars were also supplied by Herb Brockus, George Hanna and "Bunnie" Pyle.

The report from the fishing up the Sespe is that it is very good, on the upper reaches. There were many fishermen up there last Sunday, and a few of them found that the fishing was if anything a bit too good. At least Mr. Dear found it necessary to put four of them under arrest for having more than the legal limit. One unfortunate bird had three times more than the law allows.

October 24, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

MORE TROUT DEPOSITED IN VENTURA CO. STREAMS – There was only one "fly in the ointment" for the willing sportsmen of Ventura county who gave up their last chance at the deer last Sunday to do some constructive conservation work for the fishing by co-operating with the State Fish and Game Commission in carefully planting a car-load of trout-fry from Mount Whitney Hatchery in the Sespe and Ventura Rivers.

The "fly" in this particular case was "salmon-eggs" Deputy game-wardens, working with the other sportsmen, in scattering the 150,000 troutlings allotted by the Fish and Game Commission to the Sespe, encountered several fishermen, busily "snatching out fingerlings" with the salmon-eggs, and three arrests for exceeding the limit were made, all who deposited bail which was sent to Judge Barnes at Fillmore.

One fisherman, a Japanese physician, had provided himself with the necessary alien angling license and did not know the limit was cut in half by the last legislature; he had four dozen small fish. Another angler, using flies, had taken over the limit and had a fine basket of fish, averaging better than 7 ½ inches in length, very uniform throughout.

Now is the time for the fly fishermen; water low and clear, fish plentiful, many more left over than the early season angler dreams of. It is all over the end of the month, when the stream fish have a much-needed rest until another May. There will be no concentration

on the up-coast rivers next April: the law opens May 1st everywhere and 25, no 50 is the limit.

(General comments upon the splendid conditions and vigor of the carload of fry which were planted from Mount Whitney Hatchery were made Sunday. They were called the best lot of trout that were ever received in Ventura County).

October 27, 1922 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Phillips returned to the car at Lone Pine on the truck that came down to get the cans brought down 1500 pounds of ice. Platt and Roberts went back with the truck.

Cloudy and cold high Southwind blowing all day. There was quite a fall of snow on the Mount Whitney range of mountains last night and this morning. Cloudy, kept steam up all day to heat the car.

October 28, 1922 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Loaded 100 cans of fish for Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties to-day, left lone Pine at 6:40 p.m. en-route to Surf. Received word from Yosemite Valley Railroad that would handle the car to El Portal and return on Nov. 2nd. Cold Northwind blowing all day, quite a little snow fell on the Osonyo last night and more snow fell on the Whitney range. Had steam up all day to keep the car warm.

October 29, 1922 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Delivered 5 cans of fish at Piru, 45 cans at Santa Paula. The five cans on this trip for Chester S. Saxton, Camarillo were taken to Ventura and delivered to John J. Barnett as he had supplied this stream that they were to go into on Oct. 15th. Car laid over in Ventura from 12:00 noon until 5:05 p.m. and at Santa Barbara from 6:00 p.m. until 8:35, leaving there at that time on train 11 for Surf, at Jalama delivered one can of rainbow for Jalama Creek.

At Surf we delivered 42 cans of fish to H.J. Abels. Mr. E.W. Hunt met the car at Surf this morning. Received 32 cans at Surf to-night. The others Abels is going to ship from Lompoc to Sisson with the exception of three that are to be returned to Mr. Whitney hatchery.

Fish Car Trip N. 6 Mount Whitney Hatchery Oct. 29, 1922, Lv. Oct. 28, 1922

C.E. Lyman, Piru – 5 RB
Ventura Co. F. & G. Ass'n, Santa Paula – 20 RB, 5 LL, 20 SH
Returned to car Monday Oct. 30th
Chester S. Saxton, Montalvo – 2 RB, 3 SH
O.B. Fuller, Jalama – 5 RB

H.J. Abels, Surf – 40 SH

October 30, 1922 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Left Surf at 6:27 a.m. on train 110 arrived at Santa Barbara at 8:45 a.m. Left Santa Barbara at 2:30 p.m. At Santa Paula we picked up the 45 empty cans that were left there yesterday. Arrived in Saugus at 5:25 p.m. waiting here to-night until 109 picks us up at 11:20 p.m. and takes us up to Mojave.

We took on water and gas at Santa Barbara, had gas leak in one of the pipe connection on the outside tank. We worked on it after we arrived in Saugus and about got it stopped.

November 4, 1922 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Dismantled the car at Sacramento to-day. Platt worked on car getting it ready to go into the shop for the winter.

So ends the distribution for the season of 1922.

November 29, 1922 – Oxnard Courier

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION NOTES – The 1922 output of trout from the state hatcheries will be near the twenty-six million mark.

Growing interest in conservation is resulting in the formation of many fish and game associations. More than a dozen native organizations of this kind are now to be found in the state.

Fish are to be furnished hereafter to those counties which will properly care for them: Has your county proper fishways and proper screens at the intake of irrigation ditches? These are necessary precautions in the protection of trout fry.

1 9 2 3

Rainfall – 14.93 Inches

January 12, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

DUCK HUNTER'S PREPARE FOR STEELHEAD FISHING – Hurry Sportsmen! There is only one more week end during which you can go hunting. Duck, quail and rabbit seasons close Monday, January 15. Next Sunday will be the last day this year for shooting at the local duck clubs and it is expected there will be a large number of hunters out. All seasons are said to have been very fair this year.

The big interest at this time is centered around the mouths of the Ventura and Santa Clara rivers, where steelhead trout fishing is reported to be started. Several anglers have caught good sized trout there already and it is expected that from now on the fish will be coming in steadily. Game Warden Barnett is busy these days keeping fishermen within tidewater limits. Steelhead trout fishing season opened December 15, but the fish did not start coming in until a few days ago.

George Austin, local sportsman took a trip to the Ventura river yesterday and reports that the sport looks good. There were many fishermen out already who declared that fishing was fine. The limit on steelhead is five trout per day, regardless of size. It was stated that five steelhead, such as are sometimes caught in the rivers, would be enough to feed and large sized family.

Mr. Austin has received a book of new angling licenses. Licenses which will permit fishing from January 1, 1923 to December 31, 1923 can now be obtained. The licenses are the best ever printed. On the face there is a picture in colors of a good catch of trout, rod, basket and fly hook. Mr. Austin said that the picture alone was worth the price of the license.

January 13, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

A "GRANDPAP" FISH STORY – Steelhead trout fishing up stream of the Ventura River is good. Several Los Angeles anglers will vouch for that—that is, they might, providing Jack Barnett, Ventura County Game Warden, is not within car-shot at the time.

Last week several Los Angeles fishermen parked their automobiles, got out their fishing tackle and proceeded to intice Mr. and Mrs. Steelhead and all young steelheads to nab their hook.

One of the streams oldest and largest inhabitants wandered along direct in the path of the delicious bait, it was obstructing traffic he thought and so attempted to brush it aside, to make the going more convenient for the rest of the steelheads, who trailed leisurely along in the rear. But somehow the brushing process wasn't exactly as anticipated and old Grandpap Steelhead was snared. He measured 40 inches long and his whiskers hadn't

been trimmed in ages. He came from upstream where barbers were thought to be something to eat and revenue officers the world's greatest criminals.

His introduction to the Los Angeles fishermen, upon common ground, was sort of clammy and he wiggled in the gentleman's hand as though he would like to get away as soon as possible, but the angler knew his stuff and cramming grandpap in his wicker basket put miles in nothing between the babbling waters of the Ventura River on his was to Los Angeles.

The game warden heard about the struggle.

It was no way to treat an old man just down from the mountains with his family and so he tried his best to bring the cruel angler before justice. But the Los Angeles fisherman held out for more money, demanding to know why he should tangle with Battling Justice just for fun when Jesse Willard is holding out for $100,000 for his end of a Willard-Dempsey waltz.

January 17, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

PERSONALS – Steelhead trout fishing is reported good. At the mouth of the Ventura river Bud Jewett of Ventura caught one weighing seven pounds and measuring 27 inches. A Los Angeles man, W.H. Howard, caught a nine-pound trout Sunday.

March 22, 1923 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DUVAL'S BILL WOULD PRESERVE STATE FISHING – Assemblyman Walter Duval of this county has introduced a bill in the legislature which would do away with using salmon eggs for trout fishing.

March 24, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

FOREST FIRES AFFECT FISH LIFE, REPORT SAYS – (Fish and Game Commission). So obvious is the serious loss of valuable timber occasioned by the fires which annually devastate our forests, even those who are poorly informed are well aware of this condition. Less apparent but no less real is the loss, from the same cause, of other natural resources. The wild life of the woods and streams must suffer. Particularly through the food and game fishes is there a serous loss. Too little attention has been paid to this subject and consequently we have little reliable information. A few of the most immediate effects detrimental of fish life, following forest fires, are a quick rise in the temperature of the water, a lowering of the oxygen content, a change in the chemical properties, a destruction of shade. Most forest streams are slightly acid—a condition known to be well adapted to trout; the deposit of ash in the stream gives it an alkaline quality, most destructive to fish life. This deposit of ash also probably has an injurious mechanical effect on the fish, in addition to that incurred by the chemical change. These immediate and more easily recognizable effects of the fire do not cover all the loss that may be expected. More far-reaching is the destruction of food, increased turbidity of the

water and the decreased protection from floods and droughts.—Service Bulletin, U.S. Bur. of Fisheries, No. 88, page 2.

March 29, 1923 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SMALL BOYS BE CAREFUL! – County Game Warden J.J. Barnett was in Santa Paula yesterday, full of righteous indignation. The warden is interested in small fry, both piscine and human, and he wants to do his best for both small boys and small fish. But he wants to warn the small boys of this section that unless they keep hands off his fish control apparatus which are found in the various irrigating ditches in this vicinity, they may run afoul of the law.

The boys have been annoying the office of the warden lately by removing or damaging the fish wheels and revolving screens which are placed in the headwaters of the irrigating ditches for the purpose of keeping trout out of the ditches, where they die and are a loss to the sportsmen of the county.

Three boys were arrested for molesting the controlling devices put out by the warden's office on Wednesday, and others may expect arrest if the practice is not discontinued. There is a penalty of fines from $25 to $500 and jail sentences u to 150 days which may be imposed upon offenders found guilty of meddling with these things in such a way as to result in the loss of fish.

While the warden can remember the days when he was a small boy and liked both fishing and swimming, he says that he will be compelled t forbid all swimming near irrigation ditches unless the boys are more careful in the future, and he wishes to warn the parents of the boys that unless the troublesome practices are stopped, there may be consequences unfortunate for all concerned.

April 13, 1923 – Santa Paula Chronicle
April 20, 1923 – Fillmore Herald

FISH AND GAME MEN RESENTFUL – Ventura County Fish and Game Protective Association is taking an active part in the campaign for keeping the fish and game resources of the state from commercialization.

There are approximately 500 members of the association in Ventura county and close to 100 in Santa Paula or immediately adjacent. These sport-lovers are keenly interested in the working out of the proposed state budget as it would affect the fish and game interests of the state. They feel that the fishing and hunting of California has been preserved, as much as it has been preserved, by a body that has been self-supporting—the State Fish and Game Commission and they resent anything that appears to them as an attempt to impose a tax for general governmental purposes on the privilege of fishing hunting in the state.

Letters and telegrams are being poured upon the representatives of this district in the interests of the protective association.

In speaking of the budget in this connection the *Stockton Record* says:

"Sportsmen throughout California are up in arms against the proposal to impose a tax for general governmental purposes upon the privilege of fishing and hunting in this state.

"The automobile license funds are used for building and maintaining highways. The motorist pays the tax willingly and gladly. It is proposed to levy a tax on gasoline to provide money for road building and the motorists are eager to pay. The motorists know the value of good roads and they are glad to pay for more of them. But tax their machines and the gasoline that they consume to raise funds for other purposes and they will rebel. Naturally and justly so.

"Heretofore the fishing and hunting license funds have been used for the purpose of conserving the supply of fish and game. Were it not for the protective work of the fish and game commission during the last 20 years, many of our game birds would undoubtedly now be extinct. Sportsmen have long felt that the work of the commission should be extended rather than curtailed. To that end many of the district fish and game protective associations were about to recommend that the amount of the annual fishing license be doubled. This would enable the commission to build more hatcheries, propagate more fish and plant more mountain streams.

"Now along comes the proposal of the state administration to divert 45 percent of the funds of the fish and game commission to other purposes. This would seriously cripple the fish cultural work and would undoubtedly result in depleting the streams. Trout fishing forms one of the great lures of California outdoors, now famed throughout America. The fish and game commission should be permitted to continue their activities which tend to encourage tourists to come hither. Last year non-resident licenses were issued to approximately 1500 visitors, bringing in revenues amount to about $15,000. The benefit that California derives from having outside visitors revel in fishing along our mountain streams cannot be measured by the amount of money that the state exacts from them in license money, however. The chief value of attracting tourist sportsmen to our borders lies in the enthusiasm engendered among them by their experiences here. Thereupon the non-resident fisherman becomes a missionary for California. The enthusiasm is carried home with him and is communicated to others in whom the desire to come to California is at once implanted.

"The work of the State Fish and Game Commission is varied and extensive—much more so than the lay man, perhaps, appreciates. The commission does not confine its efforts to mere physical effort. Nature trips and talks at Yosemite and Tahoe during summer, and talks and film exhibits during winter months are a part of the program that tends to the conservation of fish, game, and all nature, by giving an understanding to all, and educating the boys and girls along these lines. Understanding and appreciation always

tend to preservation. The work of the commission on these lines has proved so popular that the practice has been introduced in other national parks and is rapidly spreading.

"Let us not attempt to commercialize our fish and game resources by making them a basis of producing revenues."

April 15, 1923 – Los Angeles Times

FISH EXPERTS OUTDO NATURE – Now approaches May Day, which in Southern California spells to thousands of ardent anglers the coming of the trout season. But of them all, how many ever give thought to the serious, highly scientific and eminently practical business of manufacturing the fish?

"Manufacturing" is just the word. Nature provides the male and the female fish and, of course, the eggs. But they are just the raw materials. Very raw. Enter Lou Phillips, skilled fishculturist of many years' experience, trained under the veteran Superintendent of Fishculture, W.H. Shebley, of the State Fish and Game Commission. Presto! The grand transformation begins to take place.

Every sunny, warm morning upon the banks of the south slope creeks in Big Bear Valley, a mile and a third above the seas. "Stripper" Phillips and assistants are busy plying their unique vocation. Aye, vocation would be truer. For these men who act as nurses—wet nurses, very—the baby troutlings are earnest lovers of the work. Else they would not be standing thigh-deep in icy water day after day "mushing" in over yard-deep snow to pen their spawning stations in the early spring months, perhaps dragging in after them their provisions and equipment. For this is not a remunerative work.

Nature, ever wasteful in her dissemination processes, squanders with lavish hand her fish eggs, even as she broadcasts her weed seeds. And under average conditions, such as floods and other adversities, she loses a probable 90 per cent.

California's blend of the practical with the scientific, as applied to Fishculture, turns the tables and saves about that percentage. It is the dollar a year that the sport fisherman pays for his licenses that enables this work to be carried on.

It is strange and wholly wonderful exposition of the biological processes that enter into the "making" of life, this fishcultural. Of course, life, in a critical sense, cannot be created by man. Every high-school pupil has learned that in physics class. But why be captious? Let us follow Mr. Phillips. Let us follow him for a morning's inspection trip of the fish trap on Metcalf Creek.

There is disclosed a fine showing of "ripe" spawners, thrusting their torpedo-like, steely-blue noses between the slats, energetically milling around in the mad urge to ascend the stream past all obstructions.

Sometimes those clean-cut noses are cut and bruised raw with incessant fighting to pass insurmountable barriers; again, the bellies and ventral fins, the lower lobes of the tails, will be scrubbed down to the quivering bellies by hours of ceaseless struggling to work their way over the bars or up scant tricklets. There seems to be at least the dawning of a "parent instinct" in all salmonidae. And the desperate courage with which spawn-ladden fish will try, try and keep on trying the impossible until exhausted by their efforts, surpasses belief.

But our fish are there. The trap is comfortably crowded with them. Certain individuals will learn after a time and seek streams that they can pass; some seemingly never do. Experts like Lou Phillips feel that the fish differ in their intelligence even as we humans do. Some seem almost to have good sense.

All morning they have been swimming strongly up the creek—great, silvery beauties, long as a gun barrel, sleek as moles, shining brightly as the surface dimly shadows their lusty proportions in the depths—indeed an angler's delight. "Who says they have all been fished out" in Big Bear?

And yet, he who goes on a cold, dark morning—or even an especially hot one which melts the snow—might think so. The fish know. But when the expert explains, their movements no longer seem strange and meaningless. For the temperature of the water mostly determines the journey of the spawners.

With creeks warmer than the lake and fairly clear water, in they come. Normally, the shallow creeks will warm up with the early run. As the day advances, and snow on the slope melts, down goes the temperature of the creeks and back to the lake return many of the fish which are free to do so.

Those that look "about ready" may find the gate of the trap dropped against their retreat. They have reasons for all they do—and good reasons—but sometimes it puzzles even the expert just why.

The performance is about to begin. An assistant, with cotton-gloved hands for easier control, is by the table, the "stripper" in position.

"Get me that one—and that one," says Phillips, indicating a "ripe" female and, if he looks right, her consort.

The assistant holds the fish; the gentle pressure of two thumbs on her abdomen expresses her eggs—1000 to 2000 usually—in a spurting stream.

Caught in a shallow pan, like those used for milk, the male is similarly handled at once; sometimes two females to one male. Fertilization is instantaneous, but time is the essence of it. Every minute of delay means loss in fertilization percentage.

Eggs deposited in lakes by rainbow trout come to nothing. In bad seasons, one can see them, whitening and decaying in windows along the shallows of North Bay in Big Bear; the only consolation that they probably were held too long before the fish had to "lay" them for physical relief.

But the egg, fertilized, is only the beginning of a most interesting process with which everyone who ever visited the Fish and Game Commission's hatcheries in Big Bear Valley is at least superficially familiar.

Hatching. It is a process requiring time in direct proportion to the temperature of the water; the colder, the slower; the warmer, the quicker. But above a certain temperature, the embryos are structurally weak, and therefore the skilled fishculturists have worked out maximum temperature which brings off the troutlings from their watery "incubators" as quickly as consistent with vigor sufficient to stand the onslaughts of instant perils.

California may well take pride in their fish-rearing activities, which in this State are peculiarly the sportsmen's own, in that the dollar license pays for the most extensive trout cultural program undertaken by any State, amounting to the last few years to an average turnover of 25,000,000 trout-fry annually.

We call off millions carelessly since the World War. But one grasps a better idea of what these figures mean in Fishculture when it is reckoned that good spawners will not run a thousand eggs to a fish; and a male has to be handled for every female. Nor, even under the skilled selection like Phillips, will every fish, picked up be found "ripe." In other words, every million of trout fry planted means the individual handling of more than a thousand fish.

In case of the salmon, Nature has decreed that the royal "Quinnat," uncrowned king of all fish, must reproduce and die. Under natural methods, many trout are destroyed incidental to the madness of the spawning rush. But not all. Trout are stripped better and cleaner by the expert hands of such as Phillips than they can clean themselves in the streams. For not always in the ideal spawning ground available nor the most favorable size of rounded stones upon which the female fish sometimes roll themselves in relieving their nest egg sacs of the last few obstinate pink pellets.

The pans are full. This has been a fairly busy morning. Seventy-two prime fish were handled this first day of the season's operations in Bear Valley. After a wholly wonderful March of warm, settled weather had promised a record-breaking egg take, the innate perversity of springtime weather in the mountains asserted itself in a liquid April.

One never knows until the final fertilization what a season has yielded. Last year, successive bad weather delayed the spawners until they became egg-bound. Nature tells them not to cast their eggs under hopelessly unfavorable conditions.

When the eggs are taken too late they do not fertilize properly. Too much of the watery or serous fluids of the egg sac have been absorbed. The fertilizing element has to enter

through a tiny aperture of the egg—the micropyle of the piscatorial biologist. It enters more quickly and more certainly if the eggs are freshly cast and without too much water. Thus has man improved upon Nature, which perforce must have her finny wards deposit their eggs in the living element, the streams.

But for the persistent plantings of trout-fry in our meager and increasingly overfished southern streams, draining steep gorge watersheds mostly, threatened ever with too much water or too little, trout fishing in the lower counties would be but a memory, and a bad dream, at that.

Yet, of late years, despite an increase of angling enthusiasm, as reflected by last year's sale of nearly 60,000 licenses through the Los Angeles office of the Fish and Game Commission, the sport has actually improved.

Too, trout fishing has been established in artificial reservoirs of San Diego county, supposedly too far south for anything better than bass.

The low, clear water preceding the bountiful rains disclosed last month a greater showing of silvery steelheads in the up-coast streams than ever before. Such a temptation it was that watchful wardens of the fish and game patrol had their hands full, checking the preseason rush of the genus "sooner."

California's fish cultural work has developed but on a regret among sportsmen; that there cannot be much more of it than the existing dollar-license can possibly finance.

<u>April 19, 1923 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens May 1st. Are you ready for it? Look over your tackle and if you need rods, reels, lines, creels, flies, fly books, salmon eggs, egg hooks, leaders, spinners, etc. Get them now, as there seem to be a shortage in nearly al kinds of tackle this year. Elliott's

ADVERTISEMENT – Fisherman's Luck! It's just our luck to be all hung up with a new store building almost ready to open when we'd like to be getting our own tackle ready for the opening of Trout Season—May 1st. But we're never too busy to care for your fishing needs and we'll be mighty glad to show you our New Stocks of Fishing Tackle on Saturday, April 21, or any time thereafter. We have a dandy line of fishing things that will make your more anxious than ever to get out after the finny beauties. Come in and we'll talk it over with you and give you just exactly what you need to "get the limit." The Primmer Company. While our new store will not be ready for Formal Opening until Saturday, April 28 we will have a full stock of fishing tackle ready for your inspection, and to sell, so that you may be ready for the opening of the season in good time. Come in this Saturday.

GOES FISHING COSTS HIM $50 – G.C. Landis of Los Angeles will answer before Justice of the Peace Bagnall tomorrow, for the asserted crime of taking fish out of season.

Or—if he fails to answer—he will be fifty dollars poorer than when he left Los Angeles last Sunday to visit some of Ventura county's justly famous trout streams.

For it is claimed that Mr. Landis went into the Sespe region last Sunday afternoon with the thought of beguiling the happy hours with finny sport. Albert Call, county horticultural commissioner, who is always glad to do a good deed for the fishermen of the county, happened to be on hand where Mr. Landis stopped and was sunning himself.

Mr. Call kept out of sight. It is said that Mr. Landis unlimbered a mean rod and line and proceeded to imitate Izaak Walton. When he had snagged the season's first fish, Mr. Call halted him in the name of the Great Jehovah, the Continental Congress, and the game laws of the state of California, and took him into custody.

After getting into telephone communications with the justice of the peace "Officer" Call released Mr. Landis, after accepting $50 as bail, upon the advice of Judge Bagnall, and instructing Landis to appear tomorrow at his honor's court.

According to the story told, Mr. Landis claimed that the matter of the unseasonable trout was largely a mistake, a sudden yielding without premeditation. It was pointed out, however, that he came from Los Angeles equipped with wading boots and a complete fishing outfit. It has been suggested that he was simply preparing for the opening of the trout season, May 1.

April 27, 1923 – Fillmore Herald

SPORTSMEN'S RESORT IN THIS COUNTY TO BE IMPROVED – As a result to spend $10,000 on the Old Adobe Gun club property, many improvements will be made which will further improve the remarkable facilities of this resort.

It is the plan to put 40 to 100 acres of land under water and to institute trout ponds similar to those in use in larger gun club grounds. The buildings will be improved and other additions made to the Gun club property. Work on the changes is to start in the very near future.

STORES TO CLOSE AND FISHING OPEN MAY FIRST – There is to be no formal celebration of May Day here in Fillmore this year. Nevertheless it looks as though there would be quite general observance of the day. There was a petition signed the other day, headed as follows:

"We, the undersigned, agree to suspend business May Day, May 1st, and declare a holiday—notwithstanding the absence of the usual celebration."

The following signatures were attached to this petition:

Cash Commercial, Miss Irene Ramsay, Pantry Market, O.T. Clough, Railway Express, Blue Line Highway Express, The Music Shop, Harry Stitch, Hobson Bros., Ventura

County Co-Op Ass'n., McClintock Market Co., Peterson & Palmer, W.N. Servoss, H. Simon, Robert Hutchins, Johnston's Electric Shop, H.E. Philbrook, Pearson's Barber Shop, Monty Everitt, Home Bakery, Goodenough & Co., Lindenfeld Cash Store, Hickey Bros., Co., Morrow & Sheets, J.V. Fisher, Wineman Co., Newcomer's Shoe Shop, W.E. Cooney, John Opsahl Co., Everett C. Annin, S.B. Taylor & Co., J.W. Thomas, Central Avenue Garage, O.A. Widner, Willard Service Station, Charles A. Brovo, Bake-Rite Bakery.

Just how much effect the opening of the fishing season on May first had on the signing of the above agreement no man can tell—exactly. But there it is and our readers and the general public perhaps can govern themselves.

ADVERTISEMENT – May First The Trout Season Opens. We can complete your outfit with the right kind of Tackle. Don't wait until the last day—pick your needs at your earliest convenience. Fishing License Supplied. When you think of Hardware think of Hickey Bros Company. Free Delivery Service.

April 28, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

FISH AND GAME ASSN. DOES MUCH GOOD HERE AND THROUGHOUT STATE – J.N. Proctor, of Santa Paula, spoke on the fish and game laws before the county chamber of commerce last Friday evening, as president of Ventura County Fish and Game association.

He told about the organization of this association in 1916, then known as the Game and Fish Protective association. It included at that time only Saticoy, Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru. It was reorganized on a countywide scale in 1921, and the name was changed to the present title. It now includes Saticoy, Piru, Ojai, Moorpark, Simi, Oxnard, Somis, Ventura, Fillmore, and Santa Paula.

The purpose of the association is to promote interest in legitimate sport with rod and gun, assist in the enforcement of laws, for the protection and propagation of fish and game and secure needed legislation.

Among the accomplishments already achieved is the passage of a law making the opening day of the fishing and hunting season the same in Ventura and Los Angeles county, effective for the first time this year. Previously, the season opened earlier here, permitting the Los Angeles sportsmen to come in droves on opening day and denuded our ranges and streams of birds, deer and fish, leaving the remains for local sportsmen. Then after that they would have their own county for a continuation of the good times. Now they have the choice of coming here or remaining on their own preserves.

…Besides these things, they have been instrumental in getting heavy trout planting in Ventura county streams, and in cooperating with the game and fish warden here. They have introduced a salmon egg law in the legislature, which would do away with this kind of bait, and thus give the smaller fish a chance to grow up to decent size, and they are co-

operating with the forest officers. (Remainder of the article is a letter the association wrote to the Governor regarding cuts to the Fish and Game Commission.)

April 30, 1923 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT SEASON WILL OPEN TOMORROW – Covering something like 500 miles of road through Southern California in search for real trout fishing, camping and hiking conditions for the public, Ed "Rainbow" Duskin, tackle expert of the B.H. Dyas Company, and Outdoor Franklin of the Howard Automobile Company have completed a comprehensive report or log of their journey, which should be of great value to the many outdoor lovers.

The trout season opens throughout the State tomorrow and the information Duskin and Franklin obtained should be of especial interest to the anglers.

In most places the two sportsmen found the streams low, but clear, and the fish abundant in some streams, and only fair in others.

The log of their journey follows:

Lyon's Springs – Going by way of Ventura, trip continued onto Lyon Springs, where water was found low, but very clear. Some trout were seen in a few pools of the stream. To the fisherman going to this location, advise hiking three our four miles further up stream to get away from Soda Springs, which empty into the creek above this point.

Matilija Hot Springs – Found better stream conditions. Best so far on the 500-mile trip. More water was found than reported and indications of quite a number of trout in the stream.

Wheeler's Hot Springs – This location, short distance from Matilija, affords splendid camping conditions, wonderful swimming pool, fed from the hot springs which the camp gets the name. Should the outdoor seeker go to Wheeler's, it is advised that a bathing suit be taken along. At the springs Webb W. Wilcox, owner, and also owner of Lathrop's Camp on Upper Sespe, advised that conditions for trout fishing were wonderful The Upper Sespe location is reached from Wheeler's by horseback trail, a distance of nine miles. Water was found not too high and clear as crystal. The latter location is a sure limit-getting on the Sespe.

Lower Sespe – Coming back from Wheeler's by way of Ojai and Fillmore, continued along the Lower Sespe to Henley's Camp. There water was found low and stream in wonderful condition for fly fishing. There was but little face water, sometimes called white water. The pools were deep and clear, and abundant in trout of a fairly good size. Many steelhead trout seen in the Lower Sespe. Roads to above location found in excellent condition. Henley's Camp still continues the fee of $1 for each automobile parking for one day. Machines are left at Henley's and the anglers hike up-stream from two to six miles, before beginning operation. However, very good fishing should be had

the first few days right at Henley's Camp and immediately above it. (The article also contained conditions in Santa Barbara, Kern, Big Bear and San Gabriel.)

May 1, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

FISHING SEASON BEST IN YEARS SAY NIMRODS RETURNING FROM HILLS – The streams of Ventura county are crowded with fishermen today, the opening of the 1923 fishing season. Reports from anglers who have returned from a good day's sport state that the rivers and creeks are lined with eager sportsmen.

There were many from here who went fishing last night and are not home yet. Secretary Robertson of the chamber of commerce took a trip in the hills last night to be ready today to try his luck for the first time in Ventura county. He wants to be able to tell newcomers all about the good fishing in this county. R.C. McFadden and James Shea of the Edison company, and C.D. Bennett went up the Ventura river. Carl Dwire also went up the Ventura river. George Bartlett and a party of friends are having great sport around Camp Bartlett.

Half of the force of the Dunn Manufacturing company is away today on fishing trips. Bob Funk of that concern returned home today with the limit. E.L. Carty also brought in the limit. W.P. Schlinger of this city caught the biggest trout so far, measuring a foot and a half. He was proud of his catch and he had a reason to be.

Andrew and Will Borchard got back from the Upper Matilija lat today with limits. They report fishing excellent. Every fisherman who took on the sport today reports that the fishing is better than it has been for many years past. The streams are high and there are thousands of fish in them. It looks like a good season and sportsmen may look forward to many happy days this year.

May 3, 1923 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Grunion Run May 2, 3, 4. Trout Season opened May 1st with the best fishing for several years, every place except the river, which will be better later. Watch this space for a Bulletin of Sports every week. Don't Forget Your Fire Permit. The Primmer Company. "Everything in Sporting Goods" Camp Outfits Fishing Tackle

FISH BITE ON ALL STREAM – Santa Paula's unofficial holiday—May first—dawned bright and clear, as the story books say. There was a fisherman on every rock and a line in every pool. Unfortunately, it can not be said that there was a fish on every line, but for all that, those who were disappointed were in the minority and many came home with little wicker baskets holding the limit.

All Santa Paula responded to the call of rod and line—that is, all that could possibly get away. A general rush to the hills had begun as early as Sunday, a good many taking Monday and Tuesday off, beginning fishing on Tuesday morning and using Monday to make preparations and pick the most likely looking pool.

The first day brought out a good many fish, too—the best for several years, in point of number, although most of them were small in size. A few 11 and 12 inchers were brought proudly down from the Santa Paula creek, but most of them were around 7 or 8 inches.

Sam Primmer, local fishing sage, went into the Santa Paula creek country above the falls, and brought out the limit, in rather small-sized fish. He reported, however, that it was the best opening day that he had seen for several years. A.W. Elliott, another expert disciple of Izaak Walton, went into the Sespe country and had some good luck and some bad, having trouble in encountering oil on the surface which had escaped from a broken pipe line.

The oil spoiled the fishing for a good many Sespe hopefuls, when about 50 barrels escaped from a broken line just above the Swallow's Nest, blackening the surface and making fishing impossible for miles down stream. Above the point, however, the fishing was splendid, but crowded.

A large number of Los Angeles parties worked the Sespe with good success, and more are expected over the coming week-end.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL – Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Hinds had as house guests this week Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Lewis and son, Charles, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Fred McVey, of San Bernardino. Mrs. Lewis is Mrs. Hind's sister. Messrs. Lewis and McVey journeyed up the Sespe Tuesday each getting the limit of trout.

May 4, 1923 – Fillmore Herald

LOCAL – The Thomas Eastons had another house party, beginning Saturday and ending Wednesday morning. All of the guests did not arrive Saturday, but all were on hand for the opening of the fishing season. Those in the party were Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Hill, Robert White, the C.T. Lloyds, the H.H. Lloyds, Ray Cordwell and Ed Perkins. Each caught very near the limit in trout, so had a good fish breakfast.

FISHING SEASON WAS OPENED ON TUESDAY – The trout fishing was opened on Tuesday. Hundreds of local fishermen, reinforced by still more hundreds from Los Angeles, were away up the Sespe and other streams late Monday night and early Tuesday morning. The influx of out-of-town fishermen was not so large as in previous years. The cafes along Santa Clara street were kept open all night to accommodate these passers-by. It was not until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning that the tide of autoists grew great. Speed Cop Hume was on hand to greet those were in too big a hurry, and several contributed to the city treasurer.

The fishing this year can be classified as good. But there were no stories of extraordinary large fish. Many of the anglers, however, had no difficulty in getting the limit. Game Warden Barnett and five deputies were keeping a close eye on the fishing streams to see

that there was no violation of the law. Deputy Parker Dear made half a dozen arrests up the Sespe. Most of these arrests came through ignorance of the offense. For instance, if two fishermen get the limit, and dump all the fish in one basket the man having the fish in his basket is liable to arrest. A broken pipe line for a while spoiled the fishing in part of the river.

Business was practically suspended during the day. Here and there was an open door, and of course the banks were open. The closing up, without any community celebration of May Day did not get by without criticism. One correspondent wrote the *Herald* as follows:

"The advantages of closing various business places of Fillmore are many and wise. Indeed we applaud as we do not need the patronage nor the money. And then we can go to Los Angeles and do a lot of shopping in a day, and things are cheaper, too. Our rural neighbors can pass through our "Main Stem" and tarry long enough to place a shovel of dirt on the remains. While Santa Paula, Ventura and Oxnard will place a marble slab inscribed 'Rest in Peace.' However, we take off our hat to the perpetual and useless closing of Fillmore, then howl because our friends do not trade at home."

Such mistakes as the closing up on Tuesday will never be done away until the business men of Fillmore get in closer contact with each other than through the medium of a hastily signed paper.

NORTH FILLMORE – Several of the Fillmore H.S. boys were among the "early birds" on the Sespe Tuesday morning, and four of the boys caught the "limit." They were Lee Taylor, Jack McCarter, Marion Duncan and Donald Arrasmith.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Now Popular. We can complete your outfit with the right kind of Tackle. Don't wait until the last day—pick your needs at your earlier convenience. Fishing licenses supplied. Hickey Bros. Company.

ADVERTISEMENT – Campers Attention! A complete line of Campers' Goods -- Folding cots and folding beds, roll-up camping bed pads, folding gasoline camp stoves, folding stools and folding tables, fishing tackle for the Trout Stream and Surf Fishing. Co-Op Hardware Department.

PIRU – Carl Cram, Jr., with Johnnie and Ygnacio Forster and Mr. Campbell, of Los Angeles, went up the Agua Blanca Monday on a fishing trip.

E.C. Whipp and his family and Earl Cooper were "among those present" to usher in the fishing season on the Agua Blanca. Mr. Whipp is an efficient fisherman and soon caught the limit, with Mrs. Whipp and Mr. Cooper pressing close.

<u>May 5, 1923 – Oxnard Courier</u>
REPORT TO SUPERVISORS – …One Dollar Each For Trout. Game Warden Barnett picked up a fisherman in the Matilija canyon May 1 who had 130 trout in his basket and

was still fishing. He was hauled into court and his honor made him pay a fine of one dollar for each fish over the limit of 25, not very big fish either and besides the fish were confiscated for a hospital. The warden reports that just before the season opened he arrested several "sooners", those taking fish too early. Among them were Joe Rodriguez, who paid a fine of $50, Tom Johnson $75 and Sattler $125, who got suspended sentence, while C.C. Landis was fined $100 on two charges.

May 7, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD AND VICINITY – Alfred Rummelsberg, Joe Aleski and Harold Rees spent yesterday fishing at the Matilija. Alfred caught a nice 18-inch trout and the others did nearly as well.

May 10, 1923 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISMENT – Trout Fishing – In the Upper Sespe was never better than now with trout averaging about 11 inches, while it is no trouble to get enough trout for supper in any of the streams close in. From now till July 1st is the season for Corbina and Surf Fish. Halibut are beginning to run. The Primmer Company.

May 13, 1923 – Los Angeles Times

FESTIVE TROUT NOW READY TO "STRIKE" ANGLER'S LINE – by Edwin L. Hedderly, Assistant in Charge, Southern Division, California Fish and Game Commission.

Now has come that warm and welcome season when every angler again realizes what a privilege he enjoys in being able to live among the good things of this every glorious Golden State, true paradise of the sportsman that it is! Fishing for trout again became lawful on "May Day;" whereupon the handful of faithful patrol deputies covering the southern streams and lakes for the sportsmen under direction of their "State Fish and Game Commission," drew a well-earned sigh of relief.

And no wonder. All through the warmest, calmest and driest March of Southern record, the heavy previous plantings of trout offered perpetual temptation to a host of ante-season "prospectors." From "looking 'em over" to "snatching out a few"—aye, stealing them from the law-abiding—was a step all too easily and indeed, too generally, taken.

"Fishing by Moonlight" was one of the innovations for which violators paid several fines incurred on the Sespe and Ventura particularly, just prior to the opening. Warm, moonlight nights when no angler could sleep; warm water with countless troutlings spattering about, surfacing in eloquent, persuasive splashings, proved too alluring a combination for many to resist. Officers picked up one fellow three times the same night, until he thought the game-wardens grew on trees; but the judge proved to him that money didn't.

Fishermen of the "sooner" sort learned a bitter lesson in all the outlying counties, particularly Ventura, this Spring. Encouraged by the sportsmen's associations, the local judges have "boosted" the ante on "raising the limit" also until nowadays the fish and game violator no longer can count on getting "off for only a 25-spot anyway." Several sooners paid $100 or more, causing ante-season trout to figure as the dearest of food.

Fishing everywhere was good at the opening, and the sport lasted as long as the truly enormous concentration of angling interest upon streams scantier than normal, and all too limited at the best, would allow.

Most gratifying proof of the fry-planting policy pursued in the Big Bear Lake by the Fish and Game Commission has been given by the remarkable showing of very large trout that have crowded to the mouths of the tributary creeks this Spring, where eggs still are being taken to capacity, of the local hatcheries. Weather conditions during April were far from favorable, but the large showing of the big fish was generally commented upon. …

…Lively interest always attaches among the licensed angling fraternity to the trout-plantings of the year previous, although these at best cannot be better than sorry-sized "fingerlings" by the succeeding May. It is the plantings of two summers ago that provide the sporting-size fish which every angler appreciates as well-earned tribute to better than ordinary skill; for any trout which has survived the "salmon-eggers," the "worm-wrigglers," the "spoon-spinners" and the "fly-flickers" who, in endless variety endeavor to beguile the unwary fish throughout a long summer's ordeal, may be conceded as "high-schooled" while the ten-inchers and upward are at least graduates of the piscatorial college; and of those that have run the gauntlet of four years to sexual maturity, and measure themselves by feet and pounds, something in the nature of post-graduate honors must be conceded. They are both scarce and hard to get! Yet, skilled anglers do get enough of them to prove that the streams are not nearly so "fished-out" as the inexpert majority would have it after they return from the normal disappointment of the first week-end, when scanty streams have run red with salmon-eggs until the "fingerlings" are "fed up" beyond interest in fly or bait.

Several years ago, the sportsmen's State Fish and Game Commission started in upon a new policy of stocking Southern California's all-too-scanty streams more heavily in proportion than the portions of the State more bountifully favored by Nature. With completion of the Mt. Whitney Hatchery above Independence, with unlimited supply of ideal fish-rearing water the up-bringing of the barren Sierra lakes was begun in real earnest by packing-train methods, the aim being to build up trout of full size in advance of the foreseen rush when increasing population learned of the wonderful natural playgrounds in "America's Alps," right at Los Angeles' back door. It seemed eternally fitting that our citizens should seek their sport upon the same streams that contributed to their municipal water supply.

As one looks back seven year to preparations then thought ample for at least two decades ahead, the recollection seems amusing, for such preparations were out-grown within one year after the Armistice, when thousands of young sportsmen, accustomed to the roughest

of camp-life, came back from the trenches with a thirst for outdoors that nothing else than the rugged wilds could satisfy. Today, several trans-Sierra roads are being surveyed; the now remote fastnesses soon will be accessible to the motor camper; and when that day comes, it will find the fish already there in places where Nature never put them. Already, one can drive to such formerly inaccessible places as South Lake on Bishop Creek, where Will Parcher has an excellent camp amidst any kind of fishing one may fancy; places like the Rock Creek Lakes, formerly a pack-train trip, are now easily gotten at by auto; motor-cars run about between the wonderful lakes of the Mammoth plateau in Mono like rabbits coursing through the sage-brush. Indeed, one wonders what will be called "inaccessible" in a few more years! And so long as the sportsmen are able to handle the propagation and protection of fish and game through their present system whereby their license contributions are spent for what they were given, these remote places, as they open up one after another, will be found well provided with the best species of game-fish available.

It is a far-reaching program that has been laid out for the improvement of angling as the years roll on; a program calling continually for the expenditure of every available dollar, including the doubled license that every sportsman is so willing to donate to such a good work. The plan does not stop with bringing up the lakes that Nature has made,; it goes beyond that. Some of the most striking successes of California's kind of fish culture as directed by the veteran Superintendent of Hatcheries, Will Shebley, now nearly forty years in the State's service, have been in the development of wonderful sport in artificially created, man-made reservoir lakes, in mountains and lowlands alike. …

... California lacks not for power development; on the contrary, the State is lined and veined with hydroelectric transmission, and enough already is projected to last a score of years even at the recent rate of population increase. Indeed, it is high time that the State gave serious thought to the conservation of her food-supply resources; one by one, a handful of sincere, earnest men have fought these up-hill fights to save the people's fish and game from capitalized greed or careless disregard; sometimes winning, sometimes losing. The Klamath situation, soon to go before the State Water Commission upon application for permits to build these high dams, is an issue that directly concerns every person in California, whether a sportsman or not; but as usual it is the sportsmen whose organization must speak for all if any speaking is to be done.

But for this incessant fighting, California already would have degenerated into a sorry memory of the wild-life paradise the Forty-niners found it—a State whose endowment of fish and game was rich beyond estimate. Unprecedented population growth, perforce has brought its problems; changing conditions were certain and unavoidable; but thus far he State has succeeded, thanks to her sportsmen, in maintaining something more than a mere memory of her game, and in many regards has actually improved upon nature in her fishing. One needs only to look at the steadily-swelling total of half a million licenses to realize that the sporting "attractions" certainly has been maintained potently enough to pull forth our people into the healthful open places away from the cities.

For those who fancy figures, there is food for thought in the last year's trout plantings made throughout the lower counties by sportsmen distributing fish reared and delivered to them by their Fish and Game Commission. As always, San Bernardino county tops the list with over 2,000,000, over half of which were returned to their parent waters, Big Bear Lake, near which the commission operates two hatcheries and from which all the eggs ordinarily required are taken. In 1922 Big Bear fell flat for eggs; a large numerical take was accomplished, but adverse weather caused the fish to retain their eggs too long and fertilization feel to a low figure as always with over-retention. This year, results were much better, although weather was none too favorable throughout April. The total plantings are here given for the first time, and are worth cutting out "for future reference:"

…Ventura county was heavily planted by co-operation of the Ventura Fish and Game Association with Deputy Barnett and other sportsmen, receiving 360,000 trout, nearly all from Mt. Whitney Hatchery, delivered in three consignments to enable most careful planting by "packing-in" to remote streams, the Agua Blanca receiving 22,500 rainbow, 2500 steelhead and 2500 Loch Leven by this means. The Sespe River was given 75,000 each of Rainbow and Steelhead and the plantings were strongly in evidence at the opening the lower river being crowded with "fingerlings" which the "salmon-eggers" snatched out by thousands the first few days until the remainder became "hook-wise" and hard to catch. North Fork of Ventura got 20,000 rainbow; main stream 30,000 each of rainbow and steelhead; Santa Paula, north fork above the falls, 10,000 Loch Leven; main stream, 20,000 each of rainbow and steelhead. The Piru was given 10,000 steelhead, the Sisar 20,000 each of steelhead and rainbow. None of these streams disappointed the skilled angler who picked places where the rank and file could not ruin the fishing. The late fishing this fall will surely be the best ever known provided water enough remains. (Article also has totals for all the other Southern California counties.)

May 14, 1923 – Oxnard Courier
May 14, 1923 – Santa Paula Chronicle
May 18, 1923 – Fillmore Herald

STREAMS OF COUNTY HEAVILY STOCKED WITH FINE TROUT – Ventura county was heavily planted again last year by co-operation of the Ventura Fish and Game association with Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner John Barnett and other sportsmen, receiving 360,000 trout nearly all from Mr. Whitney hatchery, delivered in three consignments to enable most careful planting by "packing-in" to remote streams, the Agua Blanca receiving 22,500 rainbow, 2500 steelhead and 2500 Loch Leven by this means. The Sespe river was given 75,000 each of rainbow and steelhead and the plantings were strongly evidence at the opening the lower river being crowded with "fingerlings" which the "salmon-eggers" snatched out by thousands the first few days until the remainder became "hook-wise" and hard to catch. North Fork of Ventura got 20,000 rainbow; main stream 30,000 each of rainbow and steelhead; Santa Paula, north fork above the falls, 10,000 Loch Leven, main stream 20,000 each of rainbow and steelhead. The Piru was given 10,000 steelhead, the Sisar 20,000 each of steelhead and rainbow. None of these streams disappointed the skilled angler who picked places where

the rank and file could not ruin the fishing. The late fishing this fall will surely be the best every known provided water enough remains.

The steelhead fry were all from the Eel river eggs, thus serving to keep up a mixture of the breeding stock by infusion of new blood. (Article also gave the planting totals in the Santa Barbara system.)

July 16, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

HERE'S A REAL FISH STORY – Ben Nordman, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Nordman of San Francisco and Craig Milligan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Milligan of this city are the county's champion fisherman, having caught the largest fish, known to have been landed by ten year old boys. Here's how they did it. The youngsters were wading in the Ventura River this morning when they discovered a fine trout basking in the sun and almost hidden by a clump of moss. The boys sneaked up on the slumbering fish and hit it with a club. When they brought it to the river bank it was found to measure 21 inches and to weigh 3 ½ pounds.

August 2, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

TROUT LIMIT OF 25 STILL IN EFFECT – San Francisco, Aug. 2.—Owing to the fact that the bill passed by the 1923 legislature increasing the limit on trout to 35 was not signed, the limit remains at 2, according to the State Fish and Game Commission office here.

With the limit still at 25, it is hoped that many of the depleted streams will have a chance to recover and that angling will greatly improve the commission announced.

August 24, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

50,000 TROUT WILL BE PUT IN MATILIJA CREEK – Ventura county fishermen will be glad to hear this news.

On August 28, there will be a shipment of 50,000 rainbow trout received here from the State Fish and Game Commission for distribution in the Matilija. Game Warden Barnett is now looking for sportsmen as anxious to put the trout in the streams as they are to take them out. There is a good job for someone with lots of fun connected with it.

September 18, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

HUNDREDS OF DUCKS SEEN AT LOCAL CLUBS – Fishing season is till in full swing. According to fishermen who have visited the upper sections of county streams fishing is decidedly good. Many fine trout have been brought from the upper Sespe and such streams.

October 3, 1923 – Fillmore Herald

APPOINT GAME WARDEN – Walter F. Emerick, an experienced forest supervisor who has had many years of service in the Santa Barbara National Forest, was Tuesday morning named as game warden for Ventura county to succeed the late Jack Barnett. His appointment was made on the recommendation of the Ventura County Fish and Game association.

He resides at Carpentaria but will make his future home in Ventura.

October 30, 1923 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Loaded 49 cans of fish to-day for Ventura County and Steinhart Aquarium at Golden Gate Park. 47 fish cans come in on the train this morning, these cans were loaded on the fish car at Lone Pine.

Mr. & Mrs. McCloud came down to the car to-day from the hatchery.

The nights are quite cold, made quite a little ice here last night.

October 31, 1923 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Delivered the Ventura County fish, stayed at Ventura this afternoon, went up to Santa Barbara on the local this evening train 17, picked car up for San Francisco tonight. Raining at Ventura to-day.

Fish Car Trip No. 6 Mount Whitney Hatchery Oct. 31, 1923, Lv. 30

C.E. Layman, Piru – 5 RB, 5 SH
Ventura Fish & Game Ass'n., Piru – 3 RB, 5 SH
Ventura Fish & Game Ass'n., Brownstone – 5 RB, 3 LL, 15 SH
Steinhart Aquarium, San Francisco – 6 cans mixed trout
All cans on this trip was to be returned direct to Sisson

October 31, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

ONE OF FINEST TROUT SEASONS CLOSES TODAY – Trout season ends today. Fishermen have been busy the last few days making the most of the time. Some good catches have been made and it is reported there are lots more fish in the streams. There is also plenty of water in the streams of the county.

Although there is no water in Santa Clara river under Montalvo bridge that can be seen, there is water, but underground. At the Saticoy bridge there is a good sized stream in Santa Clara river. Between the bridge and a point about a mile south the water sinks through the sand and before the river reaches the Montalvo bridge all of the water has seeped away. However, it makes its appearance about two miles south of Montalvo

bridge and there is a good stream again from there to the mouth of the Santa Clara river. Many motorists using the detour beside the Montalvo bridge are not aware of the fact that there is water in the Santa Clara river, but that it is underground at this section.

As soon as the rains start and soak the ground, Santa Clara river will again begin to fill up and steelhead trout will commence going up stream to the spawning beds. Steelhead fishing opens December 15 and remains open until February 28. It is expected that there will be some good fishing again around the mouth of the Santa Clara river.

November 3, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

GAME COMMISSION PLANTS MANY FISH – The Ventura County Fish and Game Protective Association had a busy time a few days ago planting 82,000 trout in various streams throughout the county. The young trout were brought out in the fish commission car and were planted without one death. This, according to J.N. Procter, president of the association, is the best result that he has ever obtained in planting trout.

Six thousand Loch Leven trout were planted in Santa Paula creek, 36,000 Rainbow and steelhead in Agua Blanca and Piru creeks and 40,000 Rainbow and steelhead trout in Sespe creek.

December 18, 1923 – Oxnard Courier

STEELHEAD TROUT SEASON DECLARED GOOD – This is the steelhead trout season. Fishermen from this section have already visited the Ventura river where, according to the *Post*, steelhead fishing is good. It is understood that there is little or no water at the mouth of Santa Clara on account of the sand bars.

Fishermen who have been out say that the season is the best in years. Several Venturans have returned with wonderful catches.

The old fishing license is good for steelhead fishing until the end of 1923.

1 9 2 4

Rainfall – 7.71 Inches

January 1, 1924 – Los Angeles Times

CASTING FOR SEA BASS OR GOLDEN TROUT? – by Ernest McGaffey All Kinds of Fishing, From Ocean Depths to High Mountain Lakes, Bring Southern California World Fame.

Ever since the days when Antony and Cleopatra fished for tunny in the salt waters of the Egyptian seas, and even many ages before that, the sport of angling has been the most popular and widespread recreation known to man. In the tropical seas, the dark-skinned native will be found trying to catch a mess with a line of twisted cocoanut fiber and a rude bone shank for a hook, and in polar waters the Eskimo cuts a hole through the ice and fishes either with a line or a spear. In civilized countries, the sport has been brought to a perfection which entitles it to be called a science. The inventions produced for fishing in all of its various branches run into the thousands, and innovations are brought out every year for the attraction of anglers. It is really the universal sport of the world.

In Southern California fishing is a perpetual recreation, and taking into consideration the different varieties of angling, both in salt and fresh water, it can be conservatively stated that no other regions anywhere can match it.

…For trout fishing, Southern California has long been noted. The native varieties of trout, such as the rainbow, the cut-throat, the golden trout and others have been added to by importations, such as the Loch Leven, the brown trout, the eastern brook, and certain varieties of lake trout. The California Fish and Game Commission supervises the propagation of game fishes in the State, and to its indefatigable efforts is primarily due the fine fishing in the rivers and lakes.

Some of the smaller streams, although stocked plentifully by the commission, become fished out to a certain extent early in the season, owing to the enormous flocks of anglers that descend upon them during the opening weeks. But these streams are replenished annually and never allowed to become fishless. In the larger streams and lakes, the fish have a better opportunity, and in hundreds of these fishing is constantly good.

In some parts of Southern California, particularly in Inyo, Mono, Tulare and Kern counties, the trout fishing is superb. The scenery in these areas is wonderfully beautiful, the rivers flowing through magnificent canyons, and the lakes, for the most part, being situated among mountain scenery of surpassing grandeur. Many of the best lakes and some of the most famous trout rivers can be reached only packing in with saddle horses. Once reached, these angling waters will be found to be literally alive with trout. No finer fishing can be found in the world than can be obtained in many of these lakes and the upper reaches of the mountain rivers that flow into some of them. Pack animals and

guides are available at many points in the high mountain counties, with camp equipment and everything necessary for the comfort and convenience of the angler. …

…One of the hardest-fighting trout in Southern California waters is the steelhead, Salmo Irideus. The steelhead enters the streams from the Ventura River in California northward for the purpose of spawning, and then returns to the sea. It is an excellent food fish and often runs very large, from three to ten or twelve pounds. When steelhead can be found in the surf and the fishing is had there in salt water, especially with a strong tide, it is considered by a number of anglers as being the very cream of all trout fishing. The steelhead is a fighter from the start and will give the most skillful angler a royal battle.

The rainbow is the trout which is most generally distributed throughout the Southern California waters, both in the lakes and river. It is a superb fighter.

The eastern brook trout is a remarkably gamy fish, and one noted for its wariness. They do not thrive, here in Southern California, in the fast, rushing mountain streams, but do well in all pure, cold water that contains sufficient air, including lakes and ponds. They have the widest distribution in Southern California of any introduced fish. They are very handsome, barred with dark olive or black, with red spots, and with the belly usually red. The lower fins are fringed with white.

The brown trout and the Loch Leven are two varieties which have been introduced in Southern California waters since about 1894, and the stock has been crossed in a number of rivers and lakes, producing a hybrid which partakes to a certain extent of the characteristics of those fish.

Trout angling is the inland sport, par excellence, of resident and visitor, alike, and hundreds of thousands of splendid fish are brought to creel every year.

January 18, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SHOOTING SEASON CLOSED; SPORTSMEN TURN TO FISHING – With the shooting season at an end sportsmen will now have to turn their attention to some other line of sport and it is likely that the steelhead that inhabit the waters around Ventura will come in for a great deal of this attention. Point Magu, too, is becoming very popular and should be the scene of considerable amount of fishing this season.

April 1, 1924 – Oxnard Courier
April 2, 1924 – Santa Paul Chronicle

CLEAR OUT RIVER – Ventura, Apr. 1. As a result of the activity of members of the Rod and Reel club here, thousands of fish have been saved, for on Sunday nearly a score of men spent the entire day cleaning out the river bed and transporting the fish in cans to the upper waters. As a result, the stream bed from the mouth to Kingston's was entirely cleaned out yesterday. Big tanks in the cars were filled with water and the large fish which could not make it up stream were placed in these and transported to the higher

points in the river where the water is assured. Had members of the club not done this, there would have been thousands of dead fish in the lower river. Among those who aided in the work were Melvin Clover, Game Warden Walter Emerick, Dr. Darling, C.C. Reed, Fred Kaempher, H.M. Alexander, Victor Peirano, Nick Peirano, Al Hartman, Ernest Shaw, Bud Valentine, Bert Sprague, Lynn Vandelinder.

The season opens May 1 and as a result of the activity of the Ventura boys the fishing should be good.

MAY POSTPONE OPENING OF TROUT SEASON IN COUNTY – California's foot and mouth disease may cause the postponement of the opening of the trout fishing season.

Request that the opening of the trout season be indefinitely postponed as a precaution against the spread of the hoof and mouth disease by anglers was made today by the state department of agriculture.

April 7, 1924 – Oxnard Courier

CATTLEMEN ASK POSTPONEMENT ANGLING SEASON – Los Angeles, Apr. 7. – Possibility of a postponement of the state game and fishing season loomed today with the filing of a request with the board of directors of the California Cattlemen's Association asking that Director of Agriculture E.H. Hecke take such action as a precaution to prevent further spread of the hoof and mouth disease.

Hecke said he would take the matter under consideration.

Work destroying all cattle in Los Angeles county where infection has been found was completed today and officials were of the opinion that no new outbreaks would occur in this section.

April 11, 1924 – Oxnard Courier

FISH IN DRAINAGE DITCH – Steelhead trout are reported in some of the drainage ditches on the Patterson ranch. Raymond Farrell reports some being caught some considerably over two feet long.

April 24, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SUPERVISORS ORDER COUNTY RESORTS TO BE CLOSED – An official order was issued by members of the County Board of Supervisors at the meeting yesterday, prohibiting appearance of Chautauqua shows in the county until further notice, because of the quarantine, C.C. Rupert, of Oxnard, brought the matter before the board.

It was also definitely decided to defer opening of the fishing season another month. The Matilija road was ordered gated just above the Fred Sheldon home, which would close

Wheeler's Springs and Matilija Springs, also the Lyon place. Mr. Valentine of the forest reserve presented a suggestion allowing the roads to be kept open to the several resorts with the resort keepers seeing to it that the proper restrictions, same as carried out on other roads, but the board thought it more practical and better in all ways not to let the bars down at all, at any place, because it would be certain to have restrictions removed in other instances. So the bans will be enforced.

May 1, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CO. BOARD TO CONFER WITH FEDERAL MEN – The quarantine atmosphere of this county has been cleared considerably by the meeting yesterday of the board of supervisors with the Los Angeles emissaries of the Federal quarantine authorities, says the *Post*.

Modification of quarantine restrictions may be looked for in a very short time, after the 2nd of May when the supervisors will meet with the Federal and State authorities were doing and contemplated doing in the state. The whole program was fully gone into a J.B. Vail of the state agricultural dairy machine supply company of Los Angeles, but who is well posted on the quarantine subject, and intensely interested in the leading question now before the people of California.

Cattle ranches are looked after, as is the shipment of cattle, in or out of the district, also the products, milk in all its forms. People who work about the dairies and cattle and stock ranches are all listed, and also carefully looked after, should they conclude to make changes from one quarter to another, and the people who help about the ranches are required to use disinfectants.

These were the main things, according to federal authorities, who were adept in the treatment of the disease, while, as much as possible the roads should be kept clear and people—the ordinary traveling folks in automobiles, should go on and about their affairs. One of the speakers stated that once in a case in a western state there came a season of intensely cold weather and people kept close to their homes. It was thought at the time that the disease was helped by the cold, as a decided improvement was shown in conditions, but it was later found that the disease was helped because of the failure of the people to get about.

While it was evident enough that modification would be made in the present Ventura county rules, the visitors advised that they should still be guards at the borders in order to aid the federal officials in enforcing the rules which were laid down for the governing of the shipping in and out of feeds and the like and such produce as would be needed in the care of stock, also in watching the movements of those men who were hired at the ranches and who were moving about.

…At the coming meeting in Los Angeles it is contemplated for all southern counties to get together and under Federal jurisdiction draft a uniform set of rules to apply to all sections, the Federal workers knowing no county lines in their work, though the counties

themselves keep right on in their efforts and with their forces reduced where necessary. Promiscuous traveling about will be eliminated, and with the knowledge gained in our first efforts it will be an easy matter for a uniting with the government workers.

At the conclusion of the talks by the visitors there was considerable questioning and answers, one question being in regard to keeping the fishing season open. It was thought best for the supervisors to leave the rule as it is for the present in order to keep out the mountain sections. On this point of fishing, the government men laid no particular stress, though, since it is ruled against, it would be wise, it was thought, to let is be as its.

In answer to the question of closing the roads, it was stated the government authorities saw no possibility of infection in ordinary traveling. It would be best not to restrict travel on main highways.

At this stage of the proceedings a petition was presented by Miss Smith, who was accompanied by Mrs. Hallowell, signed by some 75 citizens, asking that the roads be entirely opened to travel. This brought out considerable discussion, at the end of which the petition was laid on the table for the present.

GOOD SPORTSMEN LIVE IN SANTA PAULA AND FILLMORE – That good sportsmen live in Santa Paula and Fillmore is the opinion of County Game Warden Walter Emerick. Today the fishing season opened and while the county supervisors urged that it be recognized that the season not be opened until June 1st, because of the foot and mouth disease, such an order could not be enforced. It rests for the sportsmen to show good sportsmanship and not go fishing. It is reported that not a fisherman was to be found in the Sespe country or back or here, out at Ventura many went up the Ventura river fishing.

May 6, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

QUARANTINE IS NOW VIRTUALLY AT AN END – As far as Ventura county is concerned, quarantine for the foot and mouth disease is practically at an end. The new regulations adopted with the suggestion of the federal experts in charge, and put into effect for the first time yesterday, confine the quarantine restrictions to running the car through a trough and examining it for animals, etc. Fumigation and spraying has been entirely eliminated.

Sportsmen are now permitted to enjoy their favorite fishing grounds providing they do not enter cattle ranges. The county authorities are relying on the sportsmen to keep off cattle ranches and thereby eliminate any possible danger of infection.

People can now move around as freely as ever in the county but are urged to keep out of the infected areas of Los Angeles county and to obey all quarantine regulations in that county.

ALBERT CALL LANDS FIRST BIG TROUT HERE – county Horticultural Commissioner Albert Call wins the honor for bringing in the first big trout specimen of the season here. Out but a short time early this morning at the mouth of the Sespe, he landed a 21 ½ inch steelhead trout.

The prime trout is on display in the Primmer Company window.

May 7, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BAN IS LIFTED ON FISHING AND CAMPING – Roads and trails in Ventura county were opened today at a meeting of the County Board of Supervisors at Ventura. The quarantine was entirely limited on hunting, fishing and camping within the county and roads to Matilija, Wheeler's and Lyon's Springs, Sespe and the road into Sulphur Mountain Springs will now be thrown open to the public.

The only restriction remaining now with regard to the foot and mouth quarantine is the examination of cars entering the county for animals, birds etc. There is to be no delay in the movement of traffic other than this.

The action of the supervisors is a boon to the sportsmen of the county who have been waiting for the official word to come, obeying the request of the board in the meantime in their desire to cooperate.

Sunday picnics, barbeques and outings in the woods can now be held without fear of interference.

May 8, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Is Fully Open. You Can Now Enjoy Your Favorite Haunt. The Quarantine Ban has been lifted and it is now possible to go Fishing or Camping anywhere in Ventura County. Fishing is reported as being good in all streams. Plan your week-end camping trip now. Go Prepared—Here are a few suggestions: Tents, Tables, Chairs, Stoves, Bathing Suits, Water Wings, Surf Boards, Beach Umbrellas, Coffee Pots, Frying Pans, Thermos Bottles, Knives, Forks and Spoons, Camp Beds and Mattresses, Fishing Tackle, Baskets, Bait, etc. The Primmer Company.

May 9, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WHO'S NEXT? GUY ATMORE LANDS 22 INCH RAINBOW TROUT – Guy Atmore now has Albert Call outclassed by a half inch in the fishing game. He landed a 22-inch rainbow trout in the Sespe this morning. This is now the largest catch of the season. Atmore is to exhibit it in the window at Sam Primmer's establishment.

May 10, 1924 – Oxnard Courier
ADVERTISEMENT – THE BAN IS LIFTED! We're rarin' to go! At all three resorts – Wheeler's Hot Springs on the North Fork of the Ventura River, Lathrop's Camp and

Wheeler's Cold Springs Camp both on Upper Sespe River, where the best of trout fishing is to be had. Hotel Accommodations only at Wheeler's Cold Springs, nine miles by trail from Wheeler's Hot Spring, where Saddle Horses can be obtained for the trip at Wheeler's Hot Springs. Both Hotel and Household accommodations, also camping sites. Naturally heated open air plunge. Natural hot medicinal mineral baths. Our regular dances starts Saturday, May 10. Come and see us for a vacation of week or more, a week-end outing or a day's visit. Good roads. For information write or phone Webb W. Wilcox, Manager Wheeler Hot Springs, Cal.

May 10, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WHEELER'S SPRINGS BIG OPENING SUNDAY – Proprietor Webb Wilcox of Wheeler's Hot Springs announced today that the popular summer resort in Wheeler canyon is again open and plans on a big opening tomorrow. The foot and mouth disease epizootic has affected business at the resort greatly this year but Wilcox hopes to make up for lost time from now on.

Mr. Wilcox said that fishing was good in the upper Sespe, at Lathrop's and Cold Springs. He believed that a large number of fishermen would be out early Sunday morning. There will dancing tonight and Sunday afternoon and the resort so well known to residents of Ventura county will again be the scene of many week-end gatherings.

The road to Wheeler's from Ojai has been reconditioned and Mrs. Wilcox says motoring is a joy.

CALL HOOKS 22 ½ INCH STEELHEAD; NOW WHO'S NEXT? – Albert Call staged a comeback last night. He decided that Guy Atmore should not have anything on him when it comes to fishing so he went out to the Sespe and returned within a short time with a 22 ½ inch steelhead trout, a beauty. Now it is again, who's next? Call is exhibiting it at Primmer's store.

May 12, 1924 – Oxnard Courier

FISHING GOOD ABOVE WHEELER'S – Fishing is reported to be good above Wheeler's Hot Springs. Several limits of trout were caught yesterday. Fishermen who visited the county streams yesterday said sport was also good at Cold Springs and in the upper Sespe. Wheeler's Springs is open again following the lifting of the quarantine regulations. A new orchestra has been employed by Manager Wilcox for the week-end and nightly dancing.

May 29, 1924 – Oxnard Courier

GOING ON FISHING TRIP – Max Folcke, Edmund and Paul Lehmann will go to Wheeler's Hot Springs tonight and from there will go by horse to Lathrop's camp several miles back of the resort on a fishing trip. They will start out early tomorrow morning

after trout in upper sections of the stream that flows from Wheeler's. Fishing is reported to be good there and the local men are looking forward to some good sport.

June 6, 1924 – Los Angeles Times
June 6, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DEPARTMENT PREPARING TO MAKE DISTRIBUTION OF 28,000,000 – Arrangements for the distribution of approximately 28,000,000 trout fry in the fishing streams of California are being completed by the State Fish and Game Commission Department of Fish Culture, which is in charge of William Shebley.

The first of the baby fish to leave the hatcheries will be started on their journey within a few days, Shebley said today. A larger shipment will be taken out some time next week. The streams to be stocked, Shebley said, include practically every trout stream in California, located in all parts of the State from Del Norte to San Diego counties.

The supply of water at practically all the stations is falling off, making it necessary to distribute the young fish now at the hatcheries with the least possible delay.

June 5, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING CONDITIONS IN COUNTY ARE TOLD – The outing bureau of the Auto Club of Southern California has issued a bulletin today as to the fishing conditions in this section as follows:

…Trout. Ventura River, Coyote Creek, San Antonio Creek and Piru Creek all report very low water and fishing poor. Matilija Creek fair. Lower Sespe, Sisar and Santa Paula Creek, conditions poor. Upper Sespe is fair, water very low and mossy; this part of the stream is reached only be ten mile saddle trail Wheeler's Hot Springs. Several limits reported, but fish small. Few trout and steelhead caught at mouth of Ventura river the past week. (The rest of the article was about ocean fishing and fishing in the Owens Valley District.)

June 11, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – The Ventura county game warden reports the famous Sespe fishing country is in poor condition for lack of rain. No fish, no feed for pack animals.

July 1, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA – The California fish and game commission is going to stock or re-stock trout streams in the state, distributing 28,000,000 young trout.

July 2, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MONTHLY REPORTS OF INTEREST ARE FILED WITH BOARD OF SUPER-

VISORS – …The dry year and subsequent low streams has been very hard on the trout this season and is planned to plant the streams of the county with 80,000 trout fry if there is sufficient water in the streams when it is time…

July 24, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING REPORTS BY AUTOMOBILE CLUB FOR THE COUNTY – Trout fishing in this County is over for the season account of low water and moss. (The rest of the report was about ocean fishing.)

September 15, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

REPORT SHOWS GOOD WORK DONE BY ASSOCIATION – Stanley Lothridge, of this city, secretary and treasurer of the Ventura County Fish and Game Association, desires all to know how the money was spent that was collected by the association and has asked that his report be published, which is as follows:

Santa Paula, California,
September 11, 1924

I desire at this time to submit to the Executive Committee of the Ventura County Fish and Game Association the following statement of the financial condition of the Association as of September 11, 1924.

Cash on hand, April 11, 1923	$ 45.17
Received from dues 1923	246.00
Received from Sulphur Mt. Springs for purchase of Fox squirrels	24.05
Total receipts	$315.22

Disbursements	
Telephone calls and Telegraph tolls	$107.65
Fish Plantings	35.00
Flowers for Jack Barnett	5.00
Paint and brushes for signs on dams	1.25
Stationery	12.75
Deputy Warden Badges for Barnett	16.95
Stamps	20.00
Lunches for three men, arresting Frenchman on Agua Blanca Creek	1.20
Donation to Federal Protection Fund	20.00
Refund from Squirrel Fund to Leroy Beckley	4.50
Total Disbursements	$224.30
Cash on hand Sept. 11, 1924	$ 90.92
General Fund, Sept. 11, 1924	$ 71.37
Squirrel Fund, Sept. 11, 1924	$ 19.55
	$ 90.92

L.S. Lothridge, Sec'y.-Treas.

October 2, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Walter Emerick was in town today en route up the canyon in quest of trout for the fish and game exhibit at the county fair.

October 14, 1924 – Oxnard Courier

SANTA BARBARA NAT. FOREST NOW OPEN TO HUNTERS AND HIKERS – According to George P. Austin who is in receipt of a letter from the Forest Reserve Service all of the Santa Barbara national forest is now open to hikers and campers. Large sections of national forests were closed during the summer months through fear of forest fires. A small portion in Ventura county was closed. Austin said the letter stated that all closed areas are now open to hunters and sportsmen.

Fishing season is open until September 1 and fishermen may now go farther up stream for trout. Camp fire permits are being issued by Austin and others in authority.

The following was taken from a recent report made by Game Warden Emerick:

…The condition of the trout streams is deplorable on account of the water shortage, and even with abundant rains this winter, the amount of trout will be 75 per cent under normal next spring. The Sespe, Matilija and Santa Paula creeks are still running water, and it looks now that we will be about to plant the 80,000 trout fry which were ordered last spring. This shipment of fish is expected to arrive here the latter part of this month.

November 3, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle
November 8, 1924 – Oxnard Courier

GAME WARDEN TO PLANT TROUT IN CO. STREAMS – Fish are to be planted in the next few days in the various creeks and streams in this vicinity under the direction of Ventura County Fish and Game association and County Game Warden Walter Emerick. The fish are from the Mt. Whitney hatchery and will arrive here today.

They will be distributed as follows:

Twenty-five cans of rainbow and 25 cans of steelhead for the Sespe; 13 cans rainbow and 13 cans steelhead for Santa Paula; five cans of rainbow and five cans of steelhead for Webb Wilcox at Ventura. On account of water conditions in the Piru stream system only five cans of rainbow and five cans of steelhead will be planted by Charlie Layman, the balance of five cans of rainbow and five cans of steelhead will be diverted to the Ventura stream system.

This will clean up the shipments from the Mt. Whitney hatchery and owing to the lateness of the season and cool weather, it is the intention of Superintendent McCloud to load the cans heavily, somewhat in excess of the usual quota. The shipment will contain a large lot of fingerlings, making it one of the best shipments ever received.

December 14, 1924 – Los Angeles Times

STEELHEAD SEASON TO OPEN TOMORROW – Steelhead trout season will open tomorrow, giving anglers a chance to try their luck with some "big fellows" that ought to furnish some reel sport.

According to all reports coming in the fish are more plentiful than ever this year, and the season ought to be a good one. Word from the north comes in to the effect that the mouth of the Ventura will be dredged today to allow the fish to enter, while it is also reported that lots of steelheads are now jumping at the mouth of the Santa Ynez. Fishing is allowed in tidewater only.

December 15, 1924 – Santa Paula Chronicle

STEELHEAD SEASON OPENS TODAY – The steelhead trout season opens today in this district and many local anglers were out early this morning in an effort to hook some of the finny prizes. Fishing must be at tidewater, so the mouth of the Ventura river was the rendezvous. No reports have been received that any met with pronounced success.

December 21, 1924 – Los Angeles Times

NIMROD AND ANGLER -- …Reports filtering in from Ventura state that Mexican Joe Kelly of that city, caught a limit of nice steelhead trout in the surf, off the mouth of the Ventura River. It is also reported that several others have caught some fine fish in this vicinity.

December 28, 1924 – Los Angeles Times

SURF FISHING POOR AT LOCAL BEACHES – Fishing for the most part is very poor along the coast at present, the only thing running being a few mackerel which are being caught from the boats off Long Beach and Redondo.

Word filtering in from the north states that a few steelhead trout are being caught in the surf off the mouth of the Ventura River.

1 9 2 5

Rainfall – 10.01 Inches

January 11, 1925 – Los Angeles Times

ANGLERS GO NORTH FOR STEELHEAD TROUT – Although the steelhead trout season opened some time ago, not many anglers have been out for the big fellows yet. It is claimed that the fishing is not at its best owing the lack of freshets, anglers claiming the fish will be more plentiful after the rains.

The first local party to go north after the fish left yesterday, headed by B.F. Howard, who promised to report whether the fish were running. Howard will fish the mouth of the Ventura River. No word has been received regarding the fishing in the Santa Ynez vicinity.

January 14, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

DUCK SEASON CLOSES TOMORROW; STEELHEAD FISHING FAIRLY GOOD – …Steelhead season continues with good reports coming from Ventura. Fishing is permissible in tidewater and some good catches have been made at the mouth of the Ventura river. Other fishermen have had good luck off the Ventura wharf. Several fishermen snagged steelhead but could not land them on account of the good battle the fish put up. About a dozen were hooked at the wharf yesterday but could not be landed.

Ben Wright caught a beauty yesterday at the mouth of the river. It weighed nine and a quarter pounds and measured 33 ½ inches.

J. Anorga of Ventura caught the largest of the season so far, the steelhead weighed 10 ½ pounds dressed and measured 32 ½ inches. Willis Bivin caught three fine fish, measuring from 26 to 28 ½ inches. Considerable interest is being shown by Venturans who are getting a great "kick" out of the sport.

January 27, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PLENTY OF DEER IN S.B. NATL. FOREST AREA – (Report of hunting and fishing.) …Some 217,000 fish were planted in the streams of the Santa Barbara national forest last year, and all are doing well, the report states. The fish fry is brought from the state hatchery on Mount Whitney.

Four thousand eastern brook trout were planted in Sisar canyon during November. Fifty thousand rainbow and 20,000 steelhead were planted in the Ventura river the same month. Five thousand trout were planted in the Bouquet canyon in October. Twenty thousand steelhead were planted in the Agua Blanca on November 9; 25,000 steelhead, 26,000 rainbow and 6,000 eastern brook trout were planted in Santa Paula creek the same day.

January 29, 1925 – Los Angeles Times

BREER AND BOWEN CATCH STEELHEAD – Louis Breer, well-known local sportsman, and Dr. Dwight Bowen, companion of many of his hunting and fishing ventures, returned from Ventura recently with a catch of eight steelhead trout, all of which were large enough to make a meal for the average family. The fish measured from twenty-one to thirty-one inches in length and weighed from seven to twelve pounds.

Both reported that fishing in the surf off the mouth of the river is fine. The anglers caught their fish with spinners, which seemed to be the only thing they would strike.

February 2, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FILM "MOVIE" OF SCENES IN S.B. FOREST – Several local sportsmen played roles in the movies being filmed by the U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with the Santa Barbara Watershed Protection League, when fishing and fish planting scenes were taken in the Sespe country Saturday. They had the unique pleasure of fishing "out of season," but, sportsmanlike, put the fish back to swim happily away after the camera clicked. They were taken on special permit from the State Fish and Game Commission.

The fishing was done in the Big Sespe Canyon and Jim Procter did the heavy fishing scenes with Earl Rogers, while County Game Warden Walter Emerick and Forest Ranger Harry Valentine staged the fish planting stunts. Paul Fair, in charge of making the film, handled the movie camera under the direction of Wallace Hutchinson, of the forest service, who is in charge of the project.

On Sunday, the party went into the Bouquet canyon country and there "shot" numerous scenes at the Bouquet Canyon public camp grounds, showing the recreational use of the forest by the public. This week scenes will be taken in the Limoneira orchards and a cat-hunt staged.

They are making an educational motion picture, featuring the watershed, grazing and recreational resources of the Santa Barbara National Forest. When completed, it will be shown in the various motion picture theaters of the country, including locally.

Scenes have already been "shot" in Monterey division of the forest, where some excellent movies of deer were obtained. At Santa Ynez, scenes of summer homes on the Forest were taken; also "shots" of Santa Barbara and the Mission.

From Ojai, a pack trip was made into the Sespe country and on to Pine Mountain Ridge, featuring mountain scenery and the work of a forest ranger. Harry Valentine played the part of the ranger.

February 8, 1925 – Los Angeles Times

STEELHEAD FISHING IS REPORTED FINE – Fishing for steelhead trout in the mouth of the Ventura River is affording extreme sport to anglers, according to report reaching the outing bureau of the Automobile Club of Southern California. One day recently thirty fine fish were caught measuring twenty-six to thirty-one inches. On the following day, eighteen were pulled out, all of large size. According to piscatorial authorities, the steelhead are running larger this season than ever before in the memory of anglers.

February 13, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

NEW FISHING LICENSES – This is the ideal steelhead fishing season according to fishermen of this section who plan to visit the mouths of Santa Clara and Ventura rivers tomorrow. Although there is not water flowing from Santa Clara and only a small bit of fresh water at the mouth of the Ventura river it is said that hundreds of steelhead are seeking entrance to the stream.

New fishing licenses have been received by George Austin which run from January 1st to December 31st. With good rains this season fishermen are looking forward to a good fishing season, especially in the Sierra Madre where there has been heavy snow in the mountains.

February 16, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Arthur Keiffer, John I. Jones, Fred Keith and A.W. Elliott caught several steelhead fish yesterday afternoon off the Ventura wharf.

February 22, 1925 – Los Angeles Times

START DRIVE ON STEELHEAD TODAY – Mr. and Mrs. Brahreer, Dr. Dwight Bowen, Louis Breer and many others left for Ventura last night where they will try tempting the steelhead trout with spinners.

According to reports fishing is exceptionally good at the present time, the storm having driven them in. It is expected that some large catches will be made today.

February 24, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

CITY AND COUNTRY – Steelhead trout are running at Ventura according to accounts from fishermen there yesterday.

March 3, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

STEELHEAD SEASON IS CLOSED; TROUT NEXT – Steelhead fishing season closed last Saturday and now fishermen are looking forward to the opening of trout season

which will be on May 1. There is no other season for sportsmen between now and the opening of trout season.

Steelhead season was good, many big fish being caught at the mouths of the Santa Clara and Ventura rivers. Steelhead are seeking entrance to all streams and creeks. They have even been seen trying to enter the drainage canals near Point Magu for a place to spawn.

Anglers do not think the trout season will be good in Ventura county this year. They look to the Bishop section where they have been good rains and snow.

March 3, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Local fishermen report that steelhead fishing was poor. The season closed Saturday.

March 23, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

CITY AND COUNTRY – Steelhead salmon are plentiful at Hueneme but cannot be lawfully caught at this season of the year.

April 2, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD 10 YEARS AGO – R.B. Witman has suggested that season for trout be closed for one year and local fishermen have made a similar appeal to the county supervisors.

April 6, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PRECIPITATION OVER WEEKEND TOTALS TWO INCHES; SEASON TOTAL NEARLY TEN INCHES – (Article had rain totals at various ranches and farm reports.) …As far as could be learned, no damage to roads or bridges in the vicinity. Many creeks were running full yesterday for the first time in three or four years. The Sespe has plenty of water in it and it insures good fishing for two or three months or longer than for many years.

April 7, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

VENTURANS ARRESTED FOR CLUBBING STEELHEAD – Several Venturans arrested yesterday by Game Warden Emerick for killing big steelhead trout with wooden clubs. The fish were killed as they tried to go up the Ventura river. The game warden confiscated enough fish to supply the Cottage Home, the Big Sisters' hospital and the county hospital and then had some left.

This was the first high water of the year and fish swarmed up the stream in great numbers. The larger fish made but slow progress and were easy prey to the fellows with the clubs standing at good positions.

April 8, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

FINEST FISHING SEASON IN MANY YEARS FORECAST – Prospects for a big trout fishing season are the best in years according to sportsmen who have visited the various streams in the county recently. George P. Austin, a great nimrod who keeps a close watch on sport conditions, predicts that the coming season which starts the first of next month will be the best in a long time because of the fact that the streams are now teeming with fish, most of which will be in the streams until after the season opens.

The recent rains swelled the rivers and streams in the county with the result that the sand bars at the mouths of the Ventura, Santa Clara and other streams were washed away, allowing trout entrance. As soon as the fish were able to enter the river, they went up stream by the thousands. Sportsmen who have inspected the localities where the are streams say the fish can be seen by the hundreds swimming toward the headwaters to spawn.

If there are no more rains these fish will be unable to get out, as the mouths of the rivers will dry up again. The Santa Clara, Ventura river, Sespe and other creeks will afford great sport for anglers next month and sportsmen are eagerly awaiting the opening date. Already many fishing licenses have been issued and fishermen are getting ready their rods.

Unusually the run of trout to the headwaters takes place in January and February but because of the fact that the mouths of the rivers have been closed the fish waited in the salt water until after the rain came. At anyplace where a river or a creek empties into the ocean, trout are to be seen swimming in. The drainage canal at Hueneme is filled with fish, it is said and the slough at Point Magu is also the scene of an exodus of trout seeking the sources to spawn.

April 18, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season opens May 1st. Licenses and up to the minute Fish Tackle at Elliott's.

April 24, 1925 – Fillmore Herald

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES – by William Hamilton Miller. …Fishing Tackle. All the sporting goods shops are showing fishing tackle. Many a Fillmore fisherman will use brand new rods and brand new reels this season. But many of them will still stick to the old brand of bait (if they can get it) and the old brand of alibis to explain why they can't catch the fish.

April 25, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GOOD FISHING IN SESPE IS PROMISED – "Fishing will be better this year in the Sespe than for from 10 to 15 years back," declared Sam Primmer today, in commenting

on the fishing prospects in this vicinity this year. The fishing season will open Friday, May 1st, and anglers are now beginning to line up the popular fishing grounds for the opener.

Primmer explained that inasmuch as the Sespe was closed last season, the trout have had an opportunity to mature and now measure from 10 to 15 inches long. Also due to the fact that the stream was closed last night the supply of fish greatly increased.

There is also water in the Santa Paula canyon and streams in that vicinity may offer some fishing this year.

As to fishing in the Bishop country it is believed that because of the late snows this section may not be open as early as usual and fishermen may find it difficult to get in and out. Promises are good for the later season, however.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fish! Trout Season Opens May 1st. Only a few more days and it will be possible for you to seek the elusive trout. Be sure you start our right. Check over your fishing tackle for it looks like a good fishing year. Come in and let us "tip you" as to available streams to fish in. We've been "thar". Just a few suggestions: Tyee salmon eggs, fishing baskets, Pete's eggs, lines, rods, reels, one lot unguaranteed flies. The Primmer Co.

April 30, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TOMORROW IS OPENING TROUT SEASON HERE – Tomorrow morning, an hour before sunrise, the trout season opens and anglers who have been eagerly looking forward to the big event for some time, will have their fond hopes fulfilled. Scores have already left this section for the fishing grounds and others will leave tonight.

The chief rendezvous is the Sespe and from present indications there will be a fisherman for every available rock in the stream. However, officials say that fishing is to be better in the Sespe than for many years, so there is a chance for all good fishermen to return with the limit. There are some fish in the Santa Clara river and in the upper Ventura river and a few who desire to dodge the crowd will probably seek the elusive trout in these streams. (Article finishes with conditions in other areas.)

May 1, 1925 – Fillmore Herald

FISHING SEASON OPENS HERE TODAY – Probably a whole lot of people will not sleep much tonight. They will be up early and far away, in such cases as may be where they did not get away last night. For the fishing season opens this morning, May 1st. If you want to know whether the fishing is to be good or not you will probably have to go and find out for yourselves. The authorities seem to differ.

The Auto Club's report on fishing for Ventura county is as follows:

Ventura river, poor.
Matilija creek, fair to good.
Coyote creek, poor.
San Antonio creek, poor.
Upper Sespe, fair to good.
Lower Sespe, poor.
Santa Paula creek, poor.
Sisar creek, poor.
Piru creek, poor.

But authorities nearer home do not agree with this. They claim that in Ventura county there will be some good fishing, but it will be up in the hills and mountain sections, where there has been more water than in other sections. Fishing will not be as good generally in this county, according to Walter Jones of Ventura, as it has been in years previous, due to the very low water last year.

Matilija creek from Matilija Hot Springs to Flat Rock should be good, Mr. Jones believes, and the Upper Sespe near Lathrop's camp should be fairly good, too, as well as Piedro Blanco creek, Lion creek and Bear creek.

"Fishing will be better this year in the Sespe than for from ten to fifteen years back," according to Sam Primmer of Santa Paula, in commenting on the fishing prospects. Primmer explained that inasmuch as the Sespe was closed last season, the trout have had an opportunity to mature and now measure from ten to fifteen inches long. Also due to the fact that the stream was closed last year the supply of fish greatly increased.

There is also water in the Santa Paula canyon and streams in that vicinity may offer some fishing this year, he says.

May 1, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

EASTWOODS HOME WITH SEASON'S FIRST CATCH – Frank and Jim Eastwood were the first to return to Oxnard with limits of trouts on the opening day of trout season. They fished in the north fork of the Ventura river and said the sport was good. They had caught their limit of 25 fish each by 8 a.m.

May 2, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

OVER THE TEA CUP – Charles A. MacArthur, foreman of the *San Pedro News* and former employee of the *Chronicle's* mechanical department, was a visitor to Santa Paula this morning, en route up Santa Paula Canyon to entice the elusive trout onto his hook.

May 4, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

POLICE AND FIRE CHIEFS SAY FISHING IS NOT SO GOOD – Fishing was not good the weekend, state both Fire Chief Sam Primmer and City Marshal Lee Sheppard.

Both men hied themselves to the mountains on Sunday with the idea of getting a little relaxation from the responsibilities and anxieties of civic duty. The fire chief was in Santa Paula Canyon, while the police chief was at Henley's. They both saw lots of fish, but they seemed unable to use their authority on the trout. Both men agree that you can fill a jail, if you wear a star, but you can't fill a basket.

May 8, 1925 – Fillmore Herald
May 11, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RECORD NUMBER OF FISHERMEN UP SESPE CANYON – Probably never in the history of this valley has the Sespe river accommodated such a crowd as was gathered last Saturday and Sunday and line its banks from Fillmore to a point well beyond Grassy Flat, the old camp of the Sespe Light & Power Co., some twelve miles up the river from Fillmore, says the *Fillmore Herald.*

By noon Sunday more than 600 cars had checked through the gate at Henley's camp, five miles up the river. Figuring four people to each car this would total 2,400. And from the bridge to Henley's there were probably close to 200 more cars, so that in al there must have been fully 3,000 people who had come to enjoy the opening of the trout season. Many of them drove here Saturday afternoon and night and made camp up the river in order to get an early start Sunday morning. Tents and camp outfits of all kinds lined the banks of the river which it was possible to pitch a tent and along the roadway. And everybody had fun, whether they caught any fish or not. To tell the honest-to-gosh truth there were too many fishermen along the stream to make fishing good, but nevertheless many good catches were made.

The season opened Friday, May 1st, and the first day recorded many limits. Those who were able to get into Sespe back country found the fishing very good, the fish running from 6 to 12 inches in size.

Local sporting goods stores report a shortage of fish stories of the unusual variety. Leon Harthorn states that he did not get any himself, but seven members of his family each got the limit. It would seem that 175 fish should "be enough for a mess" even for a family like the Harthorns.

One Los Angeles man was disgusted when he arrived and found every rock occupied by a fisherman who was there before him. With a disgruntled expression on his face he said to a passing party: "Believe me, when I come up here fishing again, I'm going to bring my own rock with me—there isn't a vacant rock for a man to sit on and fish this side of the north pole."

May 8, 1925 – Fillmore Herald

PIRU – Mr. Donald Clary of Los Angeles, pastor of Haven church, visited with Mr. H.D. Shepherd from Saturday until Monday. Fish was the attraction but few fish were attracted.

LOCALS – Leon Harthorn and James K Haynes together with their respective families, enjoyed Sunday on a trip up the Sespe, helping to swell the multitude that was gathered along the banks of that stream on that day.

May 15, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – "OH, BOY!" They're Goin' to Put 100,000 Trout in the Lakes at Frazier Mountain Park Next Week. Vacation time is comin'! Get busy! Buy your cabin site now. If you don't you're goin' to miss one of the greatest joys of livin' in the big out-of-doors. More good news—That Big Comfy Club House 40 x 80 feet is almost finished, with its specially built radio and elegant dance pavilion. With 10,000 gallons of water in the big reservoir and all pipes laid in Frazier Mountain Park, you'll have all the water you want, which is most important. You owe it to the wife and kiddies to add happiness to their lives. Here's a few things they can enjoy with you and your friends: hiking on wonderful trails, horseback riding, tennis, croquet, swimming, hunting, fishin', kiddies' playground. Just haven't space to tell you everything and they're all included in the price of a cabin site. You can buy one as low as $175. Better hurry—prices are goin' up! Just a wonderful natural playground with Frazier Mountain, 8029 feet high, on the south, and Mt. Tecuya, 7178 feet, on the north. A 3-hour scenic drive from Santa Paula, over a smooth highway on the Ridge Route. Turn west a half mile north of Chandlers, between Chandlers and Lebec, then only 3 ½ miles along a smooth country road into Frazier Mountain Park. Meet us there next Sunday. Frazier Mountain Park and Fisheries, Inc. A.L. Baird, Pres. Harry MacBain, Sec. Local representative: Browne, Reese and Bowker, 111 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, Calif.

May 17, 1925 – Los Angeles Times

CLUB GIVES REPORT ABOUT FISHING NEAR LOS ANGELES – Now that angling sportsmen have had their first taste of fishing, all sorts of reports are coming in from various enthusiasts over this place or that place. Like the proverbial stories about the length of the fish that was nearly caught, many of these are more or less exaggerated.

One of the most reliable sources of information is the outing bureau of information of the Automobile Club of Southern California, under the direction of Ceph Salisbury, a fisherman of long experience and repute. This department receives regular reports from all sections.

Salisbury's reports show that the Upper Sespe Creek in the vicinity of Lathrop's Camp is providing some of the best angling in this section. Nearly everyone got limit strings there during the opening days of the season.

Big Bear Lake is found to be very good and nearly all trout fishermen at Arrowhead Lake got their limits.

It is reported to the outing bureau that there is a big run on steelhead, trout averaging thirty inches in length at the mouth of the Ventura River, and that many large fish are being captured from the pier and along the breakers at the mouth of the river. Several limits of trout were caught above the Matilija River in Ventura county.

June 4, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Jimmie Large of the Primmer Company sent a fine limit of steelhead trout from Bishop today. They are attracting considerable attention in the window of the firm.

June 16, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

NABBED FOR TAKING THREE LIMIT FISH FROM SANTA PAULA CREEK – Deputy Game Warden Marion Fagan arrested Kinujir Imi, a Japanese of Oxnard, for fishing in Santa Paula creek. Imi, when arrested, had seventy-five trout in his possession, most of them fingerlings. The young fish had been planted only last year by the Ventura County Fish and Game Protective Association. Imi had an alien fishing license, however, which saved him from a heavier fine than that of $100 imposed by Judge Bagnall.

June 18, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SCOUT EVENTS – At Camp, June, 1925. The first contingent of Boy Scouts that camped out at the Boy Scout Camp this year, wound up their week' program Monday. One of the high spots in this period was the 24-mile hike, under the supervision of R.E. Harrington, of Simi. The boys hiked beyond the Sespe and came back with the limit of large trout.

June 26, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

EDITORIAL (Tongue in cheek) – Fact that they are planting 300 trout in some streams is encouraging to about 30,000 sportsmen who plan to visit the same.

September 23, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

NEW STATE FISH HATCHERIES PLANNED – Sacramento, Sept. 23. – Plans for expenditure by the State Fish and Game Commission of $200,000 in the construction of new fish hatcheries and in the repair of old ones and for the purchase of new patrol boats today were approved by the State Board of Control following a conference with commission officials.

New hatcheries are to be built at Lone Pine, Inyo county, and on the Coast in Santa Cruz county to replace the old hatchery at Brookdale. The structures will cost $25,000 and $15,000 respectively. The Mt. Shasta hatchery is to be repaired at a cost of $52,000.

October 17, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

QUARTER MILLION FISH FOR THIS COUNTY – The Fish and Game Protective Association has been notified that a consignment of fish is being prepared for this section. The Santa Paula streams will receive their quota of the shipment, but all of the streams of the county will be taken care of in the big planting which is planned for October 25th. The shipment will be trout, both steelhead and rainbow. The shipment will be a large one, amounting to 250,000 in all.

October 19, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCH LEVEN TROUT IN SANTA PAULA CREEK – Although many Loch Leven trout have been planted in the surrounding waters, they are not often caught. Perry Grimm brought in two fine ones and reports that there are plenty where they come from, up Santa Paula Creek. But they will not rise to salmon eggs. Which is something to be thankful for.

October 24, 1925 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Loaded 109 cans of fish for Ventura County, 49 RB, 49 SH, 11 LL. Six cans come in on the train this morning, train arrived at 11:20 a.m., 2 hrs. 10m. late. Train 89 left Lone Pine this evening at 7:16 p.m., 2 hrs 21m. late.

October 25, 1925 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Car left Mojave on rear end of No. 8 at 3:20 a.m., arrived in Saugus at 6:10 a.m. Mr. D.B. Kingsley took off his six cans of Loch Leven at 7:30 a.m. Car left Saugus at 8:35 a.m., arrived at Piru and delivered 4 cans RB and 4 Cans SG to Mr. C.E. Layman, delivered 50 cans to the Ventura County Fish and Game Ass'n., 25 RB, 25 SH, at Brownstone. The same applicants took off 40 cans at Santa Paula 20 RB, 20 SH.

Washed the car at Ventura.

Car left Ventura t 3:19 p.m. train 32 for L.A. at Camarillo. Delivered 5 cans of Loch Leven to Mr. C.W. Clawson for Hills Canyon. Car arrived in Los Angeles at 5:45 p.m. on time. Mr. Hedderly was down to the car this evening and got a sack of English Walnuts sent down from Santa Paula. Car left L.A. at 11:30 p.m. enroute for Lone Pine. Had all cans on this load returned to Sisson, there were no Mt. Whitney cans on this load.

Fish Car Trip No. 7 Mt. Whitney Hatchery Oct. 25, 1925

Saugus, D. B. Kingsley – 6 LL
Piru, C.E. Layman – 4 RB, 4 SG
Brownstone Ventura F. & G. Ass'n. – 25 RB, 25 SH
Santa Paula Ventura Co. F. & G. Ass'n. – 20 RB, 20 SG
Camarillo, C.W. Clawson – 5 LL

October 26, 1925 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Car arrived in Lone Pine this morning from Ventura County and Los Angeles. Ordered car out for Ventura on Wednesday Oct. 28th on the 8th and last trip from the Mount Whitney Hatchery for 1925. The boys took the ventilator screens out and cleaned glass in ventilators.

October 27, 1925 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – The truck came down from the hatchery this morning and brought down a thousand pounds of ice. Evins, Johnson and Phillips got expense checks for September. Wibberley's expense check did not come with the others. Johnson & Wibberley went up to the hatchery with the truck to help bring the fish down to the car tomorrow.

October 26, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle
October 27, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

HEAVY PLANTING OF FISH IN NEARBY STREAMS – An unusually large shipment of fish from the Mt. Whitney state hatchery was planted in the various streams of Ventura county on Sunday. The waters of Santa Paula creek received 80,000 of them. Of these 40,000 were steelhead, 40,000 were rainbow trout

The distribution in the nearby waters was under the direction of the Ventura County Fish & Game Protective Association, and the direct personal direction of Harry Valentine, forest ranger. Of the 80,000 distributed in the upper reaches of the Santa Paula creek, 22,000 were packed in by Valentine and Jim Procter.

In Piru Creek and the Agua Blanca 8,000 rainbow and 8,000 steelhead were planted, the work being in charge of C.H. Layman.

Up the Sespe were planted 50,000 steelhead and 50,000 rainbow. The work up the Sespe was in charge of County Game Warden Emerick and a squad of workers headed by Leon Harthorn.

There was also a shipment of 10,000 Loch Leven trout. These were planted in Conejo Creek, under the direction of Mr. Clawson.

October 28, 1925 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Car loaded 72 cans of fish for Ventura County, 30 RB, 40 SH, 2 EB. Sent list of cans still out up to Superintendent McCloud. Freight train set fish car out ahead of the water car for the passenger train. This is the second time this fall that they have made this switch for the passenger as the generally come down from Osayno behind the passenger train. Left L.P. at 6:40 p.m.

October 29, 1925 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Left Saugus at 8:30 a.m. delivered 20 cans of Rainbow and 2 cans of Eastern Brook to Deputy Emerick at Castaic Station, these fish were for the upper Lockwood Creek. Car arrived in Ventura at 10:25 a.m., delivered 8 cans of Rainbow and 4 cans of Steelhead to Webb Wilcox, Wheeler's Hot Springs, delivered 2 cans of Rainbow and 36 cans of Steelhead to Ventura County Fish & Game Association. Cleaned up and washed car inside and out at Ventura.

Car left Ventura for Los Angeles at 3:19 p.m. train #32. The S.P. Co. said it would be more convenient to handle the car via Los Angeles and the Valley route than by the coast. Mr. Hedderly met the car at L.A. for a few minutes before we left at 6:15 p.m. train #59. I was surprised that put the car on #59 out of Los Angeles as this usually a very heavy train and has such fast running time that object to putting extra cars in it as a rule.

Fish Car Trip No. 8 Mt. Whitney Hatchery Oct. 29th 1925

Thos. O'Brien, Castaic, Labeck P.O. – 20 RB, 2 EB
Webb W. Wilcox, Ventura, Wheelers Spring P.O. – 8 RB, 4 SH
Ventura F. & G. Ass'n., Ventura, Santa Paula P.O. – 2 RB, 36 SH
S.L. Lothridge, Sect.

October 30, 1925 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Car en-route from Los Angeles to Sisson, come all the way through on 59-14. Left John Wibberley in Sacramento this morning. Evins, Johnson & Phillips cam through with the car.

Car arrived in Sisson to-night at 8:51 p.m.

November 2, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

MILLIONS OF TROUTLINGS DISTRIBUTED IN CALIF. BY FISH AND GAME COM. – by Edwin L. Hedderly. Ten carloads of trout is indeed "some fish;" but that is the delivery just made by the Fish and Game Commission to its volunteer sportsmen planters throughout the south, thanks to businesslike co-operation of the great railroads which contributed fast transportation and special handling of the fish-car as part of their free public service toward keeping outdoor California attractive to the angler.

Besides these over 2,000,000 troutlings thus distributed by the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe, the heaviest pack-train plantings ever possible to make into headwater creeks have been motor trucked and burro packed out of Mount Whitney hatchery for the adjacent High Sierras. In the extreme South, the output of both Big Bear valley local hatcheries was divided between Big Bear lake and the San Bernardino watershed by co-operation of

the county supervisors under direction of Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner W.C. Malone.

Realizing that water conditions were at their worst, with possibility of a wet winter which heavy early storms suggested, the sportsmen's Fish and Game Commission put off Southern plantings until the last, and organized all possible volunteer cooperation to plant the fish afar up above the risk of storm scouring. Ordinarily difficult to get done because in normal years few realize the need, headwater plantings became the rule this fall. Streams were planted that heretofore have been inaccessible. Exceptional results expected to fully justify all the extra effort cheerfully contributed by all concerned.

Reports from those handling trout from the car at the stations and side-tracks all indicate that Southern California had the best trout planting since the sportsmen of the state first made protection and propagation of wild life a self-supporting business by taxing themselves the all too moderate dollar a year license to finance their favorite work.

…The fish car distribution concluded this week with the second car for Ventura county which carried nearly 50,000 rainbow and some Eastern brook trout for the upper Piru headwaters by mountain truck and packing in from Sneddens, together with a liberal steelhead allotment for Ventura river, where previous steelhead plantings have wonderfully vindicated themselves by the spectacular mid-winter tidewater fishing these dry seasons at the bar-bound mouths of the Ventura and Santa Clara. The first car was divided between Santa Paula and Sespe with some plantings in the Agua Blanca and lower Piru. Fish were packed farther up the Sespe than ever heretofore, the Ventura Fish and Game association taking charge of all plantings, just as the San Diego county Fish and Game Protective association handles the work in that county and organizations of true sportsmen co-operate everywhere.

November 3, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Last week 85,000 young fish, mostly trout, were distributed thru the length of the Ventura River, principally at the Soper place and up the stream from that point.

November 5, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FINISH DELIVERY OF TEN CARLOADS OF BABY TROUT – by Edwin L. Hedderly. Ably assisted by business like cooperation of the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads which contributed fast transportation and special handling as part of their gratuitous public service toward keeping outdoor California attractive to the angler, the sportsmen's State Fish and Game Commission has just finished delivering the last of ten carloads of baby trout, mostly from its great modern hatchery near Mount Whitney, to Southern lakes and streams.

Additional to these over two million troutlings thus distributed by the great railroads to waiting sportsmen whose angling license dollars raised the fish under the California Fish and Game Commission's self-supporting system of protecting and propagating the State's

wild life by all too moderately taking only those who pursue it, an enormous further planting was made directly into the adjacent High Sierras from Mount Whitney Hatchery by motor truck and pack-train, and from the two Bear Valley Hatcheries into the San Bernardino watershed. The produce of eggs taken from Big Bear lake fish was distributed by the county trucks, half going back to the lake, the rest scattered from the Santa Ana to San Antonio, with Mill Creek, Deep Creek and south side streams all planted as liberally as this year's none too favorable conditions seemed to warrant.

Planning against the expected and long overdue heavy winter, special efforts were made by the Fish and Game Commission to get headwater plantings made this fall by its sportsmen cooperators. Always better to plant fish away up, ordinarily it is difficult to get done because of inaccessibility in normal seasons, and general disinclination to pass plantable waters farther than seems necessary. This year, everybody concerned, co-operated 100% to make a record planting. State Superintendent of Fishculture Shebley allotted all the fish to Southern California that the Sierras could spare, unprecedented demand having come upon Inyo and Mono lakes and streams last summer, warranting the planting of the entire State's output between Lake Tahoe and Kern River were it possible to thus ignore the insistent demands of all the rest of California. Leading sportsmen worked half a day in a blinding rainstorm on the side of San Gorgonio Mountain, packing in the heaviest plantings ever possible to get into the upper Whitewater headwaters. Meanwhile, others patiently awaited on the Banning-Idyllwild road a truck that the rain prevented getting that far, forcing planting below, but like the good sportsmen they were, repeated the following week when the shipment was duplicated and increased. A force of volunteer planters under direction of Deputy James H. Gyger, Edward D. Silent and Oscar Lawler finally stocked upper Dark Canyon, Fuller Mill Creek, and other higher tributaries of the Upper North Fork of the San Jacinto to very much better advantage than heretofore possible, and with every probability of more lasting results.

Similar was the San Gabriel planting, when nine trucks under direction of the veteran Ralph Follows, chairman of the Azusa Chamber of Commerce fish planting committee, met the Fish and Game Commission's fish car on a rainy Wednesday in mid-October and delivered some 200,000 trout to waiting pack-trains at the "head of automobile navigation"—and "navigation" they found it indeed! These fish went away up in the snow: 38 cans, over 750,000 mostly rainbow, were packed out from Camp Bonita onto Cattle Canyon, up the East Fork as far as Iron Fork, farther than ever before; 10 cans went into Bear Canyon in fine shape; 20 cans into Coldbrook where never possible to plant before. Forester Jess Graves took charge of several hard plantings, and lost only three cans when a pack-animal went off the trail.

Thanks to the early rain, other Los Angeles County streams were raised enough to warrant better than the expected plantings. The Santa Anita was heavily stocked; San Dimas was given ten cans, eight of which were packed away above by hand as far as possible to make practicable plantings. The Big Tujunga was stocked heavier than ever again by Dr. Homer Hansen and his pack animals; Big Creek was cared for by Fred Fehrenson of Palmdale; the San Antonio was given a double dose by Kirk Vernon additional to the previous allotment from Big Bear hatcheries.

San Diego County also received two carloads of trout, the first a shipment of "Brownies" for Lake Henshaw; the last specially favored by the heaviest October rains on records, making possible an excellent stocking of Paum Creek on Palomar by Messrs. Rauson and Fisher, as well as liberal plantings of Cedar, Boulder and other locally famous back-country creeks in the south and east.

Ventura county got two carloads, winding up the distribution. Thos. O'Brien and his white truck went from Lebec to meet the fish car at Castaic Thursday for a capacity load to go into upper Piru headwaters, and ideal planting above flood damage even in a heavy winter, stocking some streams that the Fish and Game Commission has been trying to get planted for years without being able to finance the job, which calls for packing in over rough country after 50 miles of mostly mountain trucking. A capacity load was divided by the Ventura Fish and Game Association between the Sespe and Santa Paula, with a load of steelhead for the Ventura River, whose big steelhead runs these last bar-bound years have thoroughly proved the success of the previous plantings in the river.

December 18, 1925 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ITEM – More than 32,000,000 trout planted in streams of California during 1925.

December 18, 1925 – Oxnard Courier

STEELHEAD FISHING TO BE GOOD SAY ANGLERS – Sportsmen are waiting for the rains to swell the Santa Clara and Ventura rivers so that the sand bars at the mouth will be broken to allow steelhead trout entrance. Steelhead fishing season opened on the 15th but there has been no fishing in the rivers yet. Steelhead have been seen about the mouth of the Santa Clara river waiting for the stream to open. When this time comes fishing is expected to be good.

1 9 2 6

Rainfall – 16.41 Inches

January 19, 1926 – Oxnard Courier

FINE STEELHEAD – A steelhead, measuring 28 ½ inches in length was caught off the Ventura wharf yesterday by E.B.C. Wright. "Steelheads," Wright says, "are coming down here from the north, to spawn."

February 8, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH AND GAME BENEFIT FROM HEAVY RAINFALL – Another beneficial angle of the recent rains was discovered in the help given fish and game in Southern California. Edwin Hedderly of the State Fish and Game Commission writes as follows concerning the fish and game status:

With the best rains of recent years well soaked into the soil of the mountain, hill and valley, Southern California's licensed sportsmen yesterday took on another lease of life and the goose of good hopes for the future honks high—higher than in many days.

Rains already registered this last week will admit the big breeder "steelheads" to up-coast streams, and congregate them about the mouths thereof for the remainder of the "Winter Tidewater Steelhead Season," which continues through the current month. Thus far, these fine fish have been widely scattered, some being seen occasionally in the surf by passing sportsmen from the Malibu all the way up the Coast, showing up in the breakers or leaping, as is their habit at this season.

The heavy floods in the Ventura burst loose a few oil sumps again, carrying considerable of a mess downstream, all of which is now having the prompt attention of the Fish and Game Commission's water-pollution department. The mountain streams are all well up, with considerable snow to feed the headwater tributaries until the next warm rain.

Heavy rains in the coastal watersheds north will start the "runs" upon which the Fishcultural Department of the Fish and Game Commission must depend for its steelhead egg supply, the outlook for which was the worst ever up to the end of January, according to its veteran superintendent W.H. Shebley, who has kept conditions officially under observation raising fish for the State during the last forty-five years, gathering an experience equaled by no trout culturist in the world upon species indigenous to the Pacific Coast. Shebley is one of the most pleased men in California over the change in conditions, although flood-stage waters in many places have brought need of quick emergency repairs to spawn-taking traps and other equipment.

The rain was torrential in some of the northern watersheds, but nothing less would have started the costal streams sufficiently to restore their "spawner runs" to something approximating normal It is too early to more than hope for an average "take of steelhead

eggs," but the Fish and Game Commission is planning new hatcheries, and preparing to increase its production of trout all its funds will finance this summer, when the most enormous demand ever known is considered a certainty in all the mountain trout-fisherman's playgrounds.

February 10, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – See What I did with the Fishing Tackle that I bought at Helfert Jewelry Co. The Best Fishing Tackle at L.A. Prices. Watch Repairing a Specialty.

February 23, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TOWN TALK – Walter Emerick, county game warden was here today from Ventura. He reported that few steelheads have gone up the river this year. Emerick spent last week in the Lockwood and declares there is still six inches of snow left in the valley.

March 4, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

STEELHEAD SEASON OPENS MAY FIRST – "While there are very few steelheads in the rivers at present, there is every indication the coming fishing season, which opens May 1, will be excellent," says Game Warden Walter Emerick.

"The Fishing will be good because of the excellent quantities of other fish which are already in the waters."

March 18, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FEW LIONS IN SESPE COUNTRY SAYS HUNTER – (Article is about mountain lions mainly.) …Speaking of fishing prospects, Procter says they will be good this spring if the water holds up. A number of trout measuring five to ten inches were seen, being especially abundant in Piedra Blanca creek.

March 27, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

STATE TO HAVE 15 REARING PONDS – San Francisco, March 25. – Use of fifteen rearing ponds in which young trout will be permitted to grow 3 ½ to finches in length before being liberated in the streams of the State was recently announced by I. Zellerbach, present of California Fish and Game Commission. The rearing ponds, said Mr. Zellerbach, are the result of a policy of the reorganized commission inaugurated. They will be scattered about the state under its fish culture department, at points handy to hatcheries and to the streams in which they will later be liberated soon to provide California sportsmen with thrills galore.

The ponds, when completed, will accommodate this year 2,700,000 small fish. Here they will be carefully tended by California sportsmen and taken out only when they have reached a size where they are capable of caring for themselves. Early in the summer,

according to Mr. Zellerbach, the small fish will be liberated in streams near the rearing ponds.

Of the fifteen ponds thus contemplated, four are new locations provided for in this year's budget, five are old ponds used in former years, four are to be built by local sportsmen's clubs, one is to be rented, and the other is to be built by the commission's own crew of workmen. Their locations, together with the number of fish each will accommodate and the method of obtaining each are as follows:

Mt. Shasta Hatchery, old ponds, capable of holding 250,000 small fish.
Castle Creek, near Dunsmuir, to be built by sportsmen of that city, will accommodate 150,000 fish.

At Brookdale, in Santa Cruz Mountains, near Santa Cruz, pond already constructed, capacity, 200,000.

At Mt. Whitney Hatchery in high Sierras, Inyo county, capacity 250,000 fish.

At Huntington Lake, Fresno county, the commission will build a rearing pond capable of handling 250,000 fish.

At Clear Lake, Lassen county, the commission will also build. The pond there will accommodate 100,000 fish.

In the Tahoe region there will be two rearing ponds, both provided for under the commission's 1926 budget. One of these will be at Tahoe Tank system. This will be the largest pond contemplated.

April 7, 1926 – Oxnard Courier

COUNTY ANGLERS LOOK FOR GREATEST SEASON – Sportsmen are looking forward to one of the best fishing seasons in years. Mountain streams show the best promise for good fishing, according to reports of anglers who have been around the county. Howard and Sespe creeks are teeming with fish and hundreds are to be seen in the pools. Matilija, Ventura and other rivers are full and all tributaries and creeks, even in the Conejo, will afford anglers good sport on the first of May—the opening of trout season.

April 10, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING PROSPECTS BEST FOR MANY YEARS – Prospects for fishing during the coming year are better than they have been for years in the opinion of Ventura county fishermen, as the result of recent rains which have flooded water courses, and cleaned them out. This is the first time for twelve years that the river beds have been thoroughly cleaned. As the result fishing will be better as all of the moss will have been washed away, likewise much of the tule, making the fishing more open.

"Each year, the streams have been heavily stocked with rainbow trout in anticipation of a good rain like this," states Sam Primmer, "and in addition to the fish put in the streams this year, there is also a good holdover from last year."

Trout fishing opens in this district on May 1, adds Primmer, who warns all to get their licenses by that time. Licenses cost $1 for the season for citizens, and $3.00 for non-residents and aliens. All persons over 18 years are required to have licenses.

April 15, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Discontinued Lines Ladies' Outing Clothing on Sale Saturday. Tweed Knickers suits, Tweed Knickers, Wool Knickers, Kampit brand Khaki Knickers, Khaki Lace Breeches, Khaki Middies. These are just the clothes to wear on your fishing trip when the season opens, May 1st. The Primmer Co. Everything in Sporting Goods.

April 19, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT FISHING TO BE BEST FOR YEARS – Saturday next trout fishing opens in this, District No. 3, also in Districts No. 1 ½, 2, 3, 4 and 4 ½.

Prospects are the best in many years, with the waterways cleaned of moss and tules, making the fishing more open than has been the case for several years. The waters, too, have been planted every year in anticipation of good rains.

April 21, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHERMEN READY FOR OPENING MAY 1 – While fishing prospects for the coming season are the very best, it is quite possible that when it opens on Saturday, May 1st all of the water in the county may not be in the best condition. However, fish should be in first class condition, firm and free from mossy taste.

Santa Paula creek is clearing up but still rather milky, the milky condition being caused by the percolation of water through Steckel's slide. This slide is of a soft white formation that disintegrates freely in water or under certain climatic conditions. The slide took place in the right form of the creek in 1906, just below the Cienega. Ever since that time, when ever an excess of water has flowed down the creek, this milky condition has been noted.

As regards the Sespe, Piru, Agua Blanca and Matilija, it is doubtful if the water will be sufficiently clear for the opening day.

Fishermen expecting to get into Wheeler's by automobile, will not be able to do so until May 1, and may not be able to do so then, owing to the condition of the road due to landslides following the recent storms. Webb Wilcox, owner of the resort is making every effort however to have the road open by the first day of the season.

April 23, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Standard Wherever Game Fish Lie. Fishing Rods and Fishing Tackle. Let's Go Fishing with Joe's Tackle. It's the Best. Helfert Jewelry Co. Fisherman and Watch Doctor.

April 24, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Opens On Saturday, May 1. Take advantage of our 15 years experience, camping and fishing the streams in this vicinity. Maps and information on file. We take pride in being able to say that we have nothing in our stock that is not suitable for fishing in Southern California. The Primmer Co.

April 26, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GAME WARDEN SHOWS DIVERSE NATURE OF DUTIES IN HIS QUARTERLY REPORT – Some idea of the diverse nature of the duties of the game warden can be gathered from the report just filed by Walter Emerick, game warden for this district. The report is for the first quarter, and is as follows:

"During the quarter I traveled 793 miles by auto, 57 miles on horseback and approximately 56 miles on foot, doing patrol work and investigating reports of fish and game violations and other fish and game work.

"I checked and examined all hunting licenses, two angling licenses, one trappers' license, and four commercial fishing licenses. There is no open season on game during these months so the number is low.

"No arrests were made during the quarter but investigations were made of several violations, but reports came in too late in order to secure evidence enough to warrant arrests as sufficient evidence could not be obtained.

"Water samples were taken from streams in the county and are being tested for oil pollution. If the tests show pollution detrimental to fish and plant life, action will be taken to stop the pollution.

"A survey and inspection was made of all dams, water diversions, fishways, and fish screens on all the streams in the county. Most of these are in good shape.

"No brush fire occurred in the county during the past quarter, except for a small area which was burned in Murietta canyon. All fire equipment was checked up and license plates were secures for nine fire trailers."

April 28, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH AND GAME OFFICIAL TALKS ON SEASON OPENING – San Francisco, April 28.—Declaring that it was the uncertainty of the sport which made for the true disciple of Isaak Walton, and that the wily trout has reached a degree of "education" that has gained for him the respect that he merits as an adversary worthy of the angler's skill, B.D. Marx Greene, executive officer of the California Fish & Game Commission, recently prefaced a radio interview with the sporting editor of one of San Francisco's leading dailies with a plea for good sportsmanship and a strict observance of bag limits on the part of that vast army which will move into the streams of California on next Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and May 2.

As "in the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love" so do those of the angler turn, no less ardently to the approaching opening of the trout season," said Greene in talking to one of the largest audiences of California sportsmen ever accorded a resident of the State. "The Winter is past and with it the stories of the 'big 'un's' that were landed last year, and the 'bigger 'un's' that got away. Tackle kits are taken out for final overhauling. The old reel and line that was once new and the favorite rod are critically inspected. What old times is not thrilled as he handles the broken leader, the battered spinner, or frayed fly that revived some vivid memory? The tall pines, the great stillness near the end of the hot summer's day, broken only by the murmur of the stream as it drops into the big pool; the eddies around the fallen log; the fly poised uncertainly for an instant when a great dark form flashes; a quick movement of the wrist sets the hook and 'the granddaddy of 'em a;;' leaps into view—falls back into the water and rushes toward the end of the pool—but that would be a 'fish story'—adds Greene.

Greene outlined various forms of tackle, baits and lures, declaring that while there were no inflexible rules, that the tackle should be chosen for the kind of fishing to be done, and should always be light enough to give the fish a sporting chance. "It is not the kind of tackle, but the manner in which it is used that is the gauge of true sportsmanship," he said.

In answer to a query upon the outlook for fishing upon the opening day, Greene stated that men in the field declare a belief in unusual opportunities this year. Advance reports from all sections of the state are to the effect that most of the larger streams are somewhat swollen, due to the recent storms and melting snow. The coastal streams and those smaller streams having a quick run-off will undoubtedly offer better fishing conditions at the beginning of the season, according to the observations of the filed staff of the commission.

The commission's effort to offset the enormous toll taken upon the trout by the thousands of ardent anglers in the state will be augmented this year by the use of 15 rearing or retaining ponds, in which trout fry will be permitted to grow to 3 ½ to 5 inches in length before being released to the streams of the state.

California has 26,000 miles of trout streams and 10,000 fresh water lakes available to the angler. The season opens in Districts 1, 1/ ½, 2, 3, 4, 4 ½ and Lake Almanor on next Saturday. The bag limit is 25 trout or 10 pounds or over each day. The license fee is $1 for citizens and $3 for non-residents and aliens.

April 29, 1926 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD AND VICINITY – According to Boy Scouts who have investigated officially, the upper Ventura river, and all Ventura county streams, where anglers have formerly cast their lines, fishing will be unusually good this year. Saturday the trout season opens. Some of the fish have been seen even below Foster Park, which promises well for the fishermen.

April 29, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GAME WARDEN TO HAVE ARMY OF DEPUTIES ON JOB MAY 1 – Over enthusiastic fishermen who venture out on May 1 and try to make a getaway with more than the limit of fish will find that it may cost them a stiff fine, for County Game Warden Walter Emerick has arranged to have a big corps of deputies on the job. He has been authorized by the state fish and game commission to employ sufficient deputies to patrol all streams in the county to enforce the state fish and game laws.

April 20, 1926 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD AND VICINITY – A congenial group of fishermen who will be among the first to enjoy the fishing season, are Fred Thosts, Harry Chapman, Ben Graham, Jimmy Baggs, Robert Funk and Eddie Miller, who left last night for Fillmore and today packed into the hills for more than 20 miles to a place where they have positive information, trout abound. The men anticipate returning with a full quota of mountain trout.

May 1, 1926 – Oxnard Courier

ANGLERS ARE OUT TODAY; WHEELER'S SPRINGS CROWDED – Poor fish! Early today anglers from all sections invaded the streams of Ventura county to get first crack at the wonderful trout which fill all the rivers and creeks on the opening day of the 1926 fishing season.

Was the sport good? Just ask any of those who returned today from an early hour catch. Several come home with limits while others returned with a good number of large fish. According to the local fishermen the trout are unusually large this year and fishing is excellent.

More interest was shown in the opening day this year than for many years past. Hundreds of sportsmen are in the country today enjoying the fun. A large number of Oxnarders left their work and will not be home until Monday.

According to a report from Webb Wilcox, proprietor of Wheeler Hot Springs, anglers at the resort were delighted with results today. Water conditions are better than they have ever been since 1914, he said and as the fishermen return to camp many interesting "fish stories" are heard.

Wheeler Springs resort had many guests last night and the register is heavy for the week-end. Fishing camps along the north fork of the Matilija, above Wheeler's, Lathrop's Camp, Wheeler's Cold springs were filled to capacity today, people from all parts of the country, being registered, Wilcox said.

"This is going to be a wonderful fishing season," Wilcox said over the long distance telephone today. The roads to Wheeler's are open and in good condition and anglers and visitors are coming in to beat the band. So many of them want to go to the camps above the main resort, that we don't know where we are going to put them all,"

It is a 12-mile ride from Wheeler's to Lathrop's camp, the headquarters of fishermen. Those who were not fortunate enough to get accommodations at Lathrop's will be obliged to ride back and forth for every trip. But the country is beautiful and to lovers of the great outdoors, the trip is one of their greatest pleasures. While fishing is reported exceptionally good around Wheeler's, good sport was also expected in the Sulphur mountain country along the Santa Paula creek. It was feared that fishing would not yet be good far back in the hills on account of rains making the streams muddy. However, no definite report on this condition had been received today.

W.H. Sanborne was one of the first to return to Oxnard with trout. He fished near Camp Bartlett, but owing to a lack of time he was not able to get the limit. However, during the short time he fished, he caught a number of large fellows which were well worth bringing home. H.H. Eastwood was another Oxnarder to return with a good catch early today.

May 4, 1926 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD AND VICINTY – Fred Thost, Ed Miller, Luther Nicholson, Robert Funk, Ben Graham and Jimmy Baggs have returned from the three day fishing trip in the upper Sespe. A severe rain storm was not enough to dampen the enthusiasm of the fishermen or hinder them from catching the limit of trout.

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Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Hatherick and son, James; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hart of Ventura and Mrs. and Mrs. S.O. Symonds of Los Angeles were among successful anglers Saturday and Sunday at Santa Paula Falls. All caught the limit of mountain trout.

May 4, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WATER POLLUTION TO BE SURVEYED – A survey of the streams in this county is being made by Walter Emerick, game warden, with the object of ascertaining how many

of the waterways are being subjected to pollution from the oil fields. Emerick is accompanied on this survey by Rollin G. Watkins director of publicity for the fish and game commission.

Yesterday an examination was made along Ventura avenue and in the afternoon, Santa Paula creek was inspected. This morning Hopper Creek was examined while this afternoon, Oak Ridge and the Fillmore Refining company property will be inspected.

Emerick is anxious to find out at what point oil is getting into the waterways, also to trace the salt water to the point where it is allowed to flow into the creeks.

REPORT EIGHTY LIMITS OF TROUT AT WHEELER'S – Eighty limits of trout were caught at the Cold Springs and Lathrops at Wheeler Springs, according to the statement of Webb Wilcox to the *Ventura Post* yesterday. "There were 200 cars at the Springs on Saturday and Sunday," said Mr. Wilcox. "The water is low and the fishing is first class."

May 5, 1926 – Oxnard Courier

FISHING IS FINE ABOVE WHEELER'S – Trout fishing is good this season according to anglers returning home after fishing trips in the mountain sections. Webb Wilcox, proprietor of Wheeler Hot Springs said today that 80 limits of trout had been caught at Lathrop's and Cold Springs up to late yesterday. More limits were expected to be caught today.

"There were over 200 automobiles at the Springs on Saturday and Sunday," Mr. Wilcox said. The water is fairly low and fishing is excellent, Wilcox added.

May 12, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WATER POLLUTION BY OIL, DECLARED WORST IN STATE – Following the recent survey of the waterways in this county made by Rollin G. Watkins, of the state fish and game commission, and Walter Emerick, county game warden, Watkins has issued a report stating that oil pollution here is the worst in the state. Conditions in the Ventura river are, the report states, the worst. Watkins and Emerick spent two days recently in this vicinity.

Topographically, the Ventura river is hard to keep clean, according to Watkins, with the many wells along the river banks, but Watkins says that the oil companies will have to clean up. The commission tried to co-operate with the oil companies two years ago, but very little good has resulted, according to Watkins.

"The pipe line which several of the large companies have agreed to install had not been started up to several days ago," says Watkins. "However, they assured us," says Watkins "that the contract had been let for laying a twelve-inch concrete pipe line to cross the Ventura River from the oil fields and carry off the dirty residue to a large sump on the west bank. Here the oil to be separated from the salt water and a second line is to carry

the salt water to a sump on the coast line where it will be emptied into the ocean. The understanding is of course, that no oil is to be dumped into the ocean, but will be burned.

"Sixteen thousand feet of pipe line is included in this contract and by this means much can be accomplished in clearing the river water. The state is earnest in this matter and we have the support of the entire Fish and Game Commission."

"The oil companies are making good progress on the pipe line which they agreed with the city to install to carry off the waste from the oil wells," commented City Engineer C.W. Pierce. "They had trouble in securing the right of way for the line but that has just been cleared up and secured and they are now manufacturing the concrete pipe, which takes thirty days to make and cure. In fact they have a crew of men now on the field excavating the line. It will be finished in from three to four months.

May 18, 1926 – Oxnard Courier

MOTORIST SEEK HILLS; WHEELER'S IS CROWDED; 600 MACHINES OVER SUNDAY – Thousands of motorists traveled the highways of the county on Sunday. The weather was gorgeous and every nook and corner of the county was visited. Hundreds drove to the hills and into the mountains. Many went up the Rincon, others went to Conejo and Las Turas lake, others drove over the triangle route from Santa Paula to Ojai and many drove to Wheeler Hot Springs.

At Wheeler's Springs many were surprised to find so many visitors, Webb Wilcox, proprietor of the well known county resort said that over 600 automobiles had been there during the day. The place was crowded with guests and visitors. The plunge was filled with bathers and scores were dancing.

Many fishermen were at the resort and seemed well satisfied with results. Fishing in the Sespe near Lathrop's camp, back of Wheeler's was reported better than it has been in years. Webb Wilcox guarantees that anyone who goes fishing in that section can come back with the limit. If they can't, he said, he offers to give them their lodging free. He said he has not had to do this yet.

The place looks beautiful now. The hills are green, but are turning purple with blooming sage. It is a vastly different sight to what it was a short time ago when the canyon was rushing with water. According to Wilcox recent rains were the heaviest he had ever experienced. The river never left its banks. Many thought that the stream had risen so high it reached the hotel, but this was not so. It was the water from the side canyons that caused the trouble. The rain came so hard and so fast that every little canyon on the west side became a rushing torrent, pouring tons of mud and debris into the resort. Wilcox said there was not time to attempt diverting the streams and several of the buildings were partially flooded. The water mark may still be seen on some of the buildings.

Two days before the opening of fishing season, Wilcox said he didn't know whether Wheeler's would open or not. The road was out in several places and county officials

believed it would be six months or longer before the road could be repaired. But a crew of 40 men was put to work and the "gang" from Wheeler's pitched in. The job was nearly completed by the opening the season. Then came the fishermen. Rain and bad roads did not bother them. Several machines were stuck and it was with difficulty that they were pulled out. But the fishermen, like the trout, were on their way to the head waters and kept going. Despite the condition, the resort was filled on the opening of trout season, much to the surprise of Wilcox.

Work on the road continued and it was not long before it was put in condition. It is now in good shape all the way to the resort. In one or two places where slides occurred, it is a bit narrow, with room for only one way traffic. But work is still under way and it is expected that these places will be completed soon. The 600 cars at the springs Sunday had not difficulty in getting over the road.

When the Maricopa road is built there will be a paved highway running through the hills not far from Wheeler's which will bring this resort and all the Matilija section closer to the coast.

May 18, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BARDSDALE NEWS – Mr. and Mrs. John Baldwin, Katherine, Mary and Ruth, spent the weekend camping in the Sespe, where they enjoyed trout fishing.

May 19, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PRIMMER'S TROUT ALL WEIGH DOZEN POUNDS OR MORE – Out in the great, wide-open spaces where fish are fish, that's where Sam Primmer has been pursuing the wily trout, as his window indicates this morning, for two big steelhead trout are displayed, each of them weighing a dozen pounds or more. The trout were taken by Sam Primmer himself, who, with Mrs. Primmer and family, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Claberg and Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Stuart, returned this morning from Bishop, where they have been fishing.

Primmer states that the fishing up there is good; in fact, the best for many years; that conditions have settled down and that a fisherman can tell exactly what to do. He states that he got the limit of brook trout in Gem and Parker lakes and a limit of steelhead in June lake. Primmer says that in the higher lakes the fish are taking only worms while in the lower ones, the fish were taking fly and spinner readily. He also adds that the roads up to Bishop are excellent and that the road gangs are kept constantly at work, repairing and spraying the road.

The Primmers, Clabergs and Stuarts fished from Bishop to Lundy Lake during their ten-day outing.

May 24, 1926 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD AND VICINITY – Elton Fulton of Los Angeles, visited this weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Fulton. While here he made a fishing trip to the upper Sespe, where he caught the limit of trout.

May 28, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT LURE MANY TO MOUNTAIN LAKES – Bishop and the surrounding country is the mecca of many Santa Paula fishermen these days, a number of local residents having gone there during this week. One of the largest parties that is spending the week-end at June Lake will consist of the following: Dr. J.C. Strong, Dr. F.E. Blaisdell, Dr. C.G. Gould, Dr. T.L. Millham, Herman Keene, R. Fleisher and J. Chamberlain. They are now on their way to the mountains.

Tomorrow night, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moshier and Mr. and Mrs. George D. Norman leave for June lake and vicinity. They will be away about a week. W.E. Gainder is a member of another party that is in the Bishop country, while E. Norman is trying his luck at Big Bear lake.

At Silver Lake, Pop Schulze and A.H. Call are busy fishing.

Mr. and Mrs. William Fry who have been at June Lake for several days returning this morning, stating that fishing was excellent.

June 9, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

NEW POLICY IN PLANTING TROUT TO BE FOLLOWED – San Francisco, June 9.—Shaping its course upon President I. Zellerbach's favorite maxim, "'Tis never the wrong time to do right and never the right time to do wrong," California Fish and Game Commissioner has placed itself on record as scrapping the obsolete and haphazard policy of fish planting. Beginning next year, the commission will plant trout only after a thorough survey has been made to determine the species best suited to particular waters and the number required. The planting will then be done by reliable sportsmen's organizations or sportsmen residing in the vicinity of the planting with the assistance and under the supervision of an employee of the commission who has been trained in the art of fish planting.

The commission's decision was based upon an exhaustive report recently prepared by B.D. Marx Greene, executive officer, following an extended conference with W.H. Shebley, chief of the Fishculture Department. Greene declared that while many of the volunteer planting crews in California were doing their work in a splendid manner, the whole principle of the present planting system was wrong and that it was as much the duty of the commission to properly plant streams and lakes as to rear healthy fish. His report commended many California sportsmen's clubs and individuals for splendid, though thankless work, in the past, and stressed the following points:

1. That under the old system the responsibility of the commission ended at the fish car door, often resulting in the failure of the local planting crew to observe instructions as to equalization of temperatures and aerating of water, with resultant loss of thousands of young fish.

2. That too often well-informed local planting crews, detained by urgent personal matters, fail to spare at the proper time and place, with equally serious results to the small fish.

3. That the commissions' policy of planting only Rainbow trout in waters suited to this species was in danger of an upset by fish of other species and suited to the lower reaches of our fishing streams becoming mixed up by local planting crews.

4. That many applicants for fish generalizes only as to where same will be planted, often failing to make proper reports thereafter. He declared that many times fish destined for a certain stream greatly in need of restocking, through some accident would find their way into some other stream which was already well stocked.

Greene's recommendations were:

1. That a thorough state-wide survey of streams and lakes be immediately undertaken with the assistance of the sportsmen of the state, to determine the species of fish now peculiar thereto, their relative abundance, and the species which should be planted in future.

2. That prior to the opening of the 1927 planting season the commission should definitely determine from this survey the streams and lakes to be planted, allocating to each the proper number and species.

3. That the present system of receiving applications for fish be abolished…that the distribution be centralized at proper locations under the direct supervision of thoroughly trained commission employees; that until funds are available to the commission for transportation and labor, the actual planting be done as at present by volunteer associations and individuals, but under trained supervision.

4. That adequate resting stations be established throughout the state in suitable locations and the fish left there to rest and feed until proper transportation to the planting site is assured.

Greene declared the fish planting method as at present in vogue, the weakest point in the commission's program, asserting "I believe like the surgeon, that when one has a cancer, it should be ruthlessly cut out." His entire program was adopted by the commission, and while it is too late to initiate it for this seasons' planting, the survey will begin at once with a view of putting it into effect next season.

A group of California's foremost sportsmen, when the plan was outlined to them, gave it their heartiest approval, declaring it one of the most important steps ever taken by the commission since its reorganization.

September 23, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

REPORT FISH IN SESPE AS BREATHING HEAVILY – Sam Primmer and Mark Shedenhelm will spend tonight in the Sespe where they have gone on a fishing expedition. They left this afternoon, and expect to be back with creels full about noon tomorrow.

September 26, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Sam Primmer and Mark Shedenhelm are back from the Sespe where they have been fishing. Primmer brought nineteen trout home with him. They camped at West Fork and fished up Alder Creek.

Oct 17, 1926 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Car left San Bernardino at 7:45 a.m. Picked up the cans left at Santa Anita and Pasadena yesterday. Arrived in Los Angeles at 10:15 a.m. Left Los Angeles at 11:15 p.m. enroute to Lone Pine.

October 18, 1926 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Car arrived in Lone Pine this morning from San Bernardino. The truck from the hatchery brought down a ton of ice and took up a load of empty cans. Talbot and Marshall went up with truck to help bring down the fish to-morrow. The pop valve pipe on the boiler started to leak to-day when we got up steam to steam out the cans. This pipe is rusted out in the threads where it screws into the tee at the boiler. Caked the leak with lead, but don't think it will hold. All the plumbing on the car is getting old and badly rusted and should be renewed.

October 19, 1926 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Mailed out the notices for trip #8. Loaded 96 cans of fish for Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Left Lone Pine at 4:55 p.m.

Fish Car Trip No. 6 Mt. Whitney Hatchery, Lv. Oct. 19th, Delivery Oct. 20, 1926

Ventura F. & G. Ass'n., Brownstone – 8 RB, 20 SH
Ventura F. & G. Ass'n., Ventura – 8 RB, 2 LL, 20 SH
Webb W. Wilcox, Ventura – 5 RB, 5 SH
Owen E. MacBride, Ventura – 5 RB, 5 SH
Frank E. Dunne, Santa Barbara – 8 LL

October 20, 1926 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Delivered 96 cans of fish in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties to-day. 8 cans of Rainbow and 20 cans of steelhead at Brownstone, 10 cans of Loch Leven at Santa Paula, 8 cans of rainbow, 2 cans of Loch Leven and 20 cans of steelhead at Ventura. All of the above to Ventura Fish & Game Ass'n. 5 cans of rainbow and 5 cans of steelhead to Webb W. Wilcox, 5 cans of rainbow and 5 cans of steelhead for Owen E. MacBride of Ojai. Wilcox handled both of these allotments. Donald Evins took 8 cans of Loch Leven on train 77 from Ventura for Frank E. Dunne, two of these cans were delivered at Carpentaria, 6 cans at Santa Barbara. Car came down to Los Angeles from Ventura on train 32 connecting with train #7 for Lone Pine. There was a light sprinkle of rain at Mojave last night.

October 21, 1926 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Car arrived in Lone Pine this morning from Ventura via Los Angeles. Truck from the hatchery brought down a ton of ice. Marshall and Evins went up to the hatchery to help bring the fish down to-morrow. There was a heavy rain here last night. The tops of the mountains are covered with snow on both sides of the valley.

October 21, 1926 – Santa Paula Chronicle
October 22, 1926 – Oxnard Courier

REPLANT VENTURA CO. STREAMS WITH THOUSANDS OF FRY – Ten cans of fish were planted in Ventura county waterways yesterday, the planting comprising Loch Leven, steelhead and rainbow trout. The plantings were as follows: Santa Paula creek, 4,000 steelhead, 16,000 rainbow; Ventura river and tributaries, 4,000 Loch Leven, 15,000 rainbow and 36,000 steelhead; Sespe 150,000 steelhead and rainbow trout; Piru creek, 10,000 steelhead, 10,000 rainbow.

The fish came from the Mt. Whitney fish hatchery, and were carried to the planting grounds on pack horses in several instance. The planting took place under the auspices of the Ventura County Fish and Game Protective Association, J.N. Procter, and Walter Claberg, being in charge.

October 22, 1926 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Loaded 108 cans of fish for Ventura & Riverside Counties. Left Lone Pine at 4:55 p.m.

The pop-valve pipe is leaking steam pretty bad where it screws into the tee at the boiler. I am afraid if it gets much worse it will not last this trip out. Wrote to T.F. Osborn, Master Car Repairer at Los Angeles yesterday and told we wanted to have this leaky pipe fixed when the care returned to Los Angeles Monday morning from Whitewater.

Fish Car Trip No. 7 Mt. Whitney Hatchery, Lv. Oct 22, Delivery Oct. 23 & 24, 1926

Ventura F. & G. Ass'n., Piru – 5 RB, 5 SH
Ventura F. & G. Assn., Santa Paula – 10 RB, 25 SH
Howard A. Osborn, Banning – 18 RB, 5 SH
Bert Bernhard, Whitewater – 20 RB, 20 SH

October 23, 1926 – Mt. Shasta Hatchery Records

DIARY ENTRY – Delivered 5 cans of rainbow and 5 cans of steelhead to Ventura County Fish & Game Protective Association at Piru. 10 cans rainbow and 25 cans steelhead at Santa Paula. Car arrived at Ventura at 10:12 a.m., left Ventura at 3:19 p.m. Arrived in Los Angeles at 5:35 p.m. train 32. Left Los Angeles at 11:00 p.m. for Whitewater.

October 25, 1926 – Los Angeles Times

SOUTHLAND STREAMS TO GET TROUT – More news which should be of value to Southern California hunters and fishermen is contained in the weekly report of Jack Hines, secretary of the Citizens Fish and Game Conservation Committee with offices at 417 Sun Finance Building.

"This fall has seen the planting of more trout in Southern California streams than ever before," states Hines, "and thanks should go to the men working in the Fish and Game Commission. The men in the Conservation Committee as well as the commission are striving to help everyone interested in conservation work to give back to Southern California its former glory as the sportsman's paradise.

Last week at Brownstone Station in Ventura county, 16,000 rainbow and 40,000 steelhead trout were delivered and planted in the streams of that district. The Matilija was planted with 16,000 rainbow, 40,000 steelhead and 21,000 Loch Leven trout. At Ojai, 10,000 each of rainbow and steelhead were planted, while at Santa Barbara, 10, 0900 each of rainbow and steelhead and 16,000 Loch Leven were planted.

December 17, 1926 – Los Angeles Times

STEELHEAD TROUT REPORTED BITING – Steelhead trout were biting well at the mouth of the Santa Ynez River below Lompoc yesterday, according to a report reaching the outing bureau of the Automobile Club of Southern California.

Fishermen are also finding that steelhead, considered to be the gamest of fresh-water fish, are not to be found at the mouth of the Ventura River because of shallow water and an oil surface. The season for steelhead opened the 15th inst. in District No. 3, which includes Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

1 9 2 7

Rainfall – 23.32 Inches

January 25, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

EMERICK SAYS OIL POLLUTION IS CLEARING UP – That there has been some improvement in the condition regarding oil pollution of streams of the county, including the Ventura and Santa Clara rivers, Piru creek and Hopper canyon, but still are not what they should be, according to a statement in the quarterly report of Walter Emerick, fish and game warden of Ventura county, just made to the county board of supervisors.

Oil pollution, according to Warden Emerick, affects particularly the fish in the streams, tending to kill them off. Such conditions, he says, have existed for a long time in various streams in the county to a certain extent, but recent action taken by the state in ordering other disposal of the leakage from oil wells has tended to clear the waters somewhat.

Emerick reported that during the month of October the state fish and game commission, with the assistance of the Ventura County Fish and Game Protective Association, sportsmen, and resort owners of the county, shipped in and planted successfully approximately 250,000 trout fry in the upper Ventura river, Sespe creek, Pole creek, Agua Blanca, Santa Paula and Rincon creeks.

He also reports that fish and game conditions in the county are considerably better than they were at the same time last year, quail, doves and band-tail pigeons being particularly plentiful.

Emerick and his deputies during the quarter made 14 arrests for violation of the fish and game laws, convictions being secured in each case.

During the quarter there were four forest fires in the county, which burned over a total of 1500 acres, two of which were caused by cigarettes, one by spontaneous combustion and the other by brush-burning on private lands without a permit.

The United States Forest Service, according to Emerick's report, is to start work soon on the construction of a fire break between the Sespe and Santa Paula canyons. When this is completed, he says, it will be quite a factor in the protection of the Santa Paula and lower Sespe watersheds.

Decision to construct the fire break was reached following an inspection of the territory made in December by Emerick, J.N. Procter, Ranger Branson and Forest Supervisor William Mendenhall.

February 28, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

POEM – "Defeat"

I have seen every beauty these eight days,
The crag, the mountain meadow and the peak.
The wide-horned buck, majestically and sleek,
High cloud in the candescent West ablaze,
Hill torrents hurling down vertiginous ways
In a glory human words may never speak,
And a valley paven with a long green streak
Of river cliffed and walled with chrysoprase.
I have looked on every beauty, and harked
To every wild and woodland melody.
I have trod jasper and chalcedony.
And yet I stand alone, and damm my eyes,
For my shins are scraped and every knuckle barked,
All for that cursed trout that will not rise.
By Leonard Bacon

March 9, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RAISE HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES TO $2—COMPROMISE – Sacramento, Cal., Mar. 9.—Hunting and Fishing licenses each would be raised to $2 per year under an agreement reached by the senate fish and game committee today which recommended for passage as amended the bill of Senator Baker, of Salinas. The original bill provided for $3 fee for each license or a combined hunting and sporting fishing license of $5.

Senator Slater of Santa Rosa protected against such a large increase over the present $1 license and the compromise was reached and agreed to by representatives of the state fish and game commission. The purpose of the increase is to increase the number of fish and game deputies throughout the state and to provide for more adequate propagation and replenishment of the game fish supply, principally trout.

The proposed increase to $2 per license would provide a fund of approximately $960,000 per year for the fish and game commission, an increase over the present annual income of about $420,000.

March 29, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Walter Claberg, Sam Primmer and families, were in Sespe and Piru Canyons Sunday looking over fishing conditions. They report, more water, and the best fishing prospects in about six years.

April 13, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Charles Baudre, captain of game wardens in the Los Angeles district, is here today regarding the allocation of the consignment of brook trout to this county.

April 15, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING CONFINED TO SESPE COUNTY – "Outdoor" Franklin, who is a scout for Los Angeles sporting goods houses, was in the Sespe this week. He had just returned from a trip which took him to Mono and Silver lakes, which he reports are still frozen over and says there will be no fishing there before the last of May and maybe not until June 15. Neither will there be any in the San Gabriel river as the road is out and it is not being rebuilt. He reports the Sespe river as the only place where there will be much fishing.

April 18, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MOTOR TO SESPE CANYON – Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stewart and family, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Primmer and family, and Walter Claberg motored to Sespe Canyon yesterday. A bountiful picnic luncheon was a pleasant feature of the day. They report that fishing conditions are splendid in the Sespe.

LOCALS – Sam Primmer motored to the Sespe yesterday, where he inspected fishing conditions. He reports plenty of trout and water. The road is out above Henley's old camp, but the trail is in good condition.

April 21, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens Sunday. Look over your fishing tackle, so you will know what you need when the trout season opens SUNDAY, MAY 1. We will have the best trout fishing in several years—so get ready for it. Rods, lines, reels, spinners, flies, leaders, reels, salmon eggs, hooks. We'll sell you a license and give you a fire permit. Help prevent fires. The Primmer Co.

April 27, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FROM THE EDITORIAL SECTION – A lot of men have those languid feelings of spring fever that make them unable to do any work, but they could probably tramp 15 miles along a trout brook.

GAME WARDEN ISSUES EDICT ON TROUT SEASON – State and County Game Warden Walter Emerick, today issued the following statement in connection with the opening of the trout season:

"The trout season opens one hour before sun up on Sunday morning, May 1st. Indications are that trout fishing will be fair, not as many fish as desired by many anglers, but a large percentage of them will be of good size.

"More water this year will add more zest to the sport. The legal limit per day is 25 trout or ten pounds and one fish. It is unlawful to take trout, or any other game fish, within one

hour after sunset and one hour before sunset of the following day. This means that night fishing is strictly prohibited. It is unlawful to fish within 100 feet of any dam or fish way.

"The penalty for violation of trout law ranges from a minimum fine of $25 to a maximum fine of $500 or imprisonment for not less than ten days nor more than 150 days in the county jail, or both such fine and imprisonment.

"Most of the water in the Sespe Creek are in the Sespe Game Refuge and it is unlawful either to use or to have in possession any fire arms, either shoulder or side, viz: shotguns, rifles or revolvers; within the refuge except under written permit issued by the State Fish and Game Commission or its duly authorized deputies. The head game warden of this county wished to advise any anglers who contemplate going into the Sespe to leave their firearms outside as he and his deputies intend to strictly enforce this regulation. Be sure that you have campfire permits and be careful with fire, also leave your camp in a clean, sanitary condition and do not throw refuse into the streams. Bathing is not allowed in the Sespe anywhere along the dam at Henley's Camp. Be a true sportsman and help conserve our fish and game; our forests and recreation grounds.

"Report any violation to the nearest officer or officers, and aid us by your individual backing."

<u>April 28, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

ISSUES DOPE ON FISHING FOR THIS VICINITY – With the fishing season scheduled to open May 1 in southern California, anglers are making inquiries as to the prospects for the season. In conformity with his usual custom, Ceph Salisbury, manager of the outing bureau of the Automobile Club of Southern California, has made as exhaustive survey which affords fishermen the opportunity of deciding the sort of fish they want, were to go, and the conditions to be encountered.

According to Salisbury, high water will mark the opening in nearly all streams in southern California May 1. All coast streams are high but clear. This condition will test the skill of the angler, as an abundance of natural feed is being carried down the streams.

The general belief of the old timers is fishing will not be too good, owing to the extremely low water the past years. Added to this is the ever increasing number of anglers, which has gone far to deplete the streams. It will take several years of bountiful rainfall and heavy stocking to bring the fishing back to where it was several years ago, says Salisbury.

Following is the latest information on fishing in this section as supplied by Salisbury:

Sespe: Water conditions good; upper reaches of this stream should be very good. Necessary to hike or go by horseback 11 to 20 miles. The lower Sespe should be fair, but would advise fishermen to go up stream as far as time will permit before starting to fish.

Piru Creek: Headwaters should be good. Necessary to hike from three to eight miles to get the best results.

Matilija Creek: Should be good at headwaters. This stream has been well stocked and by hiking up near Flat Rock, eight miles, good fishing should be found.

Santa Ynez River: In good shape but not much fishing below Gibraltar dam. Some large steelhead have been seen between Lompoc and the ocean. Gibraltar dam and the Santa Ynez river above the dam should be good. Only possible to drive to the ranger's cabin. Several miles hiking is necessary to reach dam.

Sisquoc River and Manzana Creek: Should be good. The water is clear and just about right for good fishing. It is necessary to pack about 14 miles to reach these streams.

Salisbury gives the following as the best means of reaching the trout streams in this part of the state:

Reached from Ventura county: Lower Sespe, via Fillmore; Matilija creek; Ventura river, Wheeler's and upper Sespe.

Reached from Los Olivos: Santa Ynez river; Sisquoc river; Manzana creek.

Reached from San Luis Obispo: Avila creek, San Simeon and the streams along coast, north; Cayucos creek.

Reached from Lompoc: Lowe Santa Ynez river.

ADVERTISEMENT – Going Fishing? Hiking Boots and Oxfords are just the thing to have along when out in the open spaces. Kaplan's Bootery has in stock the Nap-A-Tan Moccasin Toe and Plan Toe Styles, for Men and Women, at exceptionally good values. Walk and Be Healthy. Kaplan's Bootery, Main at Mill.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Prizes. We are giving a fly book, flies, spinner, leader and line for the LONGEST TROUT caught during the month of May by any Student in the Santa Paula Grammar School. Trout may be caught in Ventura County and brought to our store to be measured. The Primmer Co.

<u>April 30, 1927 – Oxnard Courier</u>

TREK TO RUNS BEGINS; FISHERMEN ALL READY FOR SEASON OPENING – Hundreds of local rod and reel enthusiasts will be off in a cloud of spray tomorrow morning at dawn when the greatest of all trout seasons in California opens.

Wheelers, Lathrops, Sespe, Matilija and Sulphur Mountains will all be crowded by the nimrods and trout are plentiful throughout according to reports.

Sespe: Water conditions good; upper reaches of this stream should be very good. Necessary to hike or go by horseback 11 to 20 miles. The lower Sespe should be fair, but would advise fishermen to go up stream as far as time will permit before starting to fish.

Headwaters should be good. Necessary to hike from three to eight miles to get best results. Piru Creek.

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Sisquoc River and Manzana Creek: Should be good. The water is clear and just about right for good fishing. It is necessary to pack about 14 miles to reach these streams.

April 30, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Fred Randell will fish this week at Zaca Lake.

Leslie Anlauf will fish this week at Bear Lake.

H.C. Wesley left for the Upper Sespe on a fishing trip.

Udwick Armstrong and Billie Grainger left early this morning for a fishing trip to the Upper Sespe.

F.F. Harvey and a party of Boy Scouts left today for a fishing trip on the Santa Paula Creek.

W.J. Beerkle and Fred Leavens are local fishermen who will spend the week-end at the Upper Sespe.

May 2, 1927 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD AND VICINITY – Elton Fulton returned to Los Angeles yesterday night after spending the weekend fishing in Ventura county.

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Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Brody and son motored to Frazier Mountain camp yesterday. Brody caught the limit, and reports the fishing as good.

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Mrs. F.J. Hokin and children, Bethia and Fred, Jr., enjoyed a trip to Matilija and Lyons Springs yesterday. Mr. and Mrs. Ned Hopkins and children were among those at the latter resort, which the owner, Josiah Briggs is getting in shape for the season and many

of the cottages were taken for the weekend. Fishing was in progress at Lyons and for about ten miles up stream, and some steelhead trout were caught.

May 2, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHERMEN THRONG TROUT STREAMS ON OPENING DAY – Fishermen were hot on the trail of the finny tribe literally in armies of thousands yesterday at the open. Hardly had the sun ripen to color the sky with a faint orange before the "swish, swish" of lines whipping the shadowy pools could be heard above the ripple or the water and the "plunk" of awkward parties walking the shore.

However, the streams as a whole were reported, according to Sam Primmer, to be well stocked with fat and large fish running in weight from one-half to three-quarters of a pound.

The Sespe was estimated by several to have had approximately 1,500 fishermen along her banks, while the Ventura river, Lathrop's camp, Henley's camp and Santa Paula creek were said to have had as many.

Several limits were said to have been caught, of which Milton Teague and party were one, in the Upper Sespe, and many fishers are known to have landed ten or 15 in Santa Paula creek. Rainbow and steelheads reigned favorites yesterday, though bass were caught in spots.

Returning from beautiful Zaca lake, 60 miles of Santa Barbara, in the Santa Ynez mountains, a local party reported fine black bass. Those in the party were James White, of Long Beach; Tom Walsh of Fillmore; Dr. C.G. Gould, Fred Randall, Reuben Atmore, Franklyn Schulze, Frank G. Schulze, all of this city.

May 3, 1927 – Oxnard Courier

BUT ONE NIMROD ARRESTED FOR EARLY FISHING – Only one fisherman was arrested of the three thousand nimrods and would be nimrods who descended on the streams of Ventura county in mass formation over the weekend for the opening of trout season.

Stuart W. Clark, special deputy sheriff was arrested by Walter Emerick, fish and game warden and his deputies on the lower Sespe Saturday afternoon for fishing out of season.

He caught one speckled beauty at a place where every fisherman going to the higher reaches of the Sespe could envy him and Warden Emerick stopped him at once for the bad example he was setting for the others. Thirty-one anglers are said to have watched Clark catch his one specimen.

In spite of the hosts that line the banks of the lower Sespe diligently for the entire day, few fish were caught. Emerick reported the streams full of trout and full grown beauties to boot, but the large number of fishermen made big catches impossible.

As soon as a lonely fisherman made a catch, other watchful nimrods were on the spot at once and fishing became impossible.

Only two hundred anglers braved the long and toilsome tramp up to the higher reaches of the rugged Sespe and when the fishermen came out at the end of the day, Warden Emerick, who checked up on the game bags, found that nine had caught the limit of 25 fish in that section. Most of the fish caught were 10 and 12 inch beauties.

May 5, 1927 – Piru News

MAY FIRST BROUGHT TRAFFIC – The congestion in traffic from Los Angeles out was something the like of which was the worst known. The opening of the fishing season, together with the rodeo at Baker Ranch, the good roads and good weather tempted a large number to attempt a picnic dinner out in the open.

Traffic toward Piru and Fillmore was turned back from San Fernando through Santa Susana and Grimes Canyon. Autos were stalled three abreast on the Newhall grade. Scores of motorists with loads of outing materials turned back at the Newhall grade.

TROUT, YES. HUGH WARRING YES – The first day of the fishing season opened as usual and three of our local nimrods were among those present. Hugh Warring, Walter Warring and K.B. Holly had the most promising "hole" in the creek surrounded. The lone trout had no alternative. It had to give up in order to make the day a success for those who had made such an effort of carry out the ancient custom of catching a fish on the opening day of the fish season. The trout, like all young chaps, felt that he could get away with any kind of a stunt, so he tried to chew the fly off the line without disturbing the hook or the angler on the end of the rod. For a while he examined each fly and then sized up the man in charge of the pole. He finally chose Hugh's phony bait because he thought this guy looked the most like a real honest-to-goodness expert with a line, which would enhance the reputation of the trout as a game fish. When the trout did strike it do so with such force that it jerked the angler off the tree on which he sat. With his usual presence of mind, Mr. Warring grabbed a large limb of the tree in an effort to help him withstand the terrific plunge of the enraged fish. The strain on the tree was too great and Mr. Warring, tree and all were taken down the stream. With the aid of his cool-headed companions, his life was saved, but only after a valiant struggle. That Mr. Warring is an experienced and enthusiastic fisherman is evidenced by the fact that all through the harrowing experience he held to his fish and between the three men the monster was safely landed, which measured by official gauges exactly four and seven-eights inches—these figures are vouched for by his companions. The pool in which an unkind fate cause our fellow townsman to hazard his life was measured later and with a deep-sea sounding outfit by experts, found to be nearly three feet in depth.

It is reported that another monster nearly as large was captured on the same day in Ventura county. Fresh water fishing is a great sport—but extremely hazardous. There were more than four hundred and fifty machines, filled with fishermen, parked on the upper Sespe on the opening day of the fishing season.

May 6, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BARDSDALE NEWS – Willie Rudkin was the most successful fisherman in this locality on the opening day of the fishing season bringing home a trout measuring 28 inches long and weighing 5 ½ pounds.

May 12, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT FRY TO BE PLANTED IN ALL DISTRICTS – Plans are practically complete for the start of the 1927 planting of trout fry in all of the districts of California under the new program adopted for this year's work by the Fish and Game Commission, B.D. Marx Greene, executive officer of the commission announced today.

Patrol Captain Oliver P. Brownlow, in charge of fish planting program, has almost completed a survey of the condition throughout the state and is ready to supervise the distribution of young trout as soon as conditions at the hatchery are right. This will probably get under way sometime in June, according to the reports reaching the executive offices.

In practically all districts the new chief of fish planting work has found that the sportsmen and the various organizations that have been planting fish in years past are enthusiastic regarding the new plan that provides for the supervision of the plant by patrol captains and their deputies.

Brownlow has covered the state from Humboldt to San Bernardino and has found that deputies have made comprehensive reports on the need for fish in various sections this year.
Thorough cooperation is being given by the deputies and patrol captains to the department plan, Brownlow declares.

Under the new plan the application for fish are made by the captains of patrol and the fry is consigned to the captain or the deputy in sections where there is no captain.

The authorized officers of the Fish and Game Commission take active charge of the planting and will be responsible for the placing of fish in the proper places.

According to the information that Brownlow has gathered in his survey of conditions, much barren water will be planted this year, in addition to the stocking of trout streams and waters that have already been established as good fishing grounds.

The captains, deputies and the sportsmen are enthusiastic supporters of the new plan and predict a highly successful season of planting, Brownlow reports.

May 13, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

L.A. DEPUTY LIABLE TO GET LIMIT FOR "FISHING" – The case of Mr. Clark, a Los Angeles county deputy sheriff, is scheduled to come up before Judge Barnes in the justice court tomorrow afternoon. He was apprehended by Game Warden Emerick and Stanley Lothridge, secretary of the Ventura County Fish and Game association, fishing in the Sespe at a point above Henley's Camp on the Saturday afternoon before the official fishing morning, May 1st. He is said to have had one 12-inch trout in his possession at the time.

May 19, 1927 – The Piru News

LOCALS – The O.D. Reed family motored to the beautiful spot—Agua Blanca Camp—up Piru Canyon Sunday for an outing. This place is about eleven miles from Piru and is run by C.N. Kester, who reports splendid hunting and fishing there in season. This spot is declared to be a full one for an outing. It is situated about three miles the other side of the Continental wall—good road all the way.

May 26, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BARDSDALE NEWS – Carl Elkins, C.C. Elkins, Sr., and Caswell Elkins left Wednesday for the Agua Blanca, where they will enjoy fishing for several days.

September 8, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SNAKES KILLED TO SAVE TROUT – Santa Barbara, Sept. 8—Attempts to kill off myriad of water snakes that throng the waters of creeks in this county will be made, it was announced today, before two hundred and fifty thousand trout are planted in the streams here following the first rains.

County Fish and Game Protective Association officers say that these snakes kill fully 50 per cent of the trout.

September 19, 1927 – Oxnard Courier

BARBECUE AT HENLEY'S – Mr. and Mrs. P.L. Magner and son Leo, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Colson, and Thos. Caillo of Saticoy were guests of George von Glann at a weekend barbecue at Henley's camp on the Sespe. Mr. Magner got the limit of trout.

October 15, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PLAN TO PLANT 60,000 TROUT FRY HERE SUNDAY – Twenty one cans of steelhead and rainbow trout fry, about 60,000 in all, will be planted in Santa Paula creek

tomorrow by the Ventura County Fish and Game Protective Association. The trout fry were shipped here by the California Fish and Game Commission.

October 17, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MANY THOUSAND TROUT PLANTED IN COUNTY STREAMS – Members of Ventura County Fish and Game Protective Association were busy repopulating streams here with many thousand trout fry yesterday Santa Paula Creek and Sespe Creek each receiving approximately 60,000.

Walter Emerick, with a group of workers for the association planted 60,000 trout fry from five gallon milk cans that had been shipped from Mt. Whitney in special cars, up and down the Sespe Creek, from two miles above Henley's Camp on down the stream.

In Santa Paula Creek a group composed of L.S. Lothridge, Don Hitchcock, A.H. Call, J. Forgey, Sam Matthews, J. Large, Arch Aten, William Botts, Sam Primmer, and W.W. White, planted 27 cans, containing 2,000 trout each, 21 cans of Rainbow and 6 cans of Loch Leven trout.

October 20, 1927 – The Piru News

MANY TROUT PLANTED – The Fish and Game Commission through their assistants planted 14 cans of Steelhead and Rainbow trout in the headwaters of the creeks running through the mountains of the district. To gain an idea of quantity of fish planted one only has to know that each can contains in the neighborhood of 2500—what a mess!

IN APPRECIATION – Those in charge of planting the trout for the Fish and Game Commission in this community Sunday, wish to express their appreciation to those who so kindly and willing assisted them with their work.

October 22, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GOVERNOR YOUNG FAVORS PLANTING FRY IN STREAMS – Sacramento, Oct. 22—Governor Young today announced he is heartily in sympathy with the movement of the California state Real Estate association that steps be taken by the state to re-stock the streams and lakes of California with fish. The views of the association adopted at its recent convention and forwarded to the Governor.

"If the lakes and streams," read the resolution, "were properly stocked with fish, many tourists and those enjoying the out-of-doors will be attracted to the State of California, which will inure to the benefit and pleasure of the citizens of California and visitors thereto.

In a letter to the association from Gov. Young, he said:

"I was particularly pleased to note the resolution having to do with the more successful attempt on the part of the state to stock our lakes and streams with fish. This is a subject upon which I am trying to get all the light possible. I have felt for a long time that the prevailing practice of putting young fish into the streams before they are large enough to protect themselves results in the loss of a very great per cent of all that are planted. If this is true, California can make no better investment than rearing ponds at all fish hatcheries where the trout may be brought to a size which will enable practically all of them to live when put into the streams. However, this is largely a question for the scientist and experimenter and we are studying the problem diligently in hopes that the proper answer may be found. It is needless to say that I approve thoroughly of the spirit of this resolution."

October 27, 1927 – Oxnard Courier

RAILROAD MEN TO ENJOY BACK COUNTRY FISHING – Frank Scott and Casey Reese, both of Los Angeles and prominent officials of their railroads passed through Oxnard yesterday.

They were on their way to Lathrop's camp, where it is expected to cast for the elusive trout, they said when they stopped at the office of the California Lima Bean Growers association en route yesterday. Mr. Scott is assistant freight traffic manager of the Southern Pacific railroad and Mr. Reese is freight manager for the Cotton Bell.

The trout season ends on October 31.

October 30, 1927 – Los Angeles Times

STEELHEAD SEASON OPEN NEXT TUESDAY – Although next Tuesday will have witnessed the close of the present trout season, atonement will be made in a measure with opening of the season on steelhead trout in district No. 3 and 3. These districts include Ventura county, and it is expected that many anglers will be out to try their luck in the tidewaters of the Ventura and Santa Ynez rivers. A limit of three fish a day has been placed on the steelhead, regardless of size.

1 9 2 8

Rainfall – 11.15 Inches

January 7, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene, Former Executive Officer, California Fish and Game Commission. (Mr. Greene will answer questions on any Fish and Game topic. Address him Care of Sports Editor, this paper, enclosing self-stamped envelope. The reply will be either direct or in this column.)

As shown in its previous article, the drought, therefore, on our fish and game has increased beyond all conception. The balance of nature has been so upset that man-made aids, such as game farming and fish planting, cannot keep pace with this demand. Nature also has been against us. Drought conditions and floods have taken their toll. Flooded areas where formerly birds might breed and rest have now been drained; conversely, dry areas have been flooded. Power and irrigation projects dry our streams and place artificial barriers to stop the natural run of fish to the spawning grounds. The complexities of modern civilization have combined to multiply our difficulties.

It will be the scope of these articles to attempt to show the most advanced methods now being inaugurated throughout the country to restore our fish and game. I shall treat of the control measures necessary. For example, partial and totally closed seasons; bag limits; size limits; sex protection methods of capture; the game refuges; fish refuges; predatory animal controls; prohibition of sale, game farming; importation of new species; building up native stock; fish rescue work; and last, but not least, education and cooperation.

The fortunate thing about all conservation laws concerning fish and game is that they are founded upon legal principal that the fish and game belong to the people of each state in their sovereign capacity. Each legislature can, therefore, make such laws as are necessary to perpetuate its own wild life. No citizen, ever individually, acquires title to fish or game except upon the terms laid down by that state. A man may not hunt, even upon his own land, without permission from the state. If possession of a certain animal is forbidden in a state, it may not be imported from another state where its taking is legal. Building up from the principal we all, as citizens and joint owners of all fish and game, are vitally interested in its propagation and protection. This, I think, explains the newly awakened interests in conservation. He who illegally takes fish and game injures his fellow citizens and all posterity.

Fish and game laws are unlike those other so-called “blue laws” fostered by fanatics, which forbid the individual to do anything which injures neither himself or others. Each citizen is now constitution himself a special warden of the state’s property to preserve it for himself and posterity. It is a new era with rich promise for the future. Witness the volunteer wardens, throughout the country aiding the regular patrol, working long hours without pay, traveling miles with no expenses allowed, and sacrificing vacations for the cause of conservation.

America can well feel proud of her sons rallying to the flag of conservation.

Queries and Answers

Q. Are there any so-called barren lakes in California where there is no fish life?

A. Yes. It is estimated that there are about 2,000 of them, but the Fish and Game Commission is making every effort to stock them. It is necessary, however, to make a biological survey first to determine whether there is sufficient food in each lake to maintain fish life. If there is not, such food must be planted before trout or other fish can be introduced. It is not as simple a problem as it looks, and it takes time and money to make the survey and effect the stocking of barren lakes.

Q. What is the law in regard to spearing trout?

A. The last session of the legislature definitely prohibited all spearing of trout in California. It not only did this but to insure obedience to the law, it prohibited the possession of a fish spear within 300 feet of any stream at a time when spearing is prohibited. As salmon spearing is still legal in a few districts at certain times, the possession of a spear is not prohibited on streams where and when it is lawful to spear salmon. There is an additional safeguard, however, that no spear can be possessed on any stream from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunup the next day, because it is illegal to take any game fish by any method during those hours.

<u>January 21, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene. (Preceding paragraphs are about nominating a state bird, but there was one reader question about trout.)

Q. Are trout cannibalistic?

A. Yes. All trout are cannibals but some species are more so than others. This characteristic varies somewhat in the several species in different sections.

Under California conditions, probably the most predatory of trout is the mackinaw; this trout is found only in Tahoe and Donner lakes. The Loch Leven and German Brown trout are more cannibalistic than the rainbow or steelhead. However, I have seen small rainbow trout over two inches in length in a hatchery trough attack their smaller brothers and sisters, nipping fins and tail. I recently saw one 2 ½ in trout in a trough swim off with a 1 ¼ trout in its mouth. Trout certainly eat trout eggs and that is one of the hazards of natural propagation in streams.

<u>January 28, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>
CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene. …The purpose of our trout laws are to conserve the supply and to make the pursuit a sport in which the angler may match

his wits and skill against those of the fish. The lure is supposed to represent either its natural food or an attraction to incite the fish to attract or repel an enemy. Such attraction cannot be too deadly, otherwise the ends of conservation will be defeated. The hardware will be defeated. The hardware now prohibited is of this deadly character.

Spearing trout was also banned by our legislature; and to make the law iron clad it is provided that no fish spear may be possessed within 300 feet of any stream where spearing is prohibited.

The legislature, likewise, has frowned upon the use by a fisherman of more than one rod at a time. No longer will you see the complacent angler lolling in his boat, rolling leisurely over the lake with half a dozen baited rods extending over the sides. A simple sentence in the law now prohibits any person from angling for trout except with rod and line held in the hand and used in the manner commonly known as angling.

Thus three major innovations have been made: barbarous tackle is eliminated; angling is defined; and spearing is prohibited.

Q. Is it true that the state fish hatchery at Mt. Shasta is the largest in the world? How big is it and how many fish does it produce each year?

A. Yes, it is the largest in the world. It has 56 ponds for the ageing of fish and for the holding of brood trout from which to take eggs. It has five hatchery buildings equipped to handle over 20,000,000 trout and salmon annually. It has a refrigerating plant with ice storage capacity of 50 tons, its own hydroelectric plant, a plant for sterilizing fish distribution cans and every modern facility. It was recently thoroughly overhauled and modernized at an expense of almost $75,000.

Q. I understand here is a 6-inch size limit on trout in California. Why is this?

A. There is still a limit of 7-inches on golden trout in California. No person may legally take one below that size.

On other trout, however, there is no minimum size limit. The reason is this: It has been found from experience that very few anglers know how to return a fish properly to the water after they have caught it. They usually take a fish off the hook with dry hands, thus injuring the scales. Shortly thereafter a fungus commences to grow over the injured part and the fish dies. The only way to remove a fish from the hook is to do it either under the water or with thoroughly moistened hands. Furthermore, so many fish are hooked so hard that in removing the hook the fish is seriously injured.

It was, therefore, felt wiser from a conservation standpoint to insist that the fisherman retain all of the fish he catches, irrespective of the site, and be limited to the 25 fish per day allowed by the law.

February 11, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene – Did you ever hear of a fish refuge except those few maintained for the sole purpose of prohibiting all fishing? Well! It is something new in this state and we all hope that it destined to be a big factor in the program initiated by the California Fish and Game Commission to restore our fishing to its former glory. Oregon is a conspicuous example of this new thought in conservation. Last summer I fished East and Diamond lakes in that state and there is said to be no better lake fishing in the country. Yet their daily limit is larger than ours; there are literally thousands of anglers on both lakes all summer long and the fish commission takes annually, for hatchery purposes, an enormous supply of trout eggs.

How has this been accomplished? The answer is simple: A fish preserve was created on a portion of each of these lakes under the so-called "Plenary Powers" granted to its fish commission by the Oregon legislature. By this is meant the summary right in open or close streams or lakes to angling, to change bag limits and to lengthen or curtail seasons. Under such plenary powers, the Oregon commission sets aside a part of chosen lakes as a sanctuary in which no fishing is allowed. These closed portions are indicated by placing conspicuous markers on the borders of the lake and buoys along the line between the markers. It seems incredible that the fish soon seem to sense immunity from danger while in the refuge waters and thus a safe portion of the lake's supply remains untouched each season.

The California commission was granted such a plenary power in a limited way at the last session of our legislature and intends to install this refuge system on many of our large lakes. One instance showing the necessity of such action will be interesting. June Lake in Inyo county yields a splendid supply of steelhead eggs but two years ago the egg-taking crew was literally driven off the lake on the opening day by the crowd of anglers and was forced to abandon operations. Last year a large force of commission deputies persuaded the anglers to keep off one end of the lake until the egg-take was completed.

Persuasion had to be used for they had no authority of law to keep anglers off these waters. The egg-taking was hampered, however. Also, as the lake is grossly overfished, the supply will soon speedily diminish unless part of it is protected as a preserve.

Other advantages of plenary powers are that it is permits the closing to angling, of many tributary streams and thus allow the small fry to mature safe from the angler and later descend to repopulated main streams. Such powers will also allow the adequate stocking of main streams by closing them to angling for a period of years until the fish get a real start. Impossible under present conditions where they are fished out annually. The commission can set aside certain lakes entirely for breeding purposes. It can alternate fishing in streams so as to prevent over-fishing and last, but not least, the commission can act promptly in case of emergency, such as drought, and not wait for two years until the next session of the legislature.

Q. May I catch trout during the open season, put them in a pond on my own property and keep them for the balance of the year?

A. No, except by special permit. The law prohibits the possession of trout alive or dead during the closed season. You must also be careful about keeping live trout during the open season. If, for example, you were to place 15 live trout in your pond and then go and catch 20 more trout and bring them home dead in your creel, you would have in our possession more than the legal limit of 25 trout. In other words you are limited during any one calendar day to not more than 25 trout, dead or alive.

March 1, 1928 – Santa Paula Review

NEW SPRING RESORT IS TO BE DEVELOPED – Lyons Springs in Matilija was sold recently by its former owners to the firm of Anloff and Houlette, a Los Angeles firm, it was announced recently, when workmen started improvement proceedings on the ground.

Although the sale price was not given, it was reported that $250,000 worth of improvements would be made in the erection of a resort hotel, cottages, plunge, camp grounds, fish hatchery and other things before the resort, which is to be called San Buenaventura Hot Springs, will be thrown open to the public.

There are 240 acres in all, which will comprise the resort which many believe will be the finest in the county.

March 29, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SPORTSMEN AGREE ON TWO-YEAR PROGRAM TO SAVE WILD LIFE – San Francisco, March 29. Seventy-five thousand sportsmen of the state, representing the combine membership of one hundred and twelve organizations affiliated with the Associated Sportsmen of California are now engaged in laying the ground work for a state wide educational movement in the interest of conserving and rebuilding California's wild life and outdoor recreational attractions. The first of a series of meetings in the interest of the program that will be promulgated through the schools, service clubs, sportsmen's organizations and other groups, was held in San Francisco this week.

Much constructive work has been accomplished during the past two years, such as the establishment of a large farm for the breeding of upland game birds; great strides forward in pollution elimination; re-organization of the warden patrol system, including hundreds of volunteer deputies; awakening the state and nation as well, to the necessity for Western water-fowl sanctuaries and also a complete reconstruction and modernization of the heretofore ineffective trout planting system, declare those interested. Commenting on this subject President, Paul Paige, of the Associated Sportsmen said:

"We people of California must not be satisfied with past achievements, neither must we close our eyes to the seriousness of impending conditions. What has thus far been accomplished is merely a start but nevertheless sufficient to prove conclusively what

coordinated effort can do. During the period that has elapsed since the close of the World War, California's population has almost doubled; tens of thousands of new citizens are either on their way, or preparing to start for this country. Our fish and game are as money in the bank—a magnificent surplus or reserve capital, if you please. As judicious and shrewd business men we should draw only on the interest for our daily needs and keep the principal intact. If our principal is insufficient to yield an annual interest sufficient for our needs, we must take steps to re-invest the interest until, added to the principal, it has accumulated to a nest-egg of proper proportions from which we can draw the surplus.

"As reforestations of the timber sections is necessary, so is the conservation and rebuilding of our wild game and fish.

"The Associated Sportsmen of California is in no sense a "booster" organization but its work of building the hunting, fishing and outdoor attractions naturally builds California."

Interested in the success of this movement are many important men, including, among others, Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, director of California Academy of Science; Eugene D. Bennett, executive officer of the Division of Fish and Game; Paul G. Redington, chief of the United States Bureau of Biological Survey; Stewart Edward White, Dr. David Starr Jordan and Zen Gray, novelist.

April 6, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

COUNTY FISHERMEN GET PROMISE OF FINE YEAR AHEAD – Trout fishermen of Ventura county will be interested to know that fishing in the Ventura county streams has the brightest prospects that has been shown for a number of years, due, it is said, to the heavy planting of fry by the fish and game commission. The latest reports from every good fishing place in the county is that the streams are alive with trout.

Matilija and Wheelers have the best sizes and greatest number of fish in their streams that have been there for years.

The many small fish that were planted by the fish and game commission last year have grown to a reasonable size. Prospects of many limits being taken from the stream are good.

Many of the larger trout ranging from 10 to 14 inches have managed to get up the streams this year and will be the reward of some fisherman's patience. These larger fish were the steelhead trout that could make their way up the streams earlier in the year and have stopped in the larger pools.

Streams all over the county have the same reports, that the fishing will be the best this year that it has been in a number of years. A recent survey shows that the streams are full of large trout.

April 7, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene – With our California spring already here, the angler's heart begins to yearn for the stream; the fever possesses us; we overhaul tackle and make our outing plans.

This question is asked me most frequently: "What is the Fish and Game Commission doing to give us real fishing? May we ever expect conditions approximating those of old when a man had the reasonable expectation of a limit of trout without having to pack into the high mountains?"

To the question the answer is, "eventually yes"; and in explanation I am glad to tell you of the efforts of the commission during the past two years, while I was executive officer to inaugurate a new system, both in the rearing and the planting of trout. The subject is so lengthy, however, that it cannot be dealt with in one article and I shall have to ask your indulgence in making it a serial to appear in four consecutive weekly issues.

You must realize, of course, that the annual draft on our streams and lakes has increased recently beyond all conception, due to new highways opening up hitherto inaccessible regions and the enormous increase in the use of automobiles.

The state in the past has in good years planted as many as 30 million trout and the disappearance of nearby fishing shows that heroic measures are now necessary to augment the supply. The commission took the view that the quantity of fish should be adequate to keep the streams stocked and, therefore, made a searching investigation to determine whether new conditions required new methods.

Two defects in the existing system were soon apparent. In the first place, planting methods had not kept pace with the times and lack of funds in previous years had prevented the necessary reforms. Secondly, the fish in many instances were not aged sufficiently before planting and fell an easy prey to natural and artificial enemies. This, also, was due in large measure to lack of the necessary funds with which to build tanks or ponds for holding the fish to more mature age and for purchasing fish food for this extra rearing period.

The problem of changing planting methods was a serious one, as will be apparent when I show the system which had grown up through the years. The commission was certainly against a tough proposition, for this had been the procedure: The fish culture department of the commission had received up to May 1 of each year applications from sportsmen's clubs, forest service, boards of supervisors and interested individuals requesting allotments of trout for their particular districts, giving names and locations of waters to be planted, as well as the species and quantity of fish desired. These requisitions were then checked and the available supply of fish apportioned, in many instances without and guarantee of the actual ability of the applicants to plant fish properly and often, by compulsion, in disregard of the needs for stocking the particular district. In fact, the system had become such that any citizen of California felt that that he, individually, had

an inalienable right to receive without cost a certain quota of fish from the state to stock his pet streams.

The results of this system on trout streams you know, if you are an angler, and next week I shall tell you certain actual happenings of past years which finally made some change imperative.

April 10, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Walter Emerick, of Ventura, filed a complaint in the justice court Monday against Frank Dunshee, charging him with possession of 23 trout out of season.

April 14, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene – In the last article I spoke of the old methods of fish planting and promised in this one to relate some actual happenings of past years.

In order that there may be no misunderstanding, I want to state definitely that it has only been on account of the self sacrificing, arduous labor of devoted sportsmen that the Fish and Game Commission in the past has been able to do any fish planting at all. Criticisms which I may level at the system are not intended for those men who have helped so wonderfully in the past. Unfortunately, however, there were many others who did not know how to plant fish, or who ignored the carefully written instructions of the commission's fish planting department.

Those instructions definitely stated that the fish must be kept aerated while moving to their destination; that they must be iced and kept at a certain temperature; that when they reached their destination the temperature of the water in the cans must be equalized to that of the stream and then, that the fish must be scattered along the stream and eased gently into the shallow riffles.

In many communities one of the major topics of conversation through the winter months would be the choice of streams and lakes to be planted, species of fish necessary, and methods to be employed. A crew of men and trucks would be built up and appear in anticipation of the summer arrival of the fish car of the commission from the hatchery. Only too often, however, the best laid plans miscarried. The trained crews of sportsmen some times were not available either through sickness or pressing duties elsewhere. The expected trucks often would not materialize. An untrained crew would be hastily assembled and trouble began! It seemed to some a waste of time to aerate the fish in accordance with instructions. In fact, there is one authentic instance on record where the crew left the cans on the truck for a whole hour without aeration while they ate their lunch. Needless to say, all of the fish were dead when they were ready to resume their journey.

The exact planting places, of course, had been carefully selected months in advance. Yet fish planting is hard work and many crews never reached their proper destination but stopped at the first inviting stream where the fish were planted irrespective of water supply in later months, predatory enemies or other necessary conditions.

There is one instance of fish being dropped from cans over a 30 foot precipice. On one occasion 30 cans of fish were left for an applicant who never even came to get them.

It was a hit or miss system which worked excellently where the sportsmen knew their job and took the proper interest in it—but a sure miss under any other conditions.

These are only a few of the many instances which might be mentioned. Often in making applications for the fish, public waters which needed stocking were described in the application—but the fish were diverted to private streams or lakes, for there was no supervision after the fish left the commission's fish car.

Q. Is the German brown trout native in California?

A. No. The first trout of this variety were introduced into California in quantity in 1895 when 135,000 eggs were hatched at the Mt. Shasta hatchery. Previous to that time a few small plants had been made by the federal government. Now one of the largest crops of eggs is from this variety of fish.

April 16, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

THREE YOUTHS GET FINES FOR EARLY TROUT FISHING – Three 18 year old youths found Saturday that it didn't pay to fish or catch trout out of season when they were railed before Judge Malvern Dimmick's justice court and fine $50 each. The fines were suspended for six months on the provision that the young men report regularly to Clay Claberg, probation officer.

Deputy State Fish and Game Warden R.E. Bedwell said he caught the boys fishing in the deep pool back of the Southern Counties Gas plant near Ventura. The trout season opens here May 1.

April 19, 1928 – Santa Paula Review

GOOD FISHING IS FORECAST BY AUTO CLUB – Many good fishing waters in Southern California will lure motoring sportsmen with the opening of trout season May 1. Anglers will be wise, however, in playing their favorite fishing pools early after the opening, for streams generally have been unusually low and many are likely to be fished out within a few weeks, believes the outing bureau of the Automobile Club of Southern California.

Choice waters can nevertheless be found in every Southland county, according to Ceph B. Salisbury, auto club outing bureau chief, who has made a detailed pre-season investigation into the situation in all sections.

Among the other likely streams and lakes where a mess of trout may be taken are the following:

The Sespe River in Ventura county, especially near headwaters, is one of the best trout streams of district 3. Matilija Creek from the hot springs to Flat Rock is an unusually popular stream but is fished out quite early each season. Fair fishing can be expected early in the season in the headwaters of Sisar Creek, advised the Auto Club.

Santa Barbara county has the Santa Ynez River and Gibraltar Reservoir in the upper end, and the Sisquoc and Manzana Creeks, reached by trail from Zaca Lake, for good trout angling.

April 21, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene – Last week I related a few actual happenings in fish planting of past years.

In view of those and many similar unfortunate incidents it was felt that there were two things which must be overcome: First, there must be adequate knowledge at hand of the streams and lakes that needed planting and the species necessary. Second, there must be definite assurance that the fish would reach those waters in proper condition. It was also determined that it was unfair for certain bodies of generous sportsmen to contribute their time and money to do the fish planting for the benefit, during the fishing season, of the many other sportsmen whose only contribution was the payment of the license fee.

There was only one way to remedy the situation, and that was to change it completely and immediately. The first step was to abolish individual applications for fish. Instead, each captain of patrol of the Fish and Game Commission was told the number and species of fish planted in his district during the preceding year and was instructed to prepare a comprehensive planting plan for that district during the coning season.

He was instructed to get in touch with the sportsmen who had helped with the planting in the past and to obtain their advice and all data available. These applications from the patrol captains were forwarded to a supervising captain of patrol, who was given entire charge of fish planting. It was his duty to analyze applications, check them over carefully with the head of the Fish Culture Department and revise them to fit the actual supply of fish when finally determined in the late spring.

When fish planting time arrived the fish were consigned to the captains of patrol, whose duty it was to see that the fish actually reached the waters for which they were intended and, in practically every instance in 1927, the shipments were accompanied to their final planting place by a deputy or other trained employee of the Fish and Game Commission

Last year the commission still had to avail itself of the volunteer services of the sportsmen in the furnishing trucks and men for the planting, for the commission had not sufficient funds with which to defray all of those expenses. It is hoped in the future, however, that the commission will not only direct the planting, but that it will also be able to hire the trucks and men to do it and pay for the ice and other supplies used in transit.

To make the system still more effective, it is planned to make a complete biological survey of all lakes and streams in California to determine whether there is proper fish food and in sufficient quantities to sustain fish life, to investigate the species of fish best suited to the different waters and to make a comprehensive planting plan for the entire state.

It will take a number of years to accomplish this, but upon its conclusion there should be available to the Fish and Game Commission a complete file of data, which, supplemented annually by the field observations of the deputies, will give a true control of fish planting operations.

April 26, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHERMEN MAKE READY FOR FISH SEASON OPENING – One week from tomorrow fishermen will sally forth in search of the trout which this year abound in the county streams and the streams in general in southern California in greater numbers for years.

Several parties of local sportsmen are planning on leaving Sunday so as to arrive at their favorite streams by sun-up Tuesday morn. Others less fortunate are planning on making use of the streams close at hand. According to Sam Primmer, local sporting goods merchant, all reports that have been brought in to him from fishermen who have been making preliminary surveys of the county say that they streams are alive with fish.

April 27, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MAY 1, ELECTION, FISHING SEASON; BANKS TO CLOSE – May 1, will be a banner day for fishermen of Ventura county and the State, besides being election day, it is also open season for fishing. Santa Paula's banks, either made up of fishermen or voters will close their doors in honor of the occasion.

The first Santa Paula fisherman who brings back the largest trout of the first week of the open season is to be awarded a valuable fishing rod by Sam Primmer, local sporting goods dealer, and a dinner of trout.

April 28, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene – The last three articles have dealt with fish planting methods of the past and the new program inaugurated last year.

The other side of the picture deals with the aging of fish to a size of between four and five inches, which has been the popular demand all through the country. In many instances I, personally, believe that this demand is well founded. In the larger streams and in many lakes it is a sinful waste to plant one and a half inch fry to become the ready prey of predatory fish, birds and snakes. On the other hand, there is the expense of feeding the fish to a larger size and the difficulty of transportation. In the high mountain streams or in the headwaters of rivers, excellent results are obtained by planting of the very small fry, and the difficulty of transportation makes it prohibitive to plant the larger fish in such locations.

The Fish and Game Commission is committed to the policy of aging a certain portion of its supply each year and the projected biological survey should ultimately schedule the waters where these large fish are needed. Fortunately, the increased license fee now gives the commission funds with which they can rear to a larger size and transport such number of trout as will soon make an impression upon the supply for the angler.

The plans I made last year contemplated raising these fish in large holding tanks at the hatcheries. These tanks have certain definite advantages over the holding definite advantages over the holding ponds maintained by sportsmen during the last two years in that there can be a control of disease and no danger from predatory fish, birds and snakes. It was felt that the aging is as much a fishcultural operation as the preliminary operations of hatching, etc., and should be done by the state instead of by individual sportsmen's associations. Also, it simplifies planting operations because with the new hatcheries projected throughout the state at strategic positions, most of the waters be within trucking distance of a hatchery.

It was a comprehensive plan and should succeed. It would, naturally, need the co-operation of the sportsmen and they will, I know, give it whole heartedly. Some few people whose special privileges have been curtailed are naturally unhappy over the innovation, but they are a very small minority.

The new system, if carried to an inevitable success, will afford the angler a real means of satisfying his desire for good trout fishing without have to pack into the high mountains.

Q. Is the steelhead a salmon or a trout?

A. The steelhead is a trout. As a matter of fact, authorities are generally agreed that the steelhead is in reality a Rainbow which has access to the sea and has followed its natural inclination to run to salt water.

<u>April 28, 1927 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>
<u>April 30, 1927 – Oxnard Courier</u>
FISHERMEN TO LEAVE FOR STREAMS – Hundreds of Santa Paula and Ventura county fishermen are leaving tomorrow and Monday for their favorite fishing streams to await 4:10 a.m. May 1 when they can cast their flies out into the water for the trout.

(Editor's Note: The same article appeared in the *Oxnard Courier*, but the headline and lead sentence read: HUNDREDS LEAVE FOR HAUNTS TO START FISHING – Hundreds of Oxnard and Ventura county fishermen left Sunday and today for their favorite fishing streams to await 4:10 a.m., May 1, when they can cast their flies out into the water for the trout. The remainder of the article was identical to the one printed in the *Santa Paula Chronicle*.)

Most all of the streams in this county have been reported as well-stocked with trout this year while news from other counties also give good reports. Most of the local sportsmen it is believed will fish for the lurid trout in the waters of streams in this county.

According to a list of streams prepared by Sam Primmer which are available by automobile, there are fourteen places which house trout near by. They are: Upper Piru, Agua Blanca, Sespe Creek, Pine Creek, Hopper Creek, Santa Paula Creek, Sisar Creek, Coyote Creek, San Antonio Creek, Matilija Creek, Ventura River, Santa Clara River, Santa Ynez River and tributaries and Wheeler Creek. There are also many streams available to the fishermen who wish to travel via a saddle. They are: Upper Sespe, Gibraltar Dam, Lion Creek, Cherry Creek and Piedra Blanca.

Licenses required of all persons over 18 years of age this year sell for $2.00 and give the holder a right to catch 25 trout a day. The fishing time for the first day begins at 4:10 a.m. on May 1 and ends at 7:44 p.m.

All streams in this territory are under patrol of game wardens whose duty it will be to prevent fishermen from obtaining more than the limit of fish, or fishing at the dam in the Sespe or Santa Paula Creek.

<u>May 1, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

FISHING GOOD ALONG ALL STREAMS – Fishing season opened at 4:10 a.m. this morning with a horde of local sportsmen crowding the banks of the streams near and far from this city. Sixteen more men from those who have already taken out camp fire permits, registered in the Primmer store this morning, for destinations, many the Sespe and Santa Paula creek.

The first fish of good size to be brought back to this city today was caught by Ralph Bennett who hooked a 12 ½ inch Loch Leven trout along with 15 others. Charles Primmer and Ferris Derbyshire were the first two known to have returned with the limit. They arrived here at 10 o'clock half an hour after Bennett was here.

George Harding, well known local man, claims the first in with a limit this morning. He fished down Santa Paula creek from Pine Flats. He was accompanied by Glyn Watson of Long Beach.

No reports as yet have been received from fishermen haunting the pools of the Sespe though a phone message here today said that many were landing the limit and that fishing was good even if the crowd was worse than the day before Christmas in a department store.

Those who took out campfire permits for fishing areas were Jim Barnes, M.A. Fagan, Al Grace, Willard Smith, and Howard Biggers for Sespe; F.F. Harvey, Elmer Hyde, W. E. French, I. E. Marsh, Bill Randsdell, Herbert Gaertner, Alvin Hudson, G.F. Willis, Carlos Jones and Charles Primmer for Santa Paula Creek; and Charles J. Crane for Ventura River.

Four others who returned late in the day with the limit were Boyd Strange, P.S. Williams, Lyall Webster and Millard Webster.

May 2, 1928 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD AND VICINITY – Ed. Farrell was among those to take advantage of May 1, and go trout fishing in the mountains.

May 2, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ELECTION DAY, FISHING SEASON SAME DAY, HARD – "Horses, horses, and he's eating off the mantle now," that is what happened to Ventura county's Horticultural Commissioner A.H. Call and all because fishing season opened and the primary election came on the same day.

After not having spent much time astride a saddle for a matter of ten years, Mr. Call rode 18 miles in the Sespe Creek country, caught his limit of trout and galloped down the mountainside to get here in time to cast his ballot.

May 3, 1928 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD AND VICINITY – H. B. Kindscher returned from a two day fishing trip on the Sespe yesterday. Mr. Kindscher had unusually good luck, and returned with a nice string of trout. While on the trip Mr. Kindscher killed a rattler which had nine rattles, and was of great size.

May 3, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING IS GOOD; L.A. MAN PAYS FOR LARGE CATCH – Fishing is good in Ventura and Santa Paula creeks, so good in fact, that it cost G.W. Newton, Los Angeles fishermen, a $25 fine for catching more than the limit of trout.

Deputy Game Warden R.G. Bennett arrested Newton for having 48 trout in his possession. He was taken before Judge Bagnall and on a plea of guilty was sentenced to pay a fine of $25 and to lose his trout.

May 4, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING IS GOOD ALONG COUNTY STREAMS – Fishing is still going strong in Ventura county among local fishermen. Many are still taking the opportunity to fish early in the mornings and during the week-end it was estimated that three hundred local fishermen will trek to the streams to make a try for the wily trout.

Those who recently took out fire permits to fishing territory…in the Santa Paula creek and the Sespe were….(names not listed.).

May 7, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene – It seems to me that most sportsmen are too prone to listen to the croakings of the old-timers and spend their energy lamenting the "good old days" when game was shot in the backyard and a basket of trout could be had for the taking. That is not the way to restore our hunting and angling to its former glory. Put your shoulder to the wheel; quit your pessimism; talk hopefully of the future and be a cheerful optimist.

The last two years have seen a complete reorganization of the Fish and Game Commission on a fit foundation to meet present problems. I feel that this state has provided for the four essentials necessary to restock our covers with game and our streams with fish. We have (a) excellent conservation laws; (b) adequate money with which to enforce those laws and carry out a wise conservation program including the purchase of game refuge lands; (c) a Fish and Game Commission organized on a business basis to spend that money and, finally (d) the active co-operation of the sportsmen.

Our conservation laws have been improved at every legislative session. Ambiguities are being cleared up and new statues enacted where necessary. For example, a previous article told you of the granting, last year, of partial plenary powers so that the Fish and Game Commission can close waters to angling without waiting for legislative action. Our new trout law forbidding barbarous tackle is another enlightened measure.

Previous splendid work barred the sale of game and trout, protected spike bucks and does and prescribed in commercial fisheries such closed seasons and meshes of nets that the supply of fish cannot be depleted.

Our quail season was shortened and changed four years ago and the increase in these birds is very notable. We have adequate laws forcing the installation of fish screens and ladders, where necessary, and an excellent statute curbs pollution of bay and river waters. And in order to make the laws effective there are stringent regulations on shipment and possession of game and fish.

When I compare our laws with those of other states, I am proud of what California had done, and I feel that we are well up on the list of those conservationists who have seen

the light and are determined to conserve for posterity one of our greatest natural resources.

Q. Why is trout fishing prohibited in Fish and Game District 14, containing Scotts Creek, which is an excellent steelhead stream?

A. Because this stream is located on one of the best egg taking stations of the Fish and Game Commission. This district had to be closed to fishing or the result would be a serious diminution of the supply of fish in other streams which are stocked with the young hatched from eggs taken on Scotts Creek. Scotts Creek, as a matter of fact, would not give better fishing than many other similar streams along the coast, but it is particularly adapted for the purpose of taking eggs.

May 8, 1928 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD AND VICINITY – Mr. and Mrs. I.M. Poggi and son Richard, and William Huddleson motored to Casitas Sunday where they enjoyed an afternoon of trout fishing.

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A jolly party including Mr. and Mrs. P.G. Naumann and family, Miss Maria Bienert and Oscar Stoehrer spent Saturday night camping at Wheelers. While in camp the party fished, and displayed a nice catch of trout.

May 10, 1928 – The Piru News

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS – Mr. and Mrs. John Coulson enjoyed Sunday on a trout stream above Agua Blanca Camp. They had a fair day's sport.

Bill Grainger, prominent oil worker, caught a nice string of trout May 1st up on the Sespe.

W.W. Lechler and his daughter, Mrs. Mayzie, of North Hollywood, caught a nice string of trout, while fishing above Agua Blanca Camp.

Vene Clarke, and Mr. Rainey, of Ventura, and F.S. Chapman enjoyed trout fishing Saturday and Sunday. They did not return with a very large load of trout, although they had some luck.

Mr. and Mrs. John Coulson report the capture of nine beautiful trout while up in Hopper Canyon Sunday. John declared that the "nine" was not the German "nein" although they sound somewhat similar. Of course John had the experience of "the big one that got away." Unfortunately this is frequently an inevitable occurrence. Mrs. Coulson landed a turtle about the size of a water bucket, who favored her with two complimentary "bites."

May 17, 1928 – Oxnard Courier
May 18, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

REPORT OCEAN FISHING GOOD OFF POINT MAGU -- …Trout fishing in the small streams had not been good. Fishermen in the San Gabriel and Sespe rivers report the best

success though fishing in these streams has only been fair. Other streams have not been places of good fishing.

May 24, 1928 – The Piru News

ENJOY FISHING TRIP UP PIRU CANYON – "Icicle" Wilson, "Slim" Cudahy and Robert Randall enjoyed a trip up Piru Canyon Sunday, fishing for trout. "Icicle" says they came home with 18 fish. If he is as careless with statistics regarding numbers as he is with the cleaver when he has fish on the block, you may have to consider the 1 and 8 and pronounce it the Germany way, which is spelled "nein" and pronounced—you know.

May 24, 1928 – The Piru News
May 24, 1928 – Santa Paula Review

LOCALS – Chas. Kester reports the tourist season now on in good shape at Agua Blanca Camp. As the weather gets warmer, this attractive place gets busier and busier. The fishing is good up there yet and many campers are getting good strings.

May 26, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene – One of the most momentous problems from a fish preservation standpoint that the far western states have to cope with is the danger of loss of fish through irrigation and power canals.

California is but one of the states confronted with the problem, yet to date has handled it alone and after years of experimentation sees better times just ahead. Our sister states to the north and east have appealed to the federal government to help them solve the problems which California thinks it has made good progress on, and I read only recently that an act was passed by congress promising them aid through the United States Bureau of Fisheries.

To understand the problem you must visualize the situation in a state where irrigation and water power are predominant factors. Huge irrigation and power canals head off from practically all of our streams. The water is carried into them by diversion dams and in many instances is accompanied by an acceleration of current. Naturally, most, if not all of the fish in the river will follow the accelerated current into the irrigation or power canal, thence through laterals to become stranded upon the land being irrigated, or into the flume and thence to and through the turbine in the power plant.

Methods had to be devised to keep the fish from entering the canals, but at the same time this screening apparatus had to be so devised to keep the fish from entering the canals, but at the same time this screening apparatus had to be so devised that it would not appreciably impede the flow of water and diminish its head.

The two generally used types of screens are stationary and rotary. Stationary screens generally consist of parallel bars spaced sufficiently fine to prevent fish from going down

stream; they are cleaned either manually or by a cleaning apparatus the power for which is furnished either by the water or a motor. Rotary screens are self-cleaning and is properly installed rotate on their axes so as to clear themselves from debris, the flow of water furnishing the power.

It is the duty of irrigation and power canals to install such screens upon order of the Fish and Game Commission, which designs the screens and determines its location after an actual field inspection has been made by its engineers. If a screen is installed and maintained as designed and ordered, the diverter is relieved from any expense as to changes that may later be required.

Q. How late at night may I fish for trout, and does the same law apply to all game fish?

A. Section 626m of the penal code prohibits fishing between one hour after sunset of any one day and one hour before sunrise of the following day in practically every fish and game district. It applies to all game fish except that salt water fish may be taken in any commercial fishing district at any time of day or night.

Q. Can I fish for trout in a game refuge?

A. Yes, you may fish for trout in a game refuge, but you may not fish for them in fish refuges or in any of the waters which have recently been closed for angling by order of the director of the department of natural resources.

Q. How far must I keep away from a dam while fishing for trout?

A. You must keep at least 150 feet away from the lower side of any dam which has no fishway, and must keep at least 250 feet away from any fishway.

Q. Can I troll for trout on a lake and use two rods while I am alone in the boat?

A. No. You can only have on rod and it must at all times be held in the hand. You may not fasten your rod in the boat and scull along, leaving it unattended.

<u>May 31, 1928 – Santa Paula Review</u>

WE CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW IT CAME ABOUT – The human mind is indeed an intricate piece of machinery. No scientist has yet been able to explain its workings. For instance, a little further down we are printing a few paragraphs that we read just the other day. And as we read them, we though of Sam Primmer and Stanley Lothridge. But for the life of us we can't think why they should have reminded us of those two gazabos. These paragraphs are part of an article written by Don Marquis a few years ago, and read in part as follows:

"Fishing is a delusion entirely surrounded by liars in old clothes.

"Its chief purpose is to develop unoccupied human beings in the art of sleeping with both feet in a puddle in the hot sun with a can of worms.

"Fishermen are called Nimrods. 'Nim' is from the Latin meaning 'dumb', and 'rod' is from the Sanscrit, meaning 'all wet'.

"Fish are divided into four general classes: Salt water, fresh water, store and conversational. Fishermen are divided into many classes, but none of them count.

"Salt water fishing is the same as unskilled labor and as relatively of no importance. It is to fresh water fishing what chicken to quail hunting, and is indulged in only by anglers with the milder form of sanity.

"For the real violent cases fresh water fishing is alone designed. When a fisherman gets so crazy he will believe in anything, he becomes a fresh-water enthusiast and goes after trout, bass, pike, pickerel and illusions."

June 9, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene – At this time of year when the fishing season has opened and is in full swing, many anglers think of the possibility of bringing home a portion of their catch alive and holding it in a private pond on their own property. Consequently, I have been besieged with inquiries as to whether this is permissible under our state laws.

In the first place, I wish to call attention to the fact that no person, except by special permission of the Fish and Game Commission, may have in his possession, either dead or alive, at one time, more than a limit catch of trout. Therefore, if you bring home a portion of your catch alive and dump it into your private pond, you are then limited on subsequent fishing excursions to take a number of trout which, when added to those already in your possession, will not exceed the legal limit. Furthermore, those fish which you have put in your pond must be removed prior to the expiration of the open season unless you get a special permit form the Fish and Game Commission.

What I have said, of course, applies to fish which you take in public streams of the state during the open season.

There is a method under the so-called domestic fish law by which you can rear and take trout at any time of the year. There are very elaborate provisions of the law, however, to prevent abuse of this privilege and the first is that all ponds must be artificial bodies of water with no natural inlets or outlets for the waters and all artificial inlets and outlets must be screened. This is to prevent diseased fish or fish of obnoxious species from getting into public waters. The site and plant must be inspected and approved by the Fish and Game Commission and a license fee of $5 paid annually.

To stock your ponds you must either import your fish from outside the state or purchase the eggs or fry from some other duly licensed fish breeder. Trout from this farm may be caught and sold at any time of the year, but must be tagged with an official tag issued by the Fish and Game Commission. The packages in which domestically reared trout are shipped must be plainly marked to show contents.

Annually a permittee must file a report with the Fish and Game Commission showing the number and varieties of trout sold or exchanged or given away for any purpose during the preceding year.

There are quite a number of these domestic fish farms in the state and the Fish and Game Commission has altered its former policy and lately seems to be favoring their establishment—especially in Southern California, where in many sections there is no public trout fishing. It not only relieves the pressure on public waters but it also gives many novices preliminary experience and furnishes incentive to go afield for angling. The domestic fish farm, then, has its place in our scheme of outdoor life.

August 6, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING IN UPPER SESPE NOT GOOD – Official report on the stream and fishing conditions in the Upper Sespe river, as given by one of the patrolmen in that section:

"Sespe river, August 1—The creek has quit running, ponds all dry. If it wasn't for the pollywogs the fish would die."

August 16, 1928 – Oxnard Courier

SCENIC AUTO TRIPS TO HENLEY'SCAMP TOLD BY AUTO CLUB – A very scenic one-day motor trip is the one which extends from Oxnard to Camarillo, Somis, Moorpark, thence through Grimes Canyon to Fillmore and Henley's Camp, returning via Santa Paula, Saticoy and El Rio, according to the Touring Department of the National Automobile Club. Total mileage 78. The portion of the route lying in Simi Valley passes through rich agricultural districts and many orchards, vineyards and bean-fields border same while in many places the road is beautifully shaded by tall eucalyptus and willowy pepper trees with beautiful vistas of the Santa Susana Mountains in the distance which is of historic interest due to the fact that the notorious bandit, Vasquez, staged many of his holdups thereon. A nearby canyon bears his name at Moorpark, a short-cut to Fillmore is had via Grimes Canyon. The first 3 miles lie over splendid new pavement, thence good gravel road, slightly washboarded in spots, over grades ranging from 5 to 8% to within 4 miles of Fillmore. Balance is paved with the exception of a .6 mile chucky oil detour through the river wash. From Fillmore to Henley's Camp is 5 miles. Pavement is traversed for 1 mile west, and 2.5 miles north, followed by ½ mile of oiled road and the balance of the distance to the camp lies over rough and narrow dirt road.

This section is only advisable to those accustomed to mountain driving. The road extends 1 ½ miles past Henley's Camp and is somewhat rough and narrow but very

scenic, bordering the beautiful Sespe Creek. A hike of 4 or 5 miles beyond the end of the road leads one to a district where beautiful Rainbow trout are plentiful. Few spots in Southern California can vie in beauty wit the hundreds of ideal camping spots which are found throughout the length of Sespe Creek. Deep pools and waterfalls lie at the feet of immense granite walls which tower for hundreds of feet skyward; sandy beaches vie in beauty with shaded dells, while a wonderful breeze is liking.

There is probably no other spot quite so accessible for good deer hunting in Southern California as Sespe Canyon and the neighboring hills. Deer are plentiful here, in fact they can frequently be seen from Henley's Camp, climbing the adjacent hills. All camp sites are visited daily by fire wardens and motorists are urged to use every precaution in putting out camp fires, securing camp fire permits and smoking only in posted camp sites or places of habitation. All regulations are being strictly enforced at this time. On the return trip, the same road is retraced to the highway, 5 miles distant. Pavement then continues through Santa Paula, Saticoy and El Rio to Oxnard.

September 9, 1928 – Los Angeles Times

CHATS ON FISH & GAME – by B.D. Marx Greene. The vacation season is almost over and most people have already laid aside their fishing tackle. The summer trout season closes October 31, next.

Do you realize that California is one of the few places in the world where winter trout fishing can be obtained? The easterner marvels at our winter golf and tennis, our open motor cars while the snow is on the ground over the major portion of the rest of the country. We advertise our winter climate and our winter sports. What do you know about our winter trout fishing? How many of you natives of California have even taken advantage of it?

It is in fact, however; and steelhead fishing is at its best during the winter. Contrary to popular belief, also, steelhead are trout—not salmon. In fact, there is no difference between a steelhead and a rainbow except that the former runs to sea and returns to spawn. It is when they are returning to spawn that you can catch the big steelhead making their way up the fresh-water streams. They commence to run in Del Norte and Humboldt in the early part of September and slightly later further down the coast. They are found south in goodly numbers as far as Monterey county.

These steelhead run in size up to twelve and fourteen pounds and believe me, Man, they give you a fight—particularly with light tackle. You will need about 100 yards of line to handle a big one. I, personally, favor a good tapered thirty-yard line backed up with heavy linen sixty yards in length. Steelhead take, at times, either a spinner, bait, or flies, depending on the condition of the water. If using spinner or bait, it is advisable to have a casting rod with free spool reel.

You have never really known what trout fishing is until you stand up to the hips in your waders in a rushing stream with a ten-pound steelhead at the end of a long line on a six-ounce rod. It's a man-sized job, believe me.

September 26, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PLANT LOCH LEVEN TROUT IN CREEK – Anglers who visit the Santa Paula creek in quest of the elusive specimens of the finny tribe will have a better opportunity in the future for today the Ventura County Fish and Game Protective Association is planting 66 cans of Loch Leven trout received from the Mt. Whitney hatchery of the California Fish and Game Commission.

President J.N. Procter, Secretary L.S. Lothridge, "Bunny" Pyle and Sam Primmer released the fish at various points along the stream this morning.

September 28, 1928 Oxnard Courier

ITEM – After planting 100,000 Loch Leven trout fry in Santa Paula creek a dozen of the workers gathered around the scene of their community endeavor to feast on beef barbecue.

October 6, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle
October 11, 1928 – Santa Paula Review

ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF TROUT COMING – Another shipment of 45,000 trout will be received by County Game Warden Walter Emerick on November 10 for restocking the streams of the county.

The shipment includes 25,000 steelhead and 20,000 rainbow trout. One hundred and thirty-two thousand fish arrived here late in September for distribution in the county streams.

October 10, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

THOUSANDS OF TROUT PLANTED IN STREAMS – Eighty-four cans of trout sent from the Mt. Whitney Hatchery of the California Fish and Game Commission arrived in this county this morning and were planted in the county streams by representatives of the Ventura County Fish and Game Protective Association, Game Warden Walter Emerick, his deputies and forest rangers. Twenty-five cans of steelhead were planted in the Sespe, 8 in the Ventura river and 16 cans in the Agua Blanca. Fifteen cans of Loch Leven trout were planted in Santa Paula creek.

Oris Barros, Herman Kenne, E.D. Stuart, Lawrence Gardner, Gene Gardner and J.N. Procter had charge of the planting in Santa Paula creek.

Deputy Game Warden Walter Clayberg, Ranger George Leichler, Charles Kester and S. Clow planted the fish in the Agua Blanca while L.C. Orton, F. Udall and Ranger Dickson had charge of the Sespe planting.

Walter Bidewell with a corps of helpers planted the steelhead in the Ventura river.

December 31, 1928 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MILLIONS TROUT, SALMON RELEASED IN STATE STREAMS – San Francisco, Dec. 31—Millions of trout and salmon were liberated in the streams of California during the past two years; 51,444,562 trout and 26,728,590 salmon, to be exact, taking to the water in the state during that time, W.H. Shebley, head of the fish culture department of the Division of Fish and Game, advises the people in his report for the years 1927-1928.

Shebley's report, which requires 43 pages, covers completely the operation of this great department of fish and game organization. He has carefully made a survey for this accounting of the operations of the 25 hatcheries and 12 egg-taking stations which are necessary to supply California streams with fish for the anglers of the state.

The trout planted during the two year period were divided as follows: rainbow, 16,065,185; Loch Leven, 9,375,160; steelhead, 9,610,085; eastern brook, 5,535,394; German brown, 3,906,219; large lake, 2,358,500; cut-throat, 284,000; black-spotted, 4,147,480; golden trout, 821,000.

Accurate count is kept of the fish as they are taken from the troughs at the hatcheries and placed in special cans for shipment, either in one of the two special railroad fish cars, or trucks kept at the hatcheries for that purpose.

1 9 2 9

Rainfall – 13.48 Inches

January 26, 1929 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MOVE OF LOCAL SPORTSMEN SEEN GOOD BY STATE – Of interest to sportsmen of this county is the move to do away with salmon egg use in fishing in fresh water streams. A petition to do away with the salmon eggs in Ventura county was instituted by group here some time ago. It was the first definite move to do away with their use, Walter Duval, assemblyman at that time introduced a bill, but it was killed.

Today the State Fish and Game commission is requesting the use of salmon eggs to be done away with in all fresh water streams. It is either do away with eggs or lose all the fish, according to the officials. An idea of the interest in the fish and game affairs may be gained by the announcement from Sacramento that every legislator has applied for a position on the fish and game committee.

The three representatives of the nine southern counties on the Study Committee of the commission are Henry Keller, Geo. Warren and J.N. Procter. They will meet in Sacramento on February 17 and 18.

January 28, 1929 – Oxnard Courier

OXNARD AND VICINITY – The management of Buenaventura Hot Springs, formerly Lyons, has rebuilt the trout lakes and stocked them with fishing size trout. The steam is being cleaned below the fishing lake and small pools and riffles will be built.

April 8, 1929 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Angling. Trout Season Opens May 1. We know what a Boy Scout needs to fish with and we've got it. The Primmer Co. Everything in Sporting Goods.

April 15, 1929 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING SEASON TO OPEN MAY 1; PROSPECTS GOOD – May 1 is an important event in the lives of a great many Californians. It marks the opening of the fishing season. Sportsmen all over the state as well as from surrounding territory will be on hand in large numbers of the finny tribe.

According to local fish and game officials the streams of this county are filled with many good sized trout. Although this has been a dry winter and lack of rain for a time threatened the lives of fish in small streams, the recent rain, aided them and they now are plentiful.

April 17, 1929 – Oxnard Courier

FISHING SEASON OPENS SOON, FISHERMEN ARE SCANNING CO. STREAMS – May 1 is an important event in the lives of a great many Californians. It marks the opening of the fishing season. Sportsmen all over the state as well as from surrounding territory will be on hand in great numbers this season to prospect our incomparable lakes and mountain canyon streams for according to reports from the state game warden trout are running bigger and better than ever this year.

April 25, 1929 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens May 1. Outlook for fishing is best in many years. Ask us where to go. Rods, lines, reels, leaders. Angling licenses—fire permits. Official size shovels and axes. The Primmer Co.

April 28, 1929 – Los Angeles Times

FOLLOWERS OF WALTON HAVE TREAT IN STORE – Opening of fishing season to see state streams teeming with many varieties of finny game. As taught with eagerness as a bird dog pointing quail, Southern California's thousands of disciples of Isaak Walton are furbishing rods and reels and digging out creels in happy anticipation of the opening of the trout and bass fishing season on May 1.

Opening of the fishing season with its trek of anglers to streams and lakes also signals the beginning of the happiest time of the year in to motorists willing "vesting" of the open road's siren call. All of Southern California will be their "oyster," to be pried open for secluded joys of rippling streams, placid lakes, flower-blanketed valleys and hills and mountains decked in bright spring greenery.

A season of unalloyed joy is promised fishermen by reports of the State Fish and Game Commission and the results of a survey made by Outdoor Frankland, Buick road scout for the Howard Automobile Company, conducted for the combined use of the information bureaus of the B.H. Dyas Company stores and the Howard Company.

A grand total of 5,229,000 trout, catfish, crappie, black bass and sunfish were planted in lakes and steams of Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Diego, San Bernardino, Mono, Riverside, Orange, Inyo and Los Angeles counties in 192, the fish and game department reports. The trout included Loch Leven, Steelhead, Rainbow, German Brown, Eastern Brook and Golden. Fishing opens in all the counties May 1.

…Frankland then in order to get to the Matilija and Ventura River backtracked to Ventura and then by way of the Ojai road reached Matilija and Wheeler's Hot Springs on the Matilija Creek, where the scout car was left. The Matilija Creek is a tributary to the Ventura. It was found low and ideal for the opening of the season. He saw many fair-sized trout. The stream is brush-lined and is a hard stream to fish by the amateur.

Some of the best fishing in Southern California can be had in the vicinity of Lathrops. Sportsmen regard the Sespe as the best fly-fishing stream in the State. The stream is open and clear.

Frankland backtracked to Ojai and thence turned to Santa Paula, traversing the shore of this stream nearly it's whole lengthy to Santa Paula and thence to Fillmore, and arrived at Henley's well-known camp on the Sespe.

The fishing is upstream at least six miles. Trout are plentiful and of good size. (The remainder of the article lists other areas in Southern California.)

May 1, 1929 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TWO LARGE FISH CAUGHT BY MEN OF THIS CITY – Lester Able and Walter Harrington of this city, today came into the public eye as champion fishermen, Able catching a 26 ½-inch trout in Santa Paula creek, and Harrington an 18-inch trout in the Sespe. Other fishermen were finding large fish, but many reported that fishing was not particularly good for the opening day. Hundreds of men were swarming the streams of this county at daybreak.

Lester Able said he caught the large trout just below Steckel's cabin in Santa Paula creek, while Walter Harrington said his big fish had just been caught in Sespe creek.

The usual reports of opening day were made, that there were more fishermen along the banks than fish in streams. Good reports from those who had had luck, and bad reports from those who hadn't, made it difficult as ever to tell just how the fishing was.

Wilfred Bercaw, local youth, was the first to come in this morning with a limit catch. He landed a limit of fine trout in Santa Paula creek.

Prevailing high east winds during the night and early this morning, coupled with too much water, made fishing rather poor in Sespe creek at the opening of the fishing season today. The wind made the water choppy and fish difficult to catch.

Only a few limit catches were reported from the Sespe, which is the main fishing ground for this county. The best fishing results seem to emanate from Santa Paula creek.

Fishing in the Ventura river was reported as poor. The Matilija country reported good results, and many good catches are reported from Lathrop's back of Wheeler Hot Springs. Plenty of fish are said to be ready for the angler in the Santa Ynez section.

Not as many fishermen invaded the Sespe this year as on the opening day last year. Most of them, however, are staying longer in the hope of the wind subsiding and making fishing better.

May 3, 1929 – Oxnard Courier

SECURES THE LIMIT—BUT – Walter Young, efficient bookkeeper, for Lehmann Bros., is also an ardent fisherman. Daybreak, Wednesday morning saw him at the Matilija, and being an expert angler, with a thorough knowledge of the ways of the elusive trout, it was only a short time until he had secured the limit.

Anxious to be back in Oxnard by the time the store opened he carelessly left his catch on the running board of the machine.

Somewhere along the road the fish "fa' down", but did not "go boom", so Walter knew nothing about it till he arrived in Oxnard—minus his fish but plus a good alibi.

May 9, 1929 – The Piru News

LOCAL FISHERMEN ARE SUCCESSFUL – The appeal of the opening of the trout fishing season proved irresistible to Hugh Warring, Henry Reasoner, K.B. Holley, Walter Cornelius, Kenneth Cornelius and three of his young friends.

Tuesday morning, bright and early, they were up and busy with their preparations, and at about eight o'clock they got the caravan under way for the far reaches of the Upper Agua Blanca, landing at Charlie Kester's comfortable quarters at Camp Agua Blanca at about nine o'clock, where pack and saddle horses awaited their order.

…The next morning, Wednesday, May 1, the camp was astir bright and early, in fact, quite a while before it was "bright"—but "early" all right enough. Chef Cornelius was trying to keep two skillets of hot-cakes doing their "stuff" at the same time with a flashlight, and he succeeded "after a fashion", at that. Kenneth is some cook in an early morning "jam" such as was in evidence.

Breakfast would have been out of the way earlier if it had not taken the elder Cornelius so long to get his hair parted correctly by the light of a flashlight, but as it was everything was in readiness for a "charge" on the trout at daylight, and by the time the sun was up, Harry Reasoner had let two of the biggest trout in the creek get away from him, while Karl Holley had "fooled" the biggest trout caught on the trip.

During the morning (which lasted in all its pristine vigor until nearly noon) Hugh Warring fished up the creek "four miles", anyway through the "Big Narrows" and came back with the limit—nearly. Anyway, the "Chef" claimed to have prepared and fried to a tempting crisp, ninety of the best ones "off the top" of the pile, of which Henry Reasoner claims (and he didn't crack a smile when he said it) that he devoured twenty-nine, alone and single-handed.

Now whether this "90" fish and "29" fish is according to the German spelling of the "nine"—"nein"—or not it is hard to tell, but combined reports would indicate that the trip was a complete success.

The party landed back here on the third day after their departure, claiming to have had a splendid time.

EDITORIAL – What About Trout Season Limitations? What the limitations of the open season on trout would do besides limiting the pleasure of those who enjoy trout fishing would be to stock California streams with fish of an attractive size and make fishing something more than "cruelty to animals."

The continued practice of throwing the trout season open on the first of May each year and spending the money and effort in "stocking" our streams with trout is doing little more than furnishing our "fishermen" with young trout about five inches long, and while they are doing the level best to act like a real trout, they prove a disappointment to the enthusiastic "sports" who take the time and stand the punishment of "whipping" the little "trout streams" for five miles up and nine miles back to see if there is not a big one left yet.

Would it not be more in keeping with good judgment to call a halt to this trout fishing until two years from now instead of one year, and give the festive trout a chance to grow to a decent size? The large-sized fish would not get too large and "spoil" because of the extra year, and the fishermen would not be badly abused after all.

Then again the fire hazard would be lessened by considerable, as the "cigarette snipe" of today is made so combustible as to keep "light" until it is all consumed, whether it is in "good hands" or in the loose grass. The percentage of "cigarette" fires in the grazing section is not by any means a negligible quantity, as fires go.

Apparently the good resulting from a year longer added to the propagating period for the trout planted in our streams would offset the disadvantages, by far. Why not boost for such a ruling?

May 9, 1929 – Santa Paula Review

NUMEROUS TROUT STREAMS TO CLOSE – Numerous streams and lakes in California have been closed by proclamation of the director of the Department of Natural Resources, according to announcement by the outing bureau of the Automobile Club of Southern California. It is pointed out that this is done in the interests of conservation and to prevent streams being so far depleted of fish that they will be useless for further angling.

The outing bureau of the big motoring organization is keenly interested in the proper conservation of fish and game and is working to the end that the recreational areas of the state will not be denuded of their wildlife attractions.

Following are the streams that will be closed to anglers in Southern California:

Los Angeles County: Devil's Canyon Creek and tributaries.
Orange County: Holy Jim Creek and tributaries.
Mono and Inyo Counties: Middle Cottonwood Lake and stream connecting with lakes above and below. Reverse Creek and tributaries between June Lake and Rush Creek.

May 16, 1929 – The Piru News

LOCALS – A large crowd from all quarters of the state were in evidence at Camp Agua Blanca over the weekend. Those who seemed to "sabe" the use of the "fishing stick" came into camp with nice strings of trout but those who have not had the experience did not do so well. There were trout in that neighborhood for fishermen who had the "know how."

May 24, 1929 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SWIMMERS GIVEN USE THREE POOLS IN COUNTY NOW – Ventura County swimmers this year for the first time will have three open air plunges in which to play, according to announcements from three places. The usual plunge at Wheeler's Hot Springs will be available, the new pool at Santa Paula Mineral Springs is being made ready, and the Buenaventura Hot Springs, 20 miles north of Ventura, is to be opened on Sunday.

The Hot Springs resort is located on the Old Lyons Springs property, one mile above Matilija.

Of special interest to anglers is the trout reserve containing 60,000 rainbow and mountain trout, which is to be opened at Lyons for visiting fishermen.

June 6, 1929 – Santa Paula Review

A REAL FISH STORY – Joe Phillips caught a salmon trout up the Sespe in the Swallow's Nest, on Tuesday afternoon. It measured 28 inches long and weighed 5 ½ pounds.

June 30, 1929 – Los Angeles Times

FISH AND WHERE CAUGHT – …Trout fishing locally (San Gabriel and Sespe) is not so good. A few limits have been caught.

July 5, 1929 – Santa Paula Review

TROUT FISHING IS GOOD AT SCOUT CAMP – Fishing is good at Camp Gray, the summer camp for Ventura County Boy Scouts, as reported by the County Scout Executive, Elwood C. Griest.

Ernest Argabrite has won the honor as the best fisherman in camp by catching the limit on Wednesday during his free time. These fish were enjoyed by the camp staff, which includes eight Scout leaders and others. Many other trout have been caught but young Argabrite is the first Scout to receive the honor of catching the limit.

September 20, 1929 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PROMISE GOOD FISHING HERE NEXT SEASON – Sacramento, Sept. 20 (UP)— Fishing ought to be good in California next year, with more than 15,000,000 trout planted in the various streams of the state.

This is the prediction of Fred G. Stevenot, director of natural resources, who said that in addition to the 15,000,000 trout with which the streams were stocked, the state has 21,000,000 still available for distribution.

October 31, 1929 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT SEASON ENDS IN COUNTY – Trout fishermen can put away their tackle today for the season ends and will not open again until May 1, 1930. Next season men who live to fish in the Bishop country may do so after May 1, instead of June 1, it was learned from local sport authorities today. The season has been opening a month late in that section of California.

1 9 3 0

Rainfall – 12.26 Inches

January 6, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CLOSE STREAMS TO FISHERMEN – Santa Paula fishermen who annually go to Mono and Inyo counties to fish, may not be able to visit their favorite streams this year. In keeping with the plan to work with the sportsmen of the state in conservation matters, the division of fish and game has announced a tentative program of stream closing to be effective when the trout season opens in California on the first of May.

January 14, 1930 – Santa Paula Review
January 16, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

300,000 TROUT ARE COMING TO THIS CITY—BUT NOT FOR EATING – Three hundred thousand steelhead and rainbow trout will be brought to this city within a short time for distribution in nearby streams, it was announced by Walter Emerick, county fire warden, who will have charge of the work for the State Fish and Game Commission.

The trout will be planted in Piru Creek, Sespe Creek, Santa Paula Canyon and Upper Ventura river. About 20 men will handle the work, their services being donated to the commission.

January 26, 1930 – Los Angeles Times

RAIN HELPFUL TO FISHERMEN – Fishermen who have been going after steelhead trout during the last week at the mouth of the Santa Ynez River and the rod and reelers who have ben defying the heavy tides at the beaches have had fair to good luck.

The recent heavy rains opened the bar at the mouth of the Santa Ynez and the old-time steelhead anglers expect a good run of the fighting fish to start most any day.

It was learned during the week from Earl Wilcox of the Western Auto Supply Company that trout streams and lakes in Southern California were given their usual attention, as far as replenishing is concerned, last fall and early winter by the State Fish and Game Commission.

Millions of small fry and some baby fish of fingerling size and eggs were planted in the streams. One millions and a half baby rainbows trout, measuring from two to four inches were included.

Trout fishermen haven't such a terribly long wait before the season opens—May 1. That's three months, just about enough to overhaul the tackle and plan where to go on the opening day. Prospects for the coming season are good.

According to Wilcox, his opinion is that the rains so far have filtered into the ground, thus replenishing the underground currents that feed the many springs and lakes in Southern California and in turn meaning a supply of water to feed these same springs and lakes during the dry summer months. It likewise to Wilcox's opinion that the coming season will be a good one for dry-fly angling.

The many resort owners of Southern California have been in town during the last couple of weeks and all appeared enthusiastic over the welcome rains and the heavy snows in the high lands. Many of the resorts are to undergo extensive improvements for the coming season.

January 29, 1930 – Los Angeles Times

THOUSANDS OF TROUT RELEASED – Santa Paula, Jan. 29. – Nearly 225,000 trout of the steelhead, rainbow and Loch Leven species were planted in Ventura county streams today by a large corps of volunteer workers under the direction of Walter Emerick, county and State game warden. The fish, which were shipped from a northern hatchery, varied in length from two and one-half to four inches. They were planed in Piru, Sespe and Santa Paula Creeks and the Ventura River.

January 29, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle
January 29, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

PLANT MANY STREAMS WITH TROUT TODAY – Ventura county's fish population showed a net gain of nearly a quarter of a million today. There were nearly that many trout "planted" in county streams by a large corps of volunteer workers under the direction of Walter Emerick, state and county game wardens.

Three kinds of trout were distributed: Steelhead, Loch Leven and Rainbow.

Brought to the county in a Southern Pacific tank car, which is transported free, the tank car made a stop at Piru to allow 25,000 Steelhead and Rainbow trout to be taken for planting in the Agua Blanca district. At the Brownstone station, 90,000 Steelhead and Rainbows were taken out for Sespe Creek. In this city 50,000 Steelhead and Loch Leven trout were taken out for distribution in Santa Paula Creek. There will be 60,000 Steelhead and Rainbow placed in the Ventura river.

Planting today was under ideal conditions, particularly in the Santa Paula creek as the temperature of the water in the cans and the stream was the same, 40,000 Steelhead and 10,000 Loch Leven went into the creek near here, the fish being in fine condition. The Loch Leven ranged from 2 ½ to 4 inches and the Steelhead about 1 ½ inches.

In the Sespe creek and tributaries 60,000 Steelhead and 30,000 Rainbow were planted while in the Piru 10,000 Steelhead and 10,000 Rainbow variety were liberated. The Ventura river and Matilija creek received 40,000 Steelhead and 20,000 Rainbow.

January 29, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

COUNTY STREAMS ENLIVENED BY MORE THAN 200,000 FISH – With a loss of less than two percent of the 220,000 trout, the work of planting the fish in four streams in Ventura county was completed late yesterday afternoon, according to Walter Emerick, state and county game warden. This loss is less than for the preceeding years, it was stated.

The temperatures of the water in the creek and the water in the fish cans were identical yesterday and the planting in Santa Paula Canyon by local men, who donated their services, was finished quickly. The men who distributed the 40,000 steelhead and 10,000 Loch Leven in this district were ….

In the Sespe creek 60,000 steelhead and 30,000 rainbow were planted. Pack animals were used to carry the fish to the Agua Blanca district at Piru, where 10,000 steelhead and the same number of rainbow were planted.

The Ventura river and Matilija creek received 40,000 steelhead and 20,000 rainbow.

February 2, 1930 – Los Angeles Times

JACK RABBIT HUNTING GOOD AT LANCASTER – …Steelhead trout fishing in the tidewaters of certain rivers in Southern California has been attracting quite a number of anglers the last week. The bar at the mouth of the Santa Ynez River has been washed out and some pretty good fishing has been had, a number of fish weighing as much as eight pounds being taken out.

At the mouth of the Santa Clara River, Archive Aldrich of Hoegee's declares that steelhead fishing has been good, but that at the mouth of the Ventura, it has been poor due to oil conditions. No improvement is expected this season.

Of the three rivers, the mouth of the Santa Clara seems the best bet. The fish, according to Aldrich, apparently have been unable to get up the river and have concentrated in larger numbers in a lagoon, a part of the river's mouth. To reach this point it is advised to go by way of Pierpont Inn and drive south down the beach on the new concrete beach road to the end of this road and park on the cement. A walk then, of about one-eighth mile, will bring an angler to the lagoon.

February 20, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ONLY NINE MORE DAYS STEELHEAD TROUT FISHING – Only nine more days for steelhead trout fishing. That was the announcement made by officials of the fish and game patrol of this district today. The fishing is said to be exceptionally good all along the Santa Barbara county.

February 26, 1930 – Los Angeles Times

FISHING FOR STEELHEAD LURES LOCAL ANGLERS – Steelhead fishing in the lagoon at the mouth of the Santa Clara River has been the big drawing attraction among local rod and reel swingers during the last couple weeks. Quite a number of fishermen went to this location last Sunday and had more or less success, according to Fred Klein.

Klein, an angler who makes a study of the subject, is of the opinion that better steelhead fishing than has been had at the Santa Clara lagoon this season should be had during the coming week. He bases his conviction on the fact that a bar at the river's mouth forms this lagoon and that during the last three days abnormally high tides of 7.3 feet have been coming in. These high tides make it possible for thousands of steelhead to get over the bar into the lagoon.

March 1, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

NEED OF GAME CONSERVATION IS EXPLAINED – (Foregoing paragraphs on conservation of deer in California.) …Four reels of motion pictures were shown by the speaker. The work of the Mount Shasta Fish Hatchery, showing every step from the artificial hatching of the fish eggs to the planting of the fingerlings several months after, was depicted.

March 2, 1930 – Los Angeles Times

RIVER FISHING CLOSED FOR NEXT TWO MONTHS – Steelhead trout fishing season in tideland water of California closed last Friday, leaving practically no river fishing for anglers for the next two months. The trout and black bass seasons open on May 1 in most sections of the State.

This year found the steelhead fishing good, quite a number of good catches, including some ten-pound fish being caught. This in spite of the fact that at the two principal rivers where there was any fishing at all—Santa Clara and Santa Ynez—bars had formed, necessitating artificial means to allow the steelhead to get up the streams. It was these vast numbers of fish in the lagoons that made fishing good.

April 15, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HORDES WILL BE FISHING TROUT HERE ON MAY 1 – Ventura county may expect hordes of fishermen from outside counties here on May 1, the opening day of trout fishing season.

If outside fishermen catch more fish than the local residents, they will have the Automobile Club of Southern California to thank for it, for that organization has sent out bulletins to all major newspapers in Southern California, telling how fine fishing is going to be in this county.

The following is a part of the bulletin:

According to the outing bureau of the Automobile Club of Southern California, there should be fair fishing in the waters of Ventura county when the season opens.

According to a bulletin received by Ralph Coane, manager of the local branch of the club, the Sespe, Santa Paula, Matilija and Piru creeks can generally be counted on for a mess of small trout early in the season. The State Fish and Game Commission planted 220,000 trout in Ventura county streams the past year distributed as follows:

Upper Ventura River—40,000 steelhead and 20,000 rainbow.
Santa Paula Creek—60,000 steelhead and 30,000 Loch Leven.
Sespe Creek—60,000 steelhead and 30,000 rainbow.

"However, fishermen in Santa Paula Canyon," says a sports authority, "may expect to catch their limit without being trampled by Los Angeles fishermen, as the action of the Doheny ranch in closing the road up the canyon to automobiles for the past two years will keep the Los Angeles fishermen away and supply a good mess of trout for those who are willing to walk a little way up above the ranch."

April 23, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

THE FIRST TROUT – (On the front page is a cartoon of balding businessman looking out office window and seeing a young man walk by with a string of speckled trout and fishing pole.) Santa Paul disciples of Isaac Walton are becoming a little impatient as the days drag on until fishing season opens on May 1. Old familiar haunts on the Sespe, the Santa Paula Creek, the Ventura river and deep, cool secret spots in the Santa Clara river occupy the minds of local anglers at this time and poles, hooks, and rubber boots are being hauled from storage of attic, barns and garages.

April 24, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

ADVERTISEMENT – What More Could a Man Want? A contented family, a comfortable home, good fishing tackle, a good golf score and a Bank of Italy saving account. Bank of Italy, Santa Paula Branch.

April 27, 1930 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT SEASON IN WHOLE STATE OPENS THURSDAY – The next four days will be rather long ones to the hundreds of impatient anglers in Southern California, for these days must pass before they can again legally be at their favorite stream or lake and fish for trout. The season, along with the season on black bass, opens throughout the State, Thursday, May 1.

From indications the season will be a good one. For this, the anglers can thank Dame Nature and the State Fish and Game Commission, which body has had its deputies

planting streams throughout the State for several seasons with fry, small fish which in a couple of years reach a size worth angling for.

Good paved highways now enable the angler to drive an automobile to almost every fishing stream or lake. That there are many streams where good fishing should be had close to the city is easily seen after looking over an outing map. The streams, not a great distance from Los Angeles, the directions to reach same and the conditions are as follows:

…Matilija and North Matilija River. Take State highway to Ventura, then via Ojai Valley Boulevard to Matilija Junction, then Matilija Road to Matilija resort, Wheeler's Hot Springs, then via eleven-mile trail to Cold Springs Camp.

Ventura River. State highway to Ventura, Ojai road to any point of the river.

Lower Sespe River. San Fernando Boulevard to Saugus, from Saugus to Fillmore, cross Sespe River and turn on first road to the right and up canyon to Henley's camp.

Piru River, Agua Blanca, Buck Creek. San Fernando Boulevard or State Highway via Saugus and Piru.

…The boulder-bordered Sespe River in Ventura county, the upper reaches of San Gabriel River and Deep Creek in the San Bernardino Mountains probably will be the principal streams visited by local anglers on the opening. These streams always have been good bets for the trout fishermen and heavy plantings were gain made in these streams last winter.

…The Sespe road from the toll gate to the wire corral is in good shape. Anglers can go beyond the camp this season for a distance of twelve miles by trail.

A number of streams and lakes in California were closed to fishing on proclamation by the director of the State Department of Natural Resources. Very little change is found in the Southern California district. What change there is here is confined alone to Owens Valley.

…That the State Fish and Game Commission did nobly last winter in its plantings of fry and fingerlings is evidenced by a glance at the millions of fish planted in Southern California streams and lakes. Last winter found the commission carrying on the most extensive and successful planting of trout yet undertaken especially in the eastern Sierra district.

According to Maj. Bauder, chief deputy commissioner for the California district south of San Francisco, nearly 3,500,000 fry were planted in the Mt. Whitney district alone. Nearly 500,000 were planted in Fern Creek. The plantings consisted of Rainbow, Steelhead, Golden, Cutthroat, Loch Leven and Eastern Brook.

Water has been turned into the new hatchery at Snow Creek in Riverside county. It will have a capacity of 750,000.

April 29, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

REEL GOES TO FIRST FISHERMAN BACK WITH LIMIT – The first fishermen in this part of Ventura county who returns to Primmer company store here with the limit of trout on May 1 (the day the season opens) will be given an automatic reel, it was announced by S.T. Primmer, proprietor of the store.

April 30, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

ANGLERS IN TROUT HUNT – Several parties left Santa Paula yesterday and more will leave today for favorite spots along streams to be on hand for the opening of trout fishing tomorrow morning, May 1.

Fish and Game Commissioner Walter Emerick stated yesterday that all Ventura county rivers and creeks will be open to anglers. He stated that the sportsmen must not start their activities until at least one hour before sunup.

According to those enthusiasts who have been studying trout conditions for the past months, the conditions will be ideal for the opening and prospects for limit catches are in sight as never before. Adding interest to the anglers came the announcement by Sam Primmer yesterday that he would give an automatic reel to the first person returning to his sporting goods store with the limit on the opening day.

Just one of the many groups of local Isaak Waltons who leave today for the Sespe district is composed of Alton and Gene Gardner, Jim Thurmond, Jack Fletcher, Dave Mackie and Al Call.

May 1, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHERMEN IN COUNTY HAVE GOOD "LUCK" – Hundreds of fishermen from this and other counties in Southern California today were experiencing the pleasure of "good fishing." Many reported back today with limits, some of them gained under adverse conditions.

The rain, which fell here yesterday, caught some of the men on the way in, and some even experienced snow in the Sespe district.

Wesley Pinkerton claims the record for the best specimen of Loch Leven trout caught today. He pulled a 12-inch beauty out near the falls in Santa Paula Creek. He was accompanied by Carlton Thomas. Both boys came back early with five.

Tom Harrison was one of the first back from the Santa Paula Creek, with 11 good size trout.

Sam Primmer returned before 7:30 with the limit. He also fished in the Santa Paula Creek country.

Attorney Harry Wesley and Jimmie Pope went into the Sespe section.

Others fishing in the Sespe included George Tighe, Ted Tetzlaff, Al Call, Ted Sharp, Howard Sheldon and Lafe Brown. They have not returned. It is reported they were engulfed in snow last night, a heavy snowfall descending on them yesterday.

Frank Mosher and Q. Clegg were the first two back from the Sespe with limits today.

Wilfred Bercaw took the honors for being the first in this morning with the limit of trout. He had many fine specimens of Rainbow, one measuring 21 ¼ inches. They were all taken out of Santa Paula Creek, above the falls. Sam Primmer followed him with a limit. Bercaw won the automatic reel, a gift of the Primmer Company to the first person to return with the limit.

ADVERTISEMENT – S.T. Primmer First To Get Trout Limit. (Picture of two fishermen in boat with one reeling in a large fish.) The above shows Sam Primmer catching a fine trout.

May 1, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

ANGLERS HAVE SPORT TODAY – Despite the rainfall that fell yesterday and at intervals last night, approximately 250 Santa Paula fishermen were expected to be at their chosen spots along county streams at 4:04 a.m. today to greet the opening of trout season.

The rain will not hurt the fishing, old time anglers said yesterday. In most cases, it may spoil the use of "flys" for bait but the "spinner" will be a handy substitute.

S.T. Primmer, who was busy yesterday giving both young and old sportsmen advise, stated that the first person to bring the limit, 25 trout, to his place of business today would receive an automatic reel.

Party after party left yesterday and last night for places in the Sespe, Santa Paula and Matilija regions. All were enthusiastic and many claimed that the limits were good as caught.

Fish and Game Commissioner Walter Emerick was in the Sespe district yesterday making a final survey of conditions:

Sespe River—The water in this steam is clear, and should afford fairly good fishing for the opening. The moss, however, has a good start for this early in the season, which will keep the fly caster picking moss off his hook most of the time. The road will be open for about two miles above Henley's Camp at the lower end of the Sespe. The best results on

this part of the stream will be had by hiking up seven to ten miles from the end of the road.

The headwaters of the Sespe should be good this year as the water is clear and not too high. This part of the stream is reached from either Ojai or Wheeler's Hot Springs and by trail ten or fourteen miles.

Lathrop's camp will not be open this year and Cold Springs has been sold to private parties and will not be open to the public any more. Persons wishing to go into the Upper Sespe must arrange to take their own camping equipment with them this year.

Piedra Blanca, Bear Creek and Lion Creek—Branches of the Sespe River, located just below Lathrop's Camp, are in good condition and should furnish nice creels of trout for the anglers who try them.

The headwaters of the Matilija Creek should be good. It will be possible to drive an automobile this year as far up the stream as Ortega's ranch which is about seven miles above Matilija Hot Springs. Persons hiking up to Flat Rock or to the North Fork should have good fishing.

Santa Paula creek was well stocked this year, and by hiking up the stream above Ferndale ranch, fair fishing for small trout should be had.

Snow Creek and Aqua Blanca, tributaries to the Piru Creek should be good for the first week or two of the season. The water is in good condition and these streams have been stocked the past year.

Very little trout fishing will be available in Santa Barbara county as the Santa Ynez river is low, and has been in this condition for the past two years. About the only fishing available will be at the mouth of the river where some stranded steelhead are generally caught at the opening of the season.

<u>May 2, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

CALL'S CATCH ON DISPLAY IN LOCAL STORE – Some practical joker "loaded" A.H. Call's supply basket with a six-inch iron Jewfish hook, which had been wrapped with steel wool, and feathers from a feather duster, before he went back into the Sespe before the opening of fishing season.

When he came back, he gave up the hook, and now it hangs in Primmer's window with a six-inch trout pinned to it, and below, the following sign: "Record catch on a "Call" special. A.H. Call Fly Co. orders filled on short notice."

FASTEN CRIME ON FISHERMAN IN NEW YARN – Fishermen's yarns are going the rounds of local sporting headquarters, and though the name of the culprit varies with the telling, they are relating a story of a local man who went to a stream, hooked a large

trout, and in jerking him from the water, threw his line over the limb of a high tree. Unable to get the fish down, the fisherman started shooting at the line, and a game warden came along and arrested him for shooting without a license.

May 2, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

SATICOY NOTES – L.C. Rounds. Tom Parker, and James Parker left Wednesday afternoon for a fishing trip in the Sespe country. They returned yesterday.

Mrs. T.F. Green with daughter, Nancy Ann, of Ventura is spending a few days at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Sam Doran, 304 Harvard Boulevard, while Mr. Green is fishing in the Sespe.

HONORS WON BY ANGLERS – Honors for the opening day of the trout fishing as reported in to headquarters last night (Sam Primmer's store) went to Wilfred Bercaw, the first to return with the limit of 25 and to young Walter Primmer, whose 21 ¾ inch steelhead was the largest reported up to yesterday evening.

Catches ranging from monsters "which got away" down to real-honest-to-goodness beauties were on the talk of hundreds of local anglers last night. Many limits were taken and the average size of the fish seemed larger than usual.

According to Walter Emerick, county game and fish warden, more than 300 automobiles were reported in the Sespe region yesterday. Many were from out of the county.

When asked where he obtained the trout, Bercaw only shook his head and smiled yesterday. He did not say so, but it is evident that the same spot will see him again in the near future.

May 4, 1930 –Santa Paula Review

OLD JUP PLUVIUS HALTS ANGLERS PLANS TODAY – Old Jupiter Pluvius put a crimp in angling preparations of many local sportsmen last night and today. Several anticipated parties were cancelled but if today proves clear, a few will take their rods and reels to nearby streams.

However, old hands at the game said last night that the postponement of activities today will make wonderful fishing later in the year. As a rule, they pointed out, the streams are pretty nearly fished out on the opening day and the first Sunday.

May 6, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

OXNARD MAN WINS PRIZE – Here is the best and least believable true fish story of the season which opened May 1.

Sam Furrer, rancher, saw a trout pool in Ventura river, teeming with remarkably large fish. He caught one of the trout on a strong hook. The fish fought until it broke the line and escaped.

Furrer dropped in a larger hook on a stronger line and caught another trout. This fish whirled and fought until the line was snarled in an overhanging tree bough and broke it like the first.

On Furrer's third attempt, he hooked a still bigger fish, but this one wasted no time at all breaking the line and escaping.

Furrer's fourth attempt was to keep the fish instead of playing it, but again the fish escaped.

The rancher then went to a lower pool where he soon saw a prize beauty. This time Furrer did not trust his fish pole but waded into the shallow water and with his bare hands seized the fish. Furrer hung the trout, a 27-inch one, by its gills on a tree limb. He resumed fishing.

About this time, a neighbor yelled at Furrer that the gilled fish was escaping. Furrer ran up in time to see his big trout flop into the water.

Desperately, Furrer threw a loop on his fish line into the pool, and miraculously lassoed the escaping fish.

Furrer told friends today that he would not believe the fish story himself, except that he and his family had eaten the 27-inch trout.

May 7, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – Bernard Scott and his brother, Clarence of Ventura, went fishing up Sespe last Thursday and both brought home the limit of trout.

May 8, 1930 – The Piru News

LOCALS – David Henning went fishing Saturday, up the Sespe. He said he got the limit, which was four.

John France and Elton Johnson said they caught thirteen fish in the Sespe, Sunday.

May 9, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING REPORT MADE OF COUNTY TROUT STREAMS – "Ventura county streams were fair to good the opening day of fishing season," says Ceph B. Salisbury, in a report to California newspapers throughout the State. "Limits were taken in Ventura

River, Matilija Creek above Flat Rock, and Upper and Lower Sespe, Piru and its tributaries.

"Following the storm Saturday and Sunday these streams have raised, and little encouragement can be offered for immediate good fishing. Henley's Camp is practically inaccessible due to high water in the Sespe—where a ford is necessary. A cloudburst in the Upper Piru Canyon has practically closed this road beyond the first creek crossing north of Piru."

May 22, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

3 LOCAL ANGLERS GET TROUT LIMIT – Wilfred Bercaw, who was the first to return with the limit of trout on opening day, May 1, V.V. Loyd and Cecil Mathwin went to the Squaw Flat territory early Sunday and hiked over into the Big Sespe fishing grounds through Alder creek. They were rewarded with a limit of large sized trouts for each.

ABOUT TOWN – Wilfred Bercaw and Elgin Snow of Fillmore left yesterday for a few day's fishing in the vicinity of Sespe Hot Springs.

May 23, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SUMMARY SHOWS FISHING STILL GOOD IN COUNTY – In giving a summary of the survey of streams and fishing conditions in Southern California by a member of the staff of the Southern California Automobile club, the following is said of this country:

Ventura county waters are clear, fish plentiful, but small. Lower Sespe still furnishing limits, Agua Blanca and Piru creeks fairly good, but necessary to hike well up-stream, North Fork of Matilija and Ventura River fair.

Little is to be offered in the way of trout fishing in Santa Barbara county, water low and mossy.

May 24, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

SATICOY NOTES – L.C. Rounds and Tom Parker left Tuesday morning for a fishing trip through the Sespe. They plan to return tomorrow.

May 31, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MONTEBELLO NEWS – Robert Jackson, of Oak Ridge, Harry Richmond of Santa Paula and Grover Stroud and son, Spencer, of the lease enjoyed a fishing trip up Sespe last Saturday evening and Sunday. They each brought home a nice string of trout.

Jim Campbell and Bernard Scott spent Wednesday up Sespe trout fishing. They each brought home a good mess of fish.

May 31, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

COUNTY STREAMS LOW AND CLEAR FOR FISHERMEN – Report of the condition of county streams for benefit of anglers follows: Streams are low and clear; fishing has been fair. The Lower Sespe, above Henley's, still furnished small fish to the expert fly caster; necessary to hike well up-stream.

Matilija Creek near Flat Rock fairly good—this is reached by Buena Ventura Hot Springs.

The Upper Sespe, reached by Wheeler's and trail, eight miles from there—good; fish taking fly for experienced fishermen.

Agua Blanca Creek, tributary to the Piru Creek, reached from Piru—fairly good well up-stream toward the Upper Narrows, Piru Creek has been poor.

June 14, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FOUR ARE FINED FOR VIOLATING FISHING LAWS – Three men were fined for taking more trout than the limit and another was fined for fishing without a license, a violation of the angler's license, a violation of the angler's license law, as the result of arrests made on May 30, May 31 and June 2 in the Sespe, according to a report from the local office of the fish and game commission today.

June 27, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BULLETIN ON CONDITION OF FISHING GIVEN – Fishing bulletin, just received from the Automobile Club of Southern California, has the following to say about fishing conditions:

"Anglers who are looking for good fishing nearby will be disappointed, but the angler who is anxious to get out with this camping outfit along some well-shaded, rippling stream with an idea of perhaps wetting his line a few casts, has a choice of many fine camping sites in nearby mountains and canyons.

"For the latter type of sportsman we would suggest that he plan a trip to any of the following streams: Matilija Creek, Ventura River, Sespe River, and Piru Creek, of Ventura County….(list of other areas in Southern California.)…Excellent camp sites will be found either along or adjacent to these streams which offer a possibility of a few small trout to the experienced or lucky fisherman."

July 1, 1930 – Santa Paula Review

SESPE NEWS – Mr. Claud Baker and son Howard and Mr. Sturgeon enjoyed a successful day fishing at Howard creek last Sunday.

July 3, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SESPE CREEK CLEAR NOW FOR GOOD FISHING – Sespe Creek is very clear at this time, and good trout fishing is reported, according to the Touring Department of the National Automobile Club. The fish are coming down from headwaters, and fishing is better now than it has been any time during the season. Salmon eggs and worms are best bait, while Brown Hackle is the best fly. Equipment or supplies of any kind cannot be obtained here, and fishermen should, therefore, bring all their own equipment.

July 21, 1930 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT THRIVE AT 68 DEGREES – Trout seem to thrive best where the daily maximum temperature does not exceed 68 degrees and the temperature variation throughout the day is not too great, according to the American Game Protective Association.

Many people once believed that trout thrived best where the water was coldest. Many fish culturists now deny this theory. Among others, Jan Metzelaar, biologist of the fish division of the Michigan Department of Commerce, believes that an extreme water temperature has kept many plantings of young trout from maturing. Trout shun water that is either too warm or too cold.

One way to control temperature is to plant a fringe of brush or small trees along the banks of small streams which are barren of cover.

December 5, 1930 – Los Angeles Times

TROUT PLANTED IN STREAMS OF COUNTY – Santa Paula, Dec. 5.—With the planting today of 55,000 Loch Leven, rainbow and steelhead trout in the Santa Paula, Matilija and Wheeler creeks, and the Ventura River, by local sportsmen under the supervision of Walter Emerick, assistant fish and game commissioner, the county streams are now well supplied with fish, Emerick stated. Last Monday 55,000 trout were planted in the Sespe, Piru and Lockwood creeks and about 20,000 were planted this morning in Santa Paula Creek. The trout were brought to this city in specially constructed cans from the Independence Hatcheries.

1 9 3 1

Rainfall – 14.00 Inches

January 6, 1931 – Santa Paula Review

EDITORIAL – Scientists are busy debunking many of our early beliefs. Now they are claiming that fish are not really brain food. Be that as it may we have known the catching of one very small trout up the Sespe at the opening of the season to have an extremely invigorating effect on the imagination of the man doing the catching. Jim Procter, Stan Lothridge, S. Torrance Primmer, or any of the other noted sportsmen will confirm that statement.

January 31, 1931 – Los Angeles Times

STEELHEADS PLENTIFUL AT TIDELINE – Local anglers have turned their attention to steelhead fishing at the tidelines of near-by rivers. Thousands of the fish have been milling in the surf outside the Santa Ynez, Ventura and Santa Clara rivers, but owing to the bars across the mouths of the streams, the steelhead have been unable to get up stream.

Some anglers have invaded the surf and caught many good-sized fish. The rains of the early part of the month to some degree lowered the bars, but not enough. More heavy rains will aid considerable in forming a channel for the fish to get through.

A speedier method of opening a channel through the bars is for the sportsmen in the immediate vicinity of each river mouth to get out with teams and plow at low tide and play a channel through. This system has been successfully worked in former seasons, when no heavy storm waters were available.

February 4, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TAX ON FLIES AND ANGLEWORMS MAY FACE STATE FISHERMEN – by Paul K. Guy (UP) – If fish eggs and fish roe used for bait are to be taxed ½ cent a pound, why not a tax on flies and angleworms?

This question is being asked by California sportsmen as the result of a bill introduced by Assemblyman William P. Jost, of Alameda, to tax fish eggs.

Revenue so derived would be used by the Division of Fish and Game for propagating fish to restock depleted trout streams of the State.

Nearly $300,000 a year is devoted to fish production in California, a report by the Fish and Game Commission has revealed.

Twenty-eight hatcheries and 12 egg-collecting stations were operated and 120 deputies patrolled the various fishing grounds, protecting fish and supervising propagation work last year.

Salaries of patrol officers brought the bill up to well over $500,000—and that figure does not include the cost of work on fish screens, ladders, water pollution or general administration.

"A ½ cent tax per pound on fish eggs or roe, used for bait, would not work a hardship on anyone," declared Mr. Jost, "yet it would provide a substantial fund each year to improve fishing conditions."

Propagation of trout is an expensive and delicate job, according to William H. Shebley, chief of the bureau of fish culture.

"Most people think all that is necessary is to toss eggs into a water trough, wait for them to hatch and then toss the young fingerlings into the rivers and lakes," he said, "but this is far from the case."

"Temperature of the water, artificial feeding, transportation of fish for replanting and slow acclimatization of the young fish to cold streams are important and sometimes difficult considerations."

Without continued extensive propagation of fish, it was pointed out, trout fishing in California may in a very short time be numbered among the "lost arts."

<u>February 6, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

ROADS STAND RAINFALL IN GOOD SHAPE – Seawalls and sidehills along the new Roosevelt coast highway in this county stood the test of the recent storm and high waves in better shape than had been expected, it was reported today to County Engineer Charles Petit by the State district engineer, S.V. Cortelyou.

Some damage was reported on the highway a few miles west of Santa Monica and workmen today were removing the last of the debris from the highway.

Reports that the Roosevelt highway had been closed to motorists were discounted by Petit who said that the road is in good shape. There is a small detour near Topanga canyon.

The county has several men working on various roads of this county, cleaning away debris caused by erosion during the recent rains. One crew is in the Bardsdale region while another is working between Simi and Moorpark.

Walter Emerick, county fire warden and fish and game commissioner, inspected the Bardsdale and Moorpark districts yesterday afternoon and reported that the ravages of erosion can be seen in many places.

This is due, he said, to the brush coverage being burned off last fall in the terrific brush fire which swept thousands of acres in those sections.

In some instances the waters carried silt and boulders into citrus orchards. The damage is small, he said, but demonstrates what erosion can do if the brush is burned off.

In Scarab canyon, near the county line, Oak Park, usually dry, had eight feet of water. A culvert had become clogged with the silt and the flood waters spread for many feet over the pavement. In some places it was more than a foot deep.

In commenting on the high waters, Emerick stated that the 115,000 trout recently planted in the county streams will be benefited and anglers will have good sport when fishing season opens May 1. Steelhead season, open during the winter months, closes February 28. It has been a slow season for steelhead fishing, the commissioner said.

March 5, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ISSUE WARNING TO VIOLATORS OF FISH LAWS – As a warning to those who have been fishing in local streams out of season, Fish and Game Commissioner Walter Emerick today announced that several violators have been caught and prosecuted and heavy fines away any others who take trout without waiting until the season opens May 1.

Everett Logan, of this city, charged with violation of Section 632 of the law governing the Fish and Game Commission, that of catching trout out of season, was arrested here yesterday afternoon, he appeared before Judge S.B. Bagnall in the local justice court.

He was fined $20 but Judge Bagnall suspended $15 of this amount on Logan's promise to never violate the ruling again.

Three Mexican youths, whose ages ranged from 12 to 16 years, were arrested last week by Commissioner Emerick. No complaints were filed in Juvenile court, but the boys were taken before Judge Bagnall who gave them a severe reprimand. They were allowed their freedom upon their promise of good behavior.

It was also reported that some persons have been spearing the steelhead trout which have been coming up local streams to spawn. Local sportsmen have been up in arms at this report as it was pointed out that this practice is decidedly detrimental to the best interests of fishermen.

March 28, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FED STEELHEAD DUE TO LACK OF WATER – San Francisco, March 23. – Due to a shortage of water, steelhead runs in the California streams have been very light this year, according to reports at the Division of Fish and Game.

Streams on which egg collecting stations are located have not contained sufficient water to attract the fish. This has resulted in a very much smaller egg-take, to date, than in usually received at this time of year.

The extreme drought is quite noticeable in all main streams and tributaries, according to division field men. Unless there is sufficient rainfall to thoroughly soak the ground and create a run off, the fishing activities will be greatly curtailed.

Egg collecting stations along the coast streams and tributaries opened about the first of February and will continue to operate as long as there is practical need for such work.

April 29, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCAL ANGLERS ARE PREPARING FOR OPENING SEASON FRIDAY – Although streams in the county are still muddy as the result of the recent rains, it is expected that hundreds of Santa Paula fishermen will greet the opening of trout season on next Friday, May 1.

Walter Emerick, assistant fish and game commissioner of the State, said today that the outlook is fair and that the best fishing in the county will probably be in the upper Sespe and in the Wheeler's and Matilija districts. The Sespe always attracts the most anglers, with hundreds of Los Angeles sportsmen trying that stream on the opening day.

"Be sure and have your license" is the warning issued by Emerick. It is not necessary for persons under the age of 18 years to have a license, however. The streams will be patrolled by members of the commission to see that the regulations are not violated.

Fishing on Friday cannot begin until one hour before sunrise. The limit is 25 fish.

If camping parties are contemplated, Emerick stated that permits to start fires must be obtained, and also warned against carelessness in starting or stamping out camp fires.

In the next day or so, Emerick hopes to have a report on the condition of the streams in the Bishop country, where many local anglers go every year.

April 30, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHERMEN TO RISE EARLY TOMORROW – More than 150 trout-minded Santa Paulans will greet the opening of the trout and bass fishing season tomorrow morning, it

was indicated here today as preparations were being made for the annual event. The legal opening hour will be 4:04 a.m., just one hour before sunrise.

The Sespe district, always the favorite spot, will attract the largest number of anglers, both from this county and Los Angeles county. However, the Santa Paula creek, the Santa Clara and Ventura rivers and the streams near Wheeler's and Matilija will have their share of fishermen.

Streams are rapidly clearing and the prospect of limit catches of 25 are growing better each hour. By next Tuesday, if no more rain falls, the muddy streams should be clear, it was pointed out.

Worms, spinners and salmon eggs are being thrust in fishing bags and reels were being oiled today by many local anglers who plan week-end trips to various sections of the state. Some are going to the Bishop country.

According to Sam Primmer, local sporting goods store proprietor, many fishing licenses have been issued in the past few days as well as a large number of camp fire permits.

Walter Emerick, assistant state fish and game commissioner, issued a warning earlier in the week about obtaining licenses and fire permits. Persons under the age of 18 do not need a fishing license, but must conform to regulations.

Streams will be patrolled by deputy fish and game commissioners tomorrow, Emerick stated.

Conditions of Santa Barbara streams is generally poor for fishing at this time, according to Captain L.T. Ward, district fish and game commissioner of that county.

May 1, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TOM HARRISON IS FIRST TO REPORT TROUT LIMIT ON OPENING MORING – Tom Harrison, president of the Santa Paula Lions club and local Union Oil company salesmanager, was the first local angler to report a limit catch of 25 trout to the sportsmen's headquarters at the Primmer company this morning. Tom came in shortly after 10 a.m. fro the Santa Paula creek with his catch.

Conditions were generally better than expected, it was reported. The weather turned out to be splendid for fishing as many had feared that the clouds of the past few days had meant another storm. The streams are rapidly clearing of the mud, and by next week, ideal conditions should prevail.

One boy, whose name was not learned, pulled out a 23-inch beauty from under the Willard bridge across from the Santa Clara river this morning. Roy Neugebauer pulled out ten steelheads, averaging from 10 to 14 inches, from a pool in the Santa Clara river.

Several other nice catches were reported from the Sespe, Santa Paula and Santa Clara rivers.

It was estimated that some 150 local anglers were out today to welcome the opening of the trout season but over the week-end, it is expected that twice the number will be out with rod and reel, lurking round the cool pools of the county streams.

May 1, 1931 – Santa Paula Review

A FISHERMAN FOR EVERY ROCK TODAY – Fishermen arose early this morning in order to be first in position to hook unwary trout and bass that had forgotten to note the date of the opening of the fishing season.

Devotees of the sport have been busy for days oiling reels, securing worms, salmon eggs and other inducements, and making complete preparations for this day of days, even to composing their alibis and the biggest-one-that-got-away stories.

Many fishing licenses and camp fire permits have been issued in the past few days.

May 1, 1931 – Ventura Free Press

FISHERMEN THRONG BANKS OF STREAMS AS SEASON OPENS – More than 200 fishermen thronged the banks of the Sespe and Santa Paula creeks today as trout season opened. Bright sunlight marked the opening of the season, and while at a late hour this morning no limit catches had been reported, the fishing was said to be fairly good in spite of water slightly muddied from the recent rains.

A few fishermen were trying their luck early today along the Santa Clara river, but as a whole the group confined their trials to the creeks.

Fishing will be better by Sunday, as the waters clear of mud, it is said, and even better a week from now.

May 2, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING IS NOT EXCLUSIVE MEN'S SPORT; PROVED BY MRS. STEIN – Reams and reams of copy have been written about local anglers and fishermen—now Mrs. William Stein, well known local resident, comes to the front for the women's right in this fishing business.

Noting that little or nothing was said in the public prints about fisher women or angleresses, Mrs. Stein took her fishing rod and reel and hied herself to the Santa Paula creek yesterday, opening day for the trout season.

Before noon, she had pulled in the limit, 25, of fine trout, averaging from six to ten inches in length and thoroughly edible (as vouched by her husband, Billy Stein, this morning.)

"Not that it matters much, for I wasn't any competition, but I just wanted to show that the fairer sex knows a little about fishing and that it's not a man's pastime altogether," Mrs. Stein declared.

FISHERMAN DE LUXE ASKS ROCKS BE TAKEN OUT OF SESPE – "Why don't they do something about clearing the rocks out of the Sespe," declared a fisherman de luxe yesterday morning as he sprawled out on the rocks after he had swung back his line and toppled over backwards. There was no sign of a fish on the end of the line, the sinkers striking a submerged rock causing the de luxe fisherman to think he had a bite.

Local fishermen watched the "jim dandy" from the time he alighted from an expensive limousine near Henley's and proceeded to unpack his shiny new pole, line, etc., until he gave up in disgust and went home, minus fish, after his fall from grace.

The fishermen de luxe was attired in a natty green hat, spotless white shirt and pretty green tie, blue golf knickers, blue golf socks and white golf shoes with rubber soles, making slipping easy on the rocks. He sallied forth after carefully arranging his hook, line and sinker and generous big new fishing basket.

Carefully tip-toeing over the wet and dry boulders, he perched on one in the middle of the stream. He carefully dropped his line into the rushing waters of the Sespe only long enough to feel something jerk his line. Out came the line, sinkers and all, and over went Mr. Fisherman, sprawling on the rocks.

He told the crowd of rugged old veterans of the Sespe that he "just wasn't going to come back until they removed the rocks." It was with difficulty that they withheld laughing as he related his sad experiences, which they had witnessed. When he drove away the hills of the Sespe resounded with hilarious laughter.

LOCALS – Jim Hatcher, Russell Bunting and Harry Bunting were among the anglers who succeeded in getting the limit the opening day of the season. Their fishing was confined to Alder Creek in Sespe, and most of the trout were from eight to ten inches long.

<u>May 4, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

2,000 ANGLERS IN COUNTY FOR TROUT FISHING – More than 2,000 anglers from all parts of Southern California, fished in Ventura county streams during the opening days of the 1931 trout season, according to the estimate made this morning by Walter Emerick, assistant state fish and game commissioner.

About 150 limits were caught in the county, he stated, and of that number 45 were taken from the Upper Sespe.

J.N. Procter, deputy fish and game commissioner, returned this morning from the Upper Sespe country and reported that five inches of rain fell in that area last week. The streams were clear, however, and the sun shone every day whereas most of the mornings of the past week here have been foggy and cloudy.

Most of the best catches were reported from those regions where it was hardest to reach and where it was necessary to have horses, it was pointed out. Flies proved the best bait in this region.

Procter said he saw many deer tracks and stated that these animals were using the lower regions because of dry conditions before the last rain. Deer hunting season opens on August 1.

Emerick stated that five violations of the regulations were reported to him. Two were for fishing without licenses, one for fishing before the opening day and two for carrying funs in the game refuge without a permit. These cases are to be heard in the Fillmore Justice Court soon.

May 6, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SHOW FISHING ONLY SHORT WAY FROM CITY LIMITS – Within a few miles from the city limits of Santa Paula fishing is good. If you don't believe it, ask Burke Crane and Herbert Hagen, two local boys. They caught a 24-inch rainbow trout in the Santa Paula Creek, this side of Steckel Park late yesterday afternoon. Burke Crane, a little fellow, first hooked the big fish and it almost pulled him over. He yelled for Herbert and the two of them fought and finally land the big fish.

They brought it to the *Chronicle* office to prove it wasn't just a fish story. So excited were they that they immediately came to town with the fish.

May 9, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PROMISE BETTER FISHING IN STATE – Washington, May 9. – Better fishing is promised California with announcement today by Henry O'Malley, United States Commissioner of Fisheries that his bureau and the California State Division of Fish and Game are to start this month on a joint study of the trout and steelhead salmon situation in California with a view to stocking the waters of the State to their maximum capacity.

May 12, 1931 – Santa Paula Review
PROUD YOUNG FISHERMAN LANDS LARGE STEELHEAD – One of the proudest young fishermen in Santa Paula Saturday afternoon was James Stallings, 13 year-old son of George Stallings of 1060 New street.

The lad came into the *Review* office with a steelhead trout 24 inches long, weighing four and a quarter pounds, which he had caught "down by the Willard bridge." "I caught him in less than five minutes after I commenced to fish," he declared.

Some older fishermen might get some valuable pointers!

May 14, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES ACT JOINTLY TO IMPROVE FISHING – Through the good offices of Representative A.M. Free, of the Eighth Congressional District of California, an agreement recently has been reached between the United States Bureau of Fisheries and the California Division of Fish and Game to undertake a large scale, thorough and systematic co-operative study of the trout and steelhead salmon situation, with the view to stocking waters in the State to their maximum capacity, Henry O'Malley, U.S. Commissioner of Fisheries, announced today. The investigation will be the most thorough and far reaching that has ever been undertaken in the West, Mr. O'Malley said, since it will involve the co-ordination of scientific research, fishery regulation, and practical fish culture. At a conference in Washington on March 30, 1931, between the commissioner and other officers of the bureau and Mr. Embody and his assistants, preliminary plans were drawn to undertake active field work during the present month.

The present program of development and research is an outgrowth of the effort in California to protect the food and game fish resources of the coastal region from the encroachment of hydro-electric power development. In 1924 the people of California adopted an initiative measure establishing the Klamath River fish and game district with the definite belief that hydro-electric development, unless curbed, would destroy the migration of sea-run fish in that system. At that time the California Chamber of Commerce appointed the Klamath River Study committee to make a thorough study of the conflicting claims upon the proper use of the Klamath River and to develop if possible a program of future use that would best serve the interests of the States. The membership of the committee includes such eminent names as Theodore J. Hoover, and other eminent Californians, and their activities appear to be unique among them many useful functions of Chambers of Commerce.

During the two years of study by this committee, interest has spread from the proper development and protection of the valuable commercial and sport fisheries of the Klamath River to the problem of maintaining or developing the food and game fisheries of all the State's streams and lakes. A plan of study proposed by another eminent engineer and ardent angler, Professor Theodore J. Hoover, dean of the School of Engineering, Stanford University, has been the foundation of the more comprehensive plan to be undertaken by the State and Federal governments.

Definite action was taken by J.S. Farley, executive officer of the California Division of Fish and Game, on November 6, 1930 when he invited Commissioner O'Malley to

provide the personnel and facilities of the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries in the co-operative investigation to be financed equally by the two organizations. The Federal Government's participation in this investigation has been made possible by the five-year expansion program of the Bureau of Fisheries, known as the White Bill, which was ardently advocated by Congressman Free, when it was before Congress for action. The proposal was promptly accepted for its presents an opportunity to undertake a type of investigation which will serve as a model in other localities.

The Civil Service Commission has selected Dr. George C. Embody, of Cornell University, directory of the investigation. The Bureau was fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Embody, who is eminently fitted by training and practical experience not only to conduct scientific research in hydrobiology, but to work effectively in the applied science of agriculture or fish culture. He has had many years experience with trout cultural problems in various sections of the country and has given courses in aquiculture and limnology at Cornell University and at the University of Washington. Moreover, he has had a responsible part in the development of the New York State Conservation Commission's stream survey program in recent years and has supervised one of the Federal bureau's trout hatcheries engaged in the development of improved methods of rearing and planting trout. He will be assisted by Allan C. Taft, assistant aquatic biologist of the bureau, who has been stationed for several years on the Pacific Coast, and by other of the bureau's specialists as occasion demands. Headquarters will be established at Stanford University where facilities and co-operation have been cordially provided by Professor J.O. Snyder and other members of the university staff.

The investigation will be conducted along three lines. First, the development of a domestic brood stock of trout having the characteristics of rapid growth, high egg production, and great resistance to disease and other mortality factors. Eggs for hatchery propagation will be obtained from this stock.

Second, methods to facilitate the raising of larger fish for stocking purposes will be developed. Adequate sport for the angler cannot be maintained in heavily fished trout streams by planting fry, Commissioner O'Malley pointed out, for the interval between planting and the legal size is too great and the greatest mortality occurs during the first year. Consequently, it is proposed to raise the fish to a larger size before planting.

Third, stream stocking procedures will be standardized along scientific lines. Intensive stream surveys will be made in various localities and certain streams selected for trial stocking purposes. The drain upon the fish stock by sport fishermen will be studied and a stocking policy for the more important sections of the State developed. The utility of various legal restrictions will be considered in order to adopt measures which will assure to everyone the opportunity for a satisfying day's fishing throughout the State.

<u>June 22, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

TWO-HEADED TROUT ARE PRODUCED AT STATE HATCHERY: REAL FISH STORY – Here's another fish story for Santa Paula anglers to ponder over!

The climate of California, noted for the remarkable effects it produces upon the animal and vegetable kingdom, is like to have a new achievement to its credit, says J.H. Vogt, of the State Board of Fish Culture.

This is a two-headed trout which is being produced at the state's fish hatchery on the Yuba river as part of the 40,000,000 trout hatched by the state each season.

When local fishermen return home from big fishing trips and tell of the two-headed trout that leaped out of the stream and grabbed two hooks at one time, the state will back up the story.

October 7, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

193,000 FISH TO BE PLANTED IN THIS COUNTY – More than 193,000 trout are to be distributed in the various rivers and creeks of Ventura county by Walter Emerick, fish and game commissioner, in the next few days, according to a report from his office here today.

The fish are expected to arrive either tomorrow or Friday and will be immediately distributed. They will be delivered in 120 cans from the Mt. Whitney hatchery. The fish comprising rainbow, Loch Leven and steelhead trout, will be distributed as follows: Sespe Creek, 33,000; Ventura River and tributaries, 50,000; Santa Paula Canyon Creek, 20,000; Agua Blanca, 20,000; and Sespe Creek, 70,000.

October 9, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DELAY TROUT PLANTING IN THIS COUNTY – Due to a necessary delay, the trout from the Mount Whitney Hatcheries, which were due in this county tomorrow, will not arrive until October 17, it was announced by Walter Emerick, fish and game warden, who will have charge of the planting in the county streams.

The first consignment, of about 60,000 fish, will be planted in the Lower Sespe Creek, Emerick said. The remainder of the total shipment of 193,000 steelhead and Loch Leven trout are to arrive a few days after October 17.

The fish will be brought to this county in cans from the hatchery by truck. Local sportsmen will aid Emerick in planting the trout immediately after they arrive.

About 20,000 trout are to be planted in the Santa Paula Creek, Ventura River and its tributaries, the Upper Sespe, the Agua Blanca, and other county streams are to be restocked.

Planting of young trout in county streams is done annually at this time of the year and local fishermen are assured of good sport when the trout season opens in May.

October 17, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

60,000 TROUT PLANTED TODAY IN SESPE CREEK – Under the direction of Walter Emerick, deputy fish and game commissioner, 60,000 rainbow and steelhead trout from the Mt. Whitney hatcheries were planted in the Sespe creek this morning by ten local sportsmen.

Another shipment of 60,000 fish will be planted next Tuesday, October 20, in the Santa Paula and Agua Blanca creeks, Emerick said.

October 20, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH ARE JUST LIKE HUMANS—THEY NEED SHADE – Sacramento, Cal., Oct. 20. (UP) Fish need shade, the same as human beings, the state fish and game commission says in a bulletin to all sportsmen of California.

"By planting willow twigs and shrubs along river banks that will soon grow and furnish shade during hot weather, a better environment is created for trout, bass, and other game fish," the statement said.

"Nature lovers can do just as much to improve the home of the fish family as they are doing for quail, grouse, pheasant, turkey, rabbit, and deer. Trout and bass shun water temperatures that are either too hot or too cold. A good cover growth along the banks of ponds, lakes and streams attract many insects, thus increasing the food supply for fish."

"One way to control the temperature is to plant a fringe of brush or small trees along streams barren of cover."

October 24, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle
October 27, 1931 – Santa Paula Review

MANY THOUSAND FISH PLANTED IN VENTURA COUNTY – Trout streams in Ventura county have been enriched to the extent of 183,000 fingerling trout recently planted by the California division of fish and game.

The fish, which are from the Mount Whitney hatchery, were shipped by truck equipped with water-aerating apparatus.

Notwithstanding the long haul, 12 hours being required for transportation, the fish arrived in excellent condition, it is reported.

The fish have been distributed among the following streams: Upper Sespe creek, Ventura river and tributaries, Santa Paula Canyon, Sespe creek, Agua Blanca.

Species of trout contained in the shipment are as follows: steelhead, 148,000; rainbow, 25,000; Loch Leven, 10,000.

1 9 3 2

Rainfall – 20.60 Inches

January 17, 1931 – Los Angeles Times

STEELHEAD MAY START EARLY RUN – The big spring steelhead run up the Southern California rivers is expected any day, it was learned from Earl Wilcox of the Western Auto Supply, who has returned from a scouting trip to the Santa Clara, Santa Ynez and Ventura rivers.

Wilcox found the mouth of the Santa Ynez in excellent shape with plenty of water even at low tide. He found the lagoon, however, muddied up and learned that small runs of steelhead had already gone up the river.

He found excellent conditions at the Ventura mouth, a deep channel being made through the bar by recent high waters from the storms. He learned at Ventura that on New Year's Day a run had started up the river, lasting two hours.

The Santa Clara was found in excellent shape, a channel in the bar having been opened by storm waters to a width of 100 yards. The lagoon was likewise in splendid shape for fishing, with the water clear, but he found that fishing had not been good, owing to the fact that the large runs of steelhead had not started. (Remainder of the article was about hunting.)

March 17, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCALS – …The steelhead run is noticeably poor this season according to reports.

March 25, 1932 – Santa Paula Review

STREAMS ARE STOCKED FOR SPORTSMEN – by Frank M. Bockway – (Reprinted from the *Los Angeles Sunday Times*, March 20, 1932). Additional data from the State Division of Fish and Game swell the total of trout plantings in Los Angeles county streams during the 1931 season to nearly 194,000. The liberating of fingerlings is not done all at one time, several thousand being released on a certain day in a certain location and then after a lapse of several days several thousand more may be let free at this same location. Thus the total of 138,000 trout, referred to in the first of this series dealing with trout plantings in Southern California counties, included only such plantings up to a certain date.

…Ventura county, the land of the boulder-bordered Sespe River, received a generous supply of fingerling releases, all releases for the 1931 season totaling about 198,000. This number included rainbow, steelhead and Loch Leven species.

All trout released were hatched out by the State's fish culturists at the Kaweah hatchery and the Mt. Whitney hatchery.

They were distributed as follows: Sespe Creek, seventeen miles from the mouth, 50,000 steelhead, 10,000 rainbow; Upper Sespe, 23,000 steelhead, 10,000 rainbow; Ventura River, 16,000 steelhead; Ventura River and tributaries, 34,000 rainbow; Agua Blanca, 20,000 steelhead; Santa Paula Canyon 5,000 steelhead, 10,000 Loch Leven, 5,000 rainbow.

April 7, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens May 1st. Rods 90c to $25.00; Lines 15c to $12.50. The Primmer Co. 957 Main Street

April 8, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

JUNE LAKE FISHING DURING MAY RESTRICTED; STEELHEAD EGGS LACKED – Faced by a marked shortage in the supply of steelhead eggs, the state has restricted June Lake to certain fishing days during May, according to a report reaching here today from Lou Reed of the Tufts-Lyon Arms company in Los Angeles.

April 11, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ASK CLOSING OF SOME STREAMS TO TROUT FISHING – San Francisco, April 11. – Acting under authority granted by the legislature of 1927, the State Fish and Game Commission has prepared a list of streams and lakes in California that they recommend be closed to trout fishing during the coming season.

At the same time a number of streams and lakes closed, from one to three years past, will be opened to trout fishing at the opening of the season, if the recommendations of the Fish and Game Commission are approved.

The action of the commissioners is one of conservation, and their recommendations are based upon a thorough study and survey of sport fishing in California, coupled with suggestions and requests of many protective and sportsmen's associations, whose ideas were given careful consideration.

The list of waters affected by the recommendations include:

Ventura county – The West Fork of Matilija Creek and its tributaries from its junction with Matilija Creek to its head.

All of Piedra Blanca Creek and its tributaries to its junction with Sespe Creek to its head. (Remainder of the article lists affected areas in Inyo and Mono Counties.)

April 20, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FOREST SERVICE FIRE PERMITS ISSUED HERE – New fire permits for the United States Forest Service, California region, have been issued and may be secured here at the Primmer Company. These permits are for campers who expect to build fires in the national forest.

The price of fishing licenses this year remains the same at $2. There have been reports that the license prices was raised to $3.

Local anglers are busy preparing for the opening of trout season on May 1. Many thousand trout were planted in county streams last fall by local fish and game authorities.

April 22, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Opens May 1. We have a new line of fishing materials of more value…and better quality at the newly revised prices. Primmer Cycle and Sporting Co.

April 22, 1932 – Santa Paula Review
April 23, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – It is desired to call to the public's attention the fact that the trout season will open on May 1st in Fish and Game District No. 3 and that this year the West Fork of Matilija Creek, also known as Murietta Canyon, will be closed to fishing. Also, the Piedra Blanca Creek which is a tributary to the Sespe.

Proper notices will be posted on these creeks and no fishing will be allowed.

The reason for this is to use these streams as breeding grounds in order to help keep the main streams stocked.

It is desired that all sportsmen cooperate to the fullest extent in helping us enforce this regulation.

The taking of grunion on the coast is prohibited during the months of April, May and June. The grunion season will open July 1st. In taking these fish it is unlawful to use a net of any description.

Yours very truly,
Walter F. Emerick
Asst. State Fish & Game Com, and
County Game Warden

April 25, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Lure 'em and Land 'em with Pleasingly Priced Tackle from Western Auto. In our Fishing Tackle Department you'll find nationally known and popular tackle for every type of western fishing—trout—bass—steelhead—salmon—mackerel—halibut—perch—barracuda—marlin or the lordly tuna…or any other denizen of the briny deep, the tranquil pool or the rushing stream. And, you'll also find prices that are typical of "Western Auto" where greater purchasing power and our popular "one low profit" selling policy give you better tackle for less. Western Auto Supply Co.

April 26, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SEASON RAIN TOTAL PAST 21 INCHES – Boosting the season's total to more than 21 inches, .35 of an inch of rain fell here last night. The precipitation brought the storm total to .52 of an inch and the season's total to 21.11 inches. Last year at this time, 13.08 inches had been recorded.

The rain was accompanied by snow which covered Santa Paula ridge, something unusual this late in April. Ernest Baxter, United States forester at Ojai, said there is six inches of snow on the ridge back of Ojai.

The rain has not harmed crops and bean growers welcome another inch. However, more rain might make the streams of the county muddy and spoil some of the fun for fishermen on May 1, the opening of trout season, Walter Emerick, county fish and game warden, said today.

Just a year ago today, one of the heaviest rains of the season was recorded. The gauge at the Santa Paula Citrus Fruit Association on April 26, 1931 recorded 1.68 inches at 8 a.m. for the storm.

April 27, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Watkins Hardware Co. 910 Main Street. Enjoy a Real Fishing Trip. Don't spoil your vacation with old worn out fishing equipment when you can obtain everything you need and of the finest quality too, at Watkins Hardware Co. at a very small cost. We've done our best to help the sportsmen of Santa Paula get ready for a good time at prices they can afford. We believe you'll be might pleased when you see our new line of fishing supplies and will buy too. We Know Where To Go—Ask Us.

April 28, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – What is the best fly for the Santa Paula Creek? Which is the best spinner for the Sespe? What tackle should I take to the Bishop Country? Our 21 years of Tackle Experience in Santa Paula enables us to answer these and many other questions as well as provide you with just the right tackle. We stock 14 kinds of line, 47 patterns of

flies, 26 patterns of spinners, 16 kinds of trout reels, rods up to $25.00. If it's trout tackle, we have it. Prices to suite everybody. The Primmer Co. Established 1911.

April 29, 1932 – Los Angeles Times

FESTIVE TROUT SET FOR WORST – …Scouts report that everything will be fine and dandy for the opening on Sunday. The streams are high but clear with more fish in them than for the past several years. More fish than ever before have been planted in the Southern California streams and the experienced fisherman should take his limit without a great deal of work.

The upper reaches of Piru Creek and Agua Blanca are not too high and look good. It will be possible to drive to within a mile of good fishing. Sespe, another favorite of Southern California anglers, looks better and more promising for real fishing than for many years, the water being clear and with enough flow to make real interesting fishing. (The rest of the article was on other areas in Southern California.)

April 29, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING BEGINS HOUR BEFORE SUN UP SUNDAY – One hour before sun up Sunday morning, the 1932 trout season will open. It is illegal to fish one hour after sun down or during the night until the opening hour in the morning. It was erroneously stated in an article yesterday that the opening hour was a half hour before sun up and the closing time was a half hour before sun down.

The sun will rise at 5:04 a.m. Sunday and fishing can be started at 4:04 but it will be about 20 minutes before there will be enough light for the anglers.

County Game Warden Walter Emerick left this morning with his son, Walter, Jr., for the Sespe Hot Springs country and he will not return until after the first of the season. He will have 14 deputies out the first day.

Jay Crusey, of Watkins Hardware Company, dropped a few tips to fishermen today. Streams will be "fighting cold" for trout and they should give anglers some real battles, he said. The area above Henley's camp in the Sespe is promising and those who want to go further back will find good fishing in the area around Lyon and Bear canyons, he said. There are good places to camp in that region.

Crusey said he would be glad to "tip-off" anglers on intimate secrets of the profession.

Nearly 200 state fishing licenses had been issued by noon today at the two places handling them here—Watkins Hardware and Western Auto Supply stores.

The season will officially open for a six-month run at 4:39 a.m. Monday, a half hour before sunrise. The zero hour will find many fishermen perched on rocks along the Ventura county's streams.

There are plenty of fish, it was reported from the office of L.R. Orton, county game warden. The lack of rainfall this last winter has kept most of the steelhead from returning to the ocean, and there are consequently some extra large fish still in the small streams, it was explained.

Six members of Orton's staff will be on duty before the opening to guard against "sooners," and after it is to see that anglers take no fish under six inches long and also do not exceed the limit of 20 per man per day.

A large influx of Los Angeles district fishermen is expected in Ventura County, while many parties of local sportsmen are planning to drive to the High Sierras for the opening. Still others are planning to wait a week to avoid too much competition.

Only 20 campfire permits, required by state law in the back country, have been issued in the last three days at the county game warden's office in the county building on Santa Barbara street, indicating that relatively few parties are expecting to make overnight camping trips.

Main fishing spots in Ventura county:

Sespe creek above Fillmore, including many tributaries.

Santa Paula creek and tributaries.

Ventura river, the lower portion for steelhead and the upper parts for freshwater trout, including Coyote, Santa Ana, Matilija, Murietta creeks.

Piru creek above Fillmore.

April 30, 1931 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT SEASON OPENS TOMORROW – Hundreds of local fishermen today had made final preparations for greeting the opening of the 1932 trout fishing season tomorrow, May 1. Several parties left for favored spots this morning and others were to leave this afternoon. Many will arise early tomorrow in order to be on hand at the opening hour.

Streams are clear and cold, according to trout enthusiasts, and anglers are anticipating real sport.

Sam Primmer, local sporting store proprietor, estimated that between 400 and 500 local fishermen will be out tomorrow.

May 2, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HOP TO HOT SPRINGS IN 15 MINUTES TO FISH, BUT FIND ROCKS FULL – Two well known local flyers, Assemblyman Dan W. Emmett and Ralph Dickenson, decided that they would go up to the fishing grounds Saturday afternoon by air and remain for the season opening. They were more fortunate than the average fisherman for while they journeyed away up to the Sespe Hot Springs to fish only to find every rock had a fisherman on it, the round trip only took three hours.

The two flyers hopped off from here in Dickenson's plane. Dickenson landed on top of a bluff at the head of the Sespe, just above the Springs. They hiked down to the stream and on finding no place where a possible vacancy existed, took a drink of sulphur water and hiked back up the bluff to the plane. It took only fifteen minutes by air each way from Santa Paula but it consumed hours to walk up and down. However, it takes nine hours each way to pack in.

But Assemblyman Emmett forgot his coat. It was left on top of the bluff and now he must go back after it as he declares no one but a mountain goat or a bear could make away with it as the bluff is almost inaccessible.

ANGLERS COMPARE NOTES ON FIRST DAY OF SEASON – Good, bad and hard luck stories floated up and down Main street this morning as Santa Paula disciples of Isaac Walton got together to compare notes on the opening of trout season Sunday, May 1.

Among the first to report limits of 25 trout were Wilfred Bercaw, John Harding and Frank Mosher. Others "explained" how they were not so successful.

There were some 300 cars in the Sespe and the Santa Paula creek was also well populated. A few went down to the river.

Francis Stine's 25-inch, 5 pounder, was the first large size catch to the *Chronicle.*

May 8, 1932 – Los Angeles Times

OPENING WEEK OF SEASON FINDS THOUSANDS OF ANGLERS FISHING STREAMS OF SOUTHLAND – by Frank M. Bockway

Hundreds of limits of trout have been taken from the streams and lakes in Southern Cali8fornia since last Sunday. A report from the State Division of Fish and Game declared that 85 per cent of the streams were productive of good fishing since the opening.

May 10, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

May 20, 1932 – Santa Paula Review

GAME LAWS IN COUNTY BEING OBSERVED – Game laws in Ventura County are being well observed, according to a quarterly report submitted by County Game Warden Walter Emerick to the Board of Supervisors. The substance of the report follows:

…County streams this winter during the rainy season carried less oil pollution than any time in the past. There was some pollution however, in the Santa Clara river, Piru Creek, Ventura river and Santa Paula creek. In all cases trout conditions in the county are no better than last season, even though all the streams carried more water than last year. There was practically no steelhead run during the winter months and no ocean run of smaller trout.

…All fish screens on ditch intakes of the county were examined in Emerick during the quarter. He traveled, the report concluded 34 miles on foot and 121 miles on horseback in his work.

June 30, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

STATE TO HAVE BUMPER CROP OF FISH AND GAME – Sacramento, Cal., June 30. (UP) – California is going to have a bumper crop of fish and game birds this year, anyway, in the opinion of officials of the state fish and game commission.

…George Neal, head of the bureau of fish rescue, reported that during the last six months his department has rescued 7,855,865 game fish from overflowed areas and transported them to new "homes." During the past three years the bureau has saved 16,992,537 fish, the report claimed.

With the exception of trout and salmon, most of these fish have been imported from other states and consist of black calico and striped bass, catfish and sunfish.

Another report to the commission revealed that during the first four months of the year, approximately 32,200,000 trout eggs had been taken or received at the hatcheries.

July 9, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MERCURY HERE HOVERS AROUND 80-DEG. MARK – Although many thought it was hotter, the thermometer at the county building yesterday showed that 80 degrees was the highest point reached. The mercury registered 78 degrees at noon today.

With indication of warm weather tomorrow, hundreds are expected to line county beaches. Several have signified their intention of seeking the elusive trout in county streams.

July 29, 1932 – Santa Paula Review

SESPE FISHING GOOD – Good trout fishing is being enjoyed at Henley's Camp on the Big Sespe River, reports the Touring Department of the Automobile Club of Southern California. The water is clear and lowering somewhat. A number of large trout have been caught with worms as best bait. The small fry has also been successful.

August 4, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHARGES STATE, BUYS PAPER FISH FOR PLANTING – Portola, Cal., Aug. 4. (UP)—"Paper fish" are being provided the people of California, the Plumas county chamber of commerce charges in launching a fight against methods of the State Fish and Game Commission.

The chamber of commerce, located in the Feather River Wonderland, scene of much of the state's best fishing indorsed the report of V.A. Hart of Lake Almanor, head of a special committee, who declared that many of the fish reported planted in state waters were found only in the records and not in the streams.

A resolution adopted by the organization opposed the "antiquated and expensive methods of trout propagation and planting as now practiced."

It is declared that "modern highways and automobile transportation are bringing over 300,000 anglers annually to fish the waters of our state and under this terrific drain we find that our lakes and streams are being depleted to an alarming extent."

"Skilled planting crews" were advocated "with modern equipment and with a definite planting program determined upon by their head fish culturists, together with the aid and assistance of interested local organizations."

It asked that trout not less than 60 days old be planted in waters difficult of access, headwaters, barren and semi-barren waters, and that larger and more accessible waters be planted with larger fingerlings and the season be finished by planting four to six-inch fingerlings.

Hart explained that the loss from planting small fingerlings is too great and the resolution declared that brood ponds, where the trout could obtain some growth, be established by the state.

September 2, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LARGE TROUT BEING PLANTED IN S.C. STREAMS – Los Angeles, Sept. 2.—The dream of every angler, and the plea of all fishermen is being answered in Southern California this week. For the first time in the history of trout fishing in this end of the state, aged fish are being planted in many streams, and until Nov. 1, disciples of Isaak Walton will have plenty of the "big ones" to go after.

Through the efforts of J. Dale Gentry, president of the state fish and game commission, 200,000 trout from 6 to 9 inches are being released in streams and lakes of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura counties.

A quarter of a million more running to 6 inches will be distributed just as fast as they can be moved from the rearing pond.

This great plant of trout is made possible by the fish and game commission taking over the hatchery operated by Henry Robbins, at Forest Home for the past 15 years. H.G. Davis of the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, who made a survey for the state, pronounces the fish at this hatchery, totaling upwards of 2,000,000 to be in perfect condition.

Owing to the crowded condition of the rearing ponds it was necessary to move all large fish at once, and so Commissioner Gentry quietly organized a crew of experts from the state bureau of fish culture, headed by A.E. Burghduff, field superintendent, and for the past ten days has been filling our streams and lakes.

From 15,000 to 25,000 have been freed in each stream and care taken to see they were properly distributed. In some pools large numbers were turned loose and checks kept on how they scattered. Every pool and riffle was stocked as the planting crews went the entire length of the streams selected for planting.

In some streams closed by the commission, fish from the Robbins Hatchery will be released, and a check kept as to how they come through the winter, and to see if they will spawn in their new surroundings.

<u>September 3, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

FISH, GAME COMMISSION WILL MEET NEXT WED. – San Francisco, Sept. 3.— The next meeting of the State Fish and Game Commission will be held in San Bernardino Sept. 7th. The Public Shooting Grounds Advisory Committee will meet with the Commission at this time.

The stocking of new quail sanctuaries in southern California will be discussed, as well as the distribution of some half million trout from the Robbins Fish Hatchery at Forest Home, which has been taken over by the Commission.

<u>September 6, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

MAN FINED $25 FOR CATCHING TOO MANY TROUT – N. Fujiawa, employed at the Santa Paula Citrus Fruit Association packing house, was fined $25 this morning by Justice of the Peace S.B. Bagnall for having in his possession more trout than the law allows.

The man was arrested by Walter Emerick, assistant state fish and game commissioner, with 42 trout which he had caught in he River of Doubt, located two miles east of the city, near the Texaco Oil Company road. The stream is a tributary of the Santa Clara river.

September 7, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DID YOU SEE – Smoke from the big forest fire 30 miles northwest of this city?

-- The nice mess of trout, confiscated after an arrest for violation of the fishing law, being given the local relief agency for distribution to the needy by Walter Emerick, local fish and game commissioner?

September 10, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FIRE LEAPS GORGE AND STARTS ROARING DOWN CREEK TOWARDS FILLMORE – Having leaped the Sespe Gorge, the devastating fire in the Santa Barbara National Forest late today was sweeping down the Sespe Canyon in the direction of Fillmore, according to a report from the ranger's station at Ojai.

The ranger's station at Howard Creek was wiped out shortly after noon. The station was located about two miles east of Cold Springs in the Upper Sespe.

After the flames leaped the Sespe Gorge at 10 a.m. today, they started spreading both ways, the report said. They were eating through valuable timber land at the foot of Pine Mountain this afternoon.

The fire entered the south side of the Sespe near the Gorge. The flames were fanned by a brisk 25-mile-an-hour wind.

On the southwest and south sides, the fire was practically under control but in the northwest district, the blaze was headed in the direction of La Carba Peieros district in Santa Barbara county.

All of the fire is still in the national forest. This morning about 100 men from Taft were sent to the fireline, coming through the north side.

It was estimated that between 75,000 and 80,000 acres of brush and timber land had been burned over. Between 600 and 700 firefighters are still on duty.

S.A. Nash-Boulden, forest supervisor, has established headquarters at the Ojai ranger's station. The two base camps are located at Matilija Springs and the old Ortega place, near Lyons. There are several "fly" camps in the section.

Some fear has been expressed for several prominent Ventura men who were in the Cold Springs area on a hunting trip before the fire broke out. Mayor George V. Hartman, who

was with the party, rode into the ranger's camp last night on horseback and said that the other hunters, John Lagomarsino, Bill Hartman, Charles Bonestel, Ben Moraga, Frank Feraud and Vicente Ramos were still at Cold Springs. The fire is known to have burned all around the area.

Another party of hunters, including District Attorney James C. Hollingsworth, Bill Lagomarsino and James McCollum were staying at Willet's Camp when the flames broke out. Up to a late hour today, they had not reported at headquarters.

Ernest Baxter, district forest ranger, flew over the fire today in a forest service plane to determine the extent of the conflagration, it was reported.

Forest rangers said the fire has destroyed one of the best fishing grounds in Southern California. Ashes were falling into Sespe Creek, killing the fish.

Flames endangering Montecito were under control this afternoon. Ninety firemen conquered the fire at Montecito reservoir before the flames reached Foxen canyon, which leads to the exclusive homes in the Montecito section.

The flames yesterday burned down to the creek's edge on the west side of the Matilija Springs resort. The county fire department pumper was put to work and the cabins were saved.

This morning several local firefighters, who were taken sick on the fireline, were brought to their homes here in the county fire department ambulance, driven by Lester Hall. P. Carson, of Olive street, was said to be in the most serious condition. Hall said the flames were eating through the Upper Sespe district.

Scores of firemen have received burns and minor cuts about the face and body since the fire started Wednesday morning from a careless hunter's campfire, a quarter of a mile from the Matilija canyon fire trail.

<u>September 20, 1932 – Los Angeles Times</u>

FOREST BLAZE MEETS DEFEAT – Ventura, Sept. 19. – With the exception of three small hot spots which flared up along a 100-mile front, the disastrous watershed fire which has laid waste 160,000 acres of the Santa Barbara National Forest, is under control today.

Flames are still out of control in a small section at the head of Bear Trap Canyon near Pine Mountain, a fire line from Santa Paula Peak westerly across San Cayetano Peak, to within a half mile of the Sespe flamed stubbornly, and a third line still persists on the northern slope of Sulphur Peak east of the Sespe.

Only 550 men are working on the conflagration now as compared with the 1500 fire fighters used when the flames were at their height.

An estimate of total damage in the fire which has ravaged many of the valuable watersheds of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties for the past twelve days, has not yet been reported, men at headquarters stated. Besides, the heavy losses in watershed, animal life has been snuffed out throughout the area and it has been left devoid of recreational possibilities.

The fire reached down Santa Paula Canyon to the Ferndale ranch of E.L. Doheny, burning a small part of the property quite a distance from buildings or places of habitation.

Following a run down Horn Canyon Saturday, which ended Sunday when the flames were battled to a standstill a half-mile away from the Thacher Boys' School near Ojai, the fire is reported dead in that area.

The flames burned all around the Santa Paula Peak lookout but were kept from consuming the station. The worst line in the sector today is one beginning, a half-mile east of the peak and extending straight across San Cayetano Peak to within a half-mile of the Sespe below Henley's camp.

Henley's Camp also was saved, although the flames approached to within a half-mile on all sides but the river side. The fire line today extended northerly from there to a point due west of Sulphur Peak, then easterly to Sulphur Peak. This section, however, is reported fairly well under control.

From Sulphur Peak the line curves northwesterly past Agua Blanca Creek across the east fork and Main Stone Corral Creek to Sespe Hot Springs. This line is under control.

Similarly, the front from the south of Mutau Flats passing in a westerly direction to the south of Thoro Meadow and to the Reyes Peak territory, also is under control.

Some of the watersheds which have been denuded include the Coyote and Santa Ana, completely wiped out; Matilija, almost all gone, a good part of the Sespe itself, Santa Paula watershed, more than half gone, and Ojai watersheds, nearly all claimed.

Most of the Juncal watershed, which supplies Montecito with water, has been laid waste.

<u>September 20, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

FISH HATCHERY AT CHATSWORTH – In order to assure an adequate supply of eggs for our hatcheries in the future, California division of fish and game has just completed the planting of 50,000 Loch Leven trout approximately, four inches in length, in the Chatsworth reservoir. These fish will be allowed to grow under natural conditions until they have reached the mature age of Spawners. This usually requires three to four years' time. This body of water belongs to Los Angeles City Water Department and the courtesy and operation of the city water department officials with the state division of

fish and game, this body of water was turned over to the state division of fish and game for the purpose of planting and establishing an egg-taking station.

These fish will come under the complete jurisdiction of the division of fish and game and this area will be considered as a trout refuge, no fishing being allowed at any time with the exception of the seining or trapping of these fish for the purpose of transplanting or taking of spawn. Should this project prove itself, it will be of untold advantage to the sportsmen in the southern portion of the state, assuring them that our hatcheries will be well supplied with eggs in sufficient quantities to produce plenty of trout for distribution in our streams and lakes in and about southern California.

HATCHERIES TO BE CLOSED – Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 20. (UP)—The possibility that several Southern California state hatcheries will be closed in favor of the Forest Home hatchery in San Bernardino county, was revealed in a report of the state division of fish and game today.

"Due to unfavorable economic conditions the commission has received an offer of large quantities of catchable trout raised at the Forest Home hatchery at prices lower than the cost of raising these fish in state-owned hatcheries," the report said.

"If the plan matures, certain of the less profitable hatcheries will be closed and the work concentrated at Forest Home under terms of an option under consideration."

September 23, 1932 – Santa Paula Review

150,000 ACRES SEARED IN RECENT FIRE; LOSS IS PUT AT 75 MILLION – With only a few "hot spots" on the extensive fire line of the Santa Barbara National Forest disastrous fire, the situation is quiet, according to Walter Emerick, county fire warden.

If the weather keeps favorable the "hot spots" will disappear. If there is a high wind, however, in the next 24 hours, the blaze may be raging again. There are 500 to 600 men yet patrolling the line watching for any possible outbreaks.

Silting of Juncal reservoir, with resulting loss of capacity; destruction of scenic surroundings around recreational centers in the forest, including Lyons Springs, which suffered most in this respect, and general damage to valuable watershed, are factors to be considered in estimating the fire's toll, Supervisor Nash-Boulden said.

Complete destruction of the Sespe State Game Refuge, which has provided the best fishing in the forest area, is one of the most disastrous effects of the fire. Grazing Examiner C.S. Robinson, stated that lye in the ashes, deposited generously on the soil, is fatal to many fish. The entire game area was swept by the flames.

The fire burned over between 15,000 and 20,000 acres of the Gibraltar lake watershed but was prevented from crossing the large Agua Caliente canyon.

September 30, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HENLEY'S PLACE IN SESPE NOT DAMAGED BY RECENT FIRE – George J. Henley, pioneer resident of the Sespe district, is much disturbed over erroneous reports that his place on the Sespe River had been destroyed during the recent fire. He asserts that as a result of these reports his camp is now deserted and his source of livelihood has been cut off and a great hardship has been created for him.

The fire never reached any closer than four miles of Henley's place.

October 3, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DEAD DEER, FISH PICKED UP BY KEENE REVEAL RAVAGES OF FIRE – Carcasses of two deer, a doe and a spiked buck, found by Herman Keene in the Matilija section ravaged by fire and a number of dead fish he picked up along the Santa Clara river bank were brought to town today to prove what a blow the recent conflagration was to wild game and fish in the county. He stated he saw many more remains of deer scared by the flames lying on the barren hillsides. Thousands of dead fish can be seen along the river bank, the ashes and silt in the stream making it impossible for the fish to live.

Keene plans to have the fish and game victims mounted for a permanent exhibit to vividly portray what happens when fires rush through the back country. He believes it will impress upon hunters and lovers of wild life, the need of care in the mountains.

October 4, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MUDDY WATER FROM SESPE CREEK ANALYZED – An analysis of water taken from Sespe creek after the recent rains is being made at Limoneira laboratory to determine how much mud and silt is contained in the water.

The test is being made at the request of the county fire department. One sample taken from near Henley Camp was almost completely mud, it was reported. This is due to the water running off the watershed area recently burned over in the Matilija fire.

The mud and silt are killing fish in the Sespe, it was reported. Herman Keene, local naturalist, is planning to have the fish mounted as a permanent exhibit to show what results when fires sweep the back country.

October 12, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SESPE BADLY "HIT" BY FIRE – A complete survey just made of the damage which resulted from the recent disastrous Santa Barbara National Forest fire reveals that the Sespe drainage area was seriously affected. Warren T. Murphy, assistant U.S. Forest Service Supervisor at Santa Barbara has just received the first analysis of the damage from the 216,000 acre fire.

During a rainfall of .08 of one inch in the Sespe drainage area 68 percent of the entire stream flow was silt or mud, says the *Santa Barbara Press.* The report revealed that only 32 percent of the flow was water and the remainder came from the barren mountain slopes which were denuded during the two weeks' fire.

The check was made in the Sespe creek several hundred yards above where it drains into Santa Clara river at Fillmore.

During the rain near Henley's on the creek, a large check dam was under observation. Within a few ours the area back of the dam was filled up with silt and the heavy liquid slid over the dam like lava.

Officials believe the entire stream is devoid of fish, as several tests failed to reveal a single one.

Roy Headley, assistant U.S. Forester in charge of operations, of Washing, D.C., is scheduled to arrive today to check the burned area and assist officials in mapping out a program to protect the section from further erosion.

A check dam as been constructed at present in Horn canyon back of Ojai. In the Sespe watershed, where 129,813.21 acres were burned, officials will map protection plans within the next few days.

A serious fire hazard throughout the Santa Barbara National forest existed yesterday as the temperature continued to rise and the humidity decreased. Temperature at Ojai was 101 degrees and the humidity was six percent; at Newhall temperature was 92 degrees and the humidity was nine percent.

FIRE DAMAGE IS SET AT $75,000,000 – Estimated damage resulting from the watershed fire in the Santa Barbara National Forest last month today was set at $75,000,000, according to a map revealing official data on the extent of the fire, just issued by the regional forestry office in San Francisco.

A total of 219,253.88 acres were burned over in all, and the entire blackened area is considered valuable as watershed, the map shows.

Five principal watersheds, important to the water supplies of eight cities and towns, suffered heavily from the blaze, as follows:

Santa Ynez watershed contributing to Juncal dam, 9,190.40 acres, and contributing to Gibraltar dam, 8,857.21 acres.
Cuyama, 4,013.40 acres.
Ventura river, 57,574.77 acres.
Sespe, 129,813.21 acres.
Santa Paula canyon, 9,804 acres.

Santa Paula, Ventura, Ojai, Fillmore, Santa Barbara, Montecito, Carpinteria and Summerland are among the communities expected to suffer from resulting damage to water supplies.

October 20, 1932 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SMALLER GAME LIMITS LOOM FOR HUNTERS – Los Angeles, Oct. 20—Hopes of the State Fish and Game Commission to increase the supply of game fish were reported to members of the Fish and Game Development Association at the Biltmore yesterday by J. Dale Gentry, president of the Fish and Game Commission.

Gentry declared, however, that the demands upon the supply of wild life are so great that it will be impossible to meet them. It will be necessary, he said, for sportsmen to be content with smaller limits in the future.

November 18, 1932 – Santa Paula Review

TO PLANT NO FISH – Streams of Ventura county have been inspected by the California Fish and Game Commission since the closing of the trout season and have been found in no condition for release of young trout grown in the snow distilled waters of the Mt. Shasta hatcheries. In some areas of this county, once famed for its trout pools, planting will be done only in such waters as are out of all danger of ash drainage resulting from the burning over of the headwaters of the streams.

1 9 3 3

Rainfall – 11.21 Inches

January 14, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING STILL POPULAR, BUT LICENSES DECLINE – by J.F. McLaughlin – Sacramento, Jan. 14. (UP) – Despite a slight decrease in the number of licenses issued, fishing still is one of the most popular activities of California sportsmen.

A total of 242,394 licenses were issued in the year to bring in receipts amounting to $492,390, as compared to 248,319 licenses and $508,875 in receipts, according to the annual report of the state division of fish and game.

Of the total collections for angling licenses, Ventura county fishermen paid $4,957.

As a possible explanation of the continued popularity of fishing in the state, the division report reveals that the bureau of fish culture has been operating 25 hatcheries, two tank stations, 30 egg-taking stations and 78 aging and brood ponds.

From the hatcheries approximately 68,000,000 trout and more than 9,000,000 salmon were planted in the last two-year period.

February 5, 1933 – Los Angeles Times

THREE RIVERS GET STEELHEAD – by Ceph Salisbury, Automobile Club of Southern California. Recent heavy rain has opened the mouths of the Santa Clara, Ventura and Santa Ynez rivers in Southern California, giving steelhead access to these streams. Excellent sport is a probability as soon as these streams become clear enough for fishing. These waters are located in tidewater District No. 3 and the season is open for steelhead until the 28th inst.

…It looks bright and promising for early trout fishing for the Southern California angler, according to the Fish and Game Commission. At present there are held in rearing ponds 1,600,000 six to eight-inch trout. These will be released in a local stream within the next sixty days, prior to the season opening May 1.

The commission is to be highly commended on its efforts to plant this size fish in preference to the fingerlings, which has been the previous custom—out of necessity. (Remainder of the article was about the Klamath area.)

February 8, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH EGG SUPPLY OF STATE PLENTIFUL – Sacramento, Feb. 8. (UP) – California has on hand 18,385,000 trout eggs and 1,500,000 salmon eggs.

This indicates the state's potential fish supply is far from exhausted, the department of natural resources reports.

March 1, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ANGLERS ASKED TO SIGN PETITIONS FOR RESTOCKING OF VENTURA COUNTY STREAMS – Petitions requesting the state fish and game commission to stock the streams of Ventura county with aged trout have been prepared by the Ventura County Tourist and Travel association and have been placed at the Primmer company and Western Auto Supply here and at sporting good stores of the various cities of the county.

The petition says that most of the aged trout were killed out by ashes and silt washed by the rains from the burned over area, but that the streams are now practically free from detritus and in a receptive condition for trout. It also points out that fishing is a major sport in this county and that the income from fishing licenses has exceeded $6,000 annually for the past four years.

According to a report today from officials of the tourist and travel association, they have been attempting negotiations with the fish and game commission to get the streams of the county restocked, but information has been unofficially received that only enough aged trout is on hand to take care of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino county streams. In addition to the petitions the report said, the assistance of Senator Walter Duval, Assemblyman James McBride and Governor Rolph will be solicited.

Walter Emerick, deputy fish and game commissioner of Ventura county said today that there was no planting of trout last fall in county streams because a heavy rain carrying silt and ashes from burned over areas, would kill the fish.

All interested in good fishing in the county are asked by the association to sign the petitions.

March 17, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT EGGS READY – Sacramento, March 17. (UP) – The state division of fish and game has 20,000,000 trout eggs ready for planting this season in California streams, a report revealed.

March 31, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SEVEN-INCH TROUT COSTS MAN $25 – A seven-inch brook trout cost B. Flaherty, Los Angeles exactly $25 today before Judge Boyd Gabbert in Ojai.

The Los Angeles man was caught pulling a silvery trout from Matilija creek just above Soper's yesterday by R.E. Bedwell, deputy state fish and game commissioner.

What made it worse was that the commission has just last week placed the fish in the stream along with a number of aged eastern brook trout as part of a re-stocking program.

Judge Gabbert made the fine $25 instead of $50 when Flaherty pleaded hard times.

April 12, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SESPE CREEK STOCKED WITH 5000 BIG AGED TROUT, SAYS BEDWELL – Like to fish? Exactly 5,000 aged trout—averaging seven inches long—were dumped in the Sespe within the past few days, it was learned today.

Deputy State Fish and Game Commissioner R.E. Bedwell made the announcement. He said that by May 10 a total of 150,000 fish will have been placed in Ventura county streams.

April 25, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCAL ANGLERS PREPARE FOR OPENING OF TROUT FISHING SEASON MAY 1 – One hour before sunrise next Monday morning, May 1, trout fishing season will open, and local anglers are busy preparing to seek their favorite holes. A number of sportsmen plan to go into the mountains for several days while others will go into the Bishop country.

County streams are in good condition, Walter Emerick, deputy fish and game commissioner, said today. However, the forest fire last fall will make fishing poor in a number of streams because large quantities of ashes and silt from the burned watershed washed down and killed many fish.

To offset this loss, some 25,000 aged trout, five to seven inches long were planted in a number of streams. There probably are some steelhead in Pine, Alder, Lyon and other creeks and tributaries to the Sespe which were not injured by the ashes and silt, it was said.

It is doubtful if there are many trout in the Santa Clara river, Emerick said, unless a small run of spawn fish have come in from the ocean.

Sespe creek, as far as fishing is concerned, suffered most from the fire. Santa Paula creek was not affected, Emerick stated. Piru creek and Ventura river are in good shape.

Rainbow, Loch Leven and Steelhead will be found in Santa Paula creek. The limit is 25 fish or 10 pounds and one fish, the deputy said. This is the same as last year.

April 29, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SANTA PAULA ANGLERS LEAVING FOR OPENING OF FISHING SEASON ON MONDAY – Unless it rains much more than it has, trout fishing on opening day

Monday, May 1, will not be impaired, it was announced today by Walter Emerick, deputy fish and game commissioner. The present light rains have helped the streams but consistent downpours would make the streams muddy, he said.

Many local anglers left today for distant streams in order to be ready for the opening. The Bishop country is again popular with at least a half dozen local parties headed in that direction.

Sespe and Santa Paula canyons are like to be well populated.

May 1, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SANTA PAUL CREEK IS ALMOST "FISHED OUT" – by Freddy Jenkins – "All Fished Out!" Local anglers who did not go into the Santa Paula early this morning for the opening of trout season but instead went up this afternoon, were thinking seriously of setting out the above sign.

Dozens of limits were taken from the shady pools along the creek from Doheny ranch north and south this morning. Trout began to get scarce around noon and latecomers were not nearly so fortunate as those who were on hand when the season opened officially an hour before sunrise.

Every rock and pool had its quota of anglers. The trout averaged about seven inches in length. Among those reporting limits of 25 early were Mr. and Mrs. William Stein, Al Call, Boyd Strange, Fire Chief Bert Johnson of Ventura, Thornton Edwards (this boy pulled in five nice ones.) Phil Carr and Jack Linebarger.

Up in the Sespe, fishing wasn't so good because the stream was pretty muddy according to local sportsmen who went to this favorite spot of yesteryear.

Other streams in the county got good plays and it was estimated that at least 2,000 rod and reels were in operation this morning.

Fishermen advanced the following theory on why the trout were found in pools in Santa Paula creeks.

Several thousand aged trout were planted there several weeks ago. They were put in the swift moving stream and the first pool they came to, they stopped—and they stayed there. They didn't have time really to get "acclimated," the anglers suspect.

However, they proved game and gave anglers a run for their money.

Many local anglers sought other fields for the opening, with the Bishop country proving the most popular drawing card.

May 5, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – There's Still Lots of Trout in The Santa Paula—and the Sespe will be clear enough to Fish by Sunday. When you go fishing this week-end, be sure to have what you need! The Primmer Co.

June 1, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

40,000 FINGERLINGS ARRIVE FOR PLANTING – Forty thousand trout, steelhead and rainbow fingerlings, arrived via truck today at the county building from the Mt. Whitney state hatchery near Independence for planting in streams of the county.

The fish, from an inch and a half to two inches in length, will be planted under the supervision of Walter Emerick, county game warden, and Ernest Bedwell, deputy fish and game commissioner.

Twelve thousand of the fingerlings will be planted in Agua Blanca, 12,000 in the lower Sespe, 6,000 in Hopper creek and 12,000 in Santa Paula creek, Emerick said.

June 10, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

128,000 FINGERLINGS PLANTED IN STREAMS – R.E. Bedwell, state deputy fish and game warden, in the last few weeks has planted 128,000 fingerling trout in all the major streams of Ventura county.

June 29, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FILLMORE NEWS – Dr. Albert Leach and his two sons, and Dr. and Mrs. Kirchen of Los Angeles were the recent over Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fisher of Mountain View street. A fishing trip to Pole canyon netted the two medicos the limit of trout.

August 5, 1933 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT IN VENTURA COUNTY REPORTED IN LITTLE DANGER OF DRYING UP STREAMS – Although many streams in the southland are drying up and creating a serious situation for trout planted earlier in the year, fish in Ventura county streams are in little or no danger, it was reported today by Walter Emerick, deputy fish and game commissioner.

A report from the state fish and game commission said that the situation is alarming in many sections, especially in the Little Tujunga creek and the Santa Ynez River, where more than 30,000 trout have been rescued.

"As far as we know, trout in streams of this county are safe. However, in the Sespe creek, near the hot springs, the stream is drying up but the fish will be able to get into deep holes," the local deputy stated.

A survey of Southern California has just been completed by Commissioners J. Dale Gentry and Earl Gilmore, along with A.E. Burghuff, in charge of the division activities in the south.

Many reservoirs that heretofore maintained plenty of water throughout the summer, are showing signs of failing this year, and it is becoming a problem what to do with the great stock of fish being raised at the Forest Home hatchery, they said.

So hot has become the water in Salton Sea and Lake Elsinore during this unusual summer that the planting of some 40,000 silver salmon will probably have to be postponed until water conditions improve. In the meantime the fish which have been shipped south from the Brookdale state hatchery, are being held in the Forest Home rearing ponds.

President Gentry has had tests of the water made at frequent intervals, and the reports to him indicate that the temperature of the water is nearer to that of the atmosphere than has been observed since tests were first made, years ago, it was reported.

1 9 3 4

Rainfall – 14.34 Inches

January 7, 1934 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING AND FISHING – by Jack Boaz – In answer to a number of questions that have recently been asked relative to steelhead fishing, I have just received word from the offices of the Fish and Game Commission to the effect that fishing for steelhead at tide water in District 4 will be permitted.

No doubt during the next month and a half there will be found heavy runs of steelhead trout entering the mouths of our larger fresh-water streams which have access to the ocean in Southern California. The recent rains have caused a heavy run-off in the streams where steelhead are in the habit of running at this time of the year.

No doubt a few steelhead will be taken from the surf and from the mouth of the Ventura River this year, although the natural run during the past five or six years has been very light, due to an insufficient amount of water. It is possible that a number of the steelhead trout planted in this river by the Fish and Game Commission will have migrated into the ocean and a portion of them will return to spawn. During the last two or three years quite a number of fish have been taken from the mouth of the Santa Clara River. (Remainder of the article about Gaviota Creek and fishing techniques.)

February 17, 1934 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ROD AND GUN CLUB FORMED IN COUNTY – Permanent organization of the Ventura county rod and gun club, whose chief purpose is to get the state to restock the county streams with fish so the county once again will become a mecca for sportsmen, has been affected, it was learned today.

Dr. J.A. DeSerpa, of Ventura was elected at a recent meeting in the Elks Club house here. Other permanent officers chosen were: E.L. Carty, Oxnard, vice-president; R.N. Haydon, of Ventura, secretary; and Carroll Wright, of Ventura, treasurer.

The membership fees have been set at 50 cents for two years to enable every person interested in fishing and hunting to join.

Jack Gooding and Lafe Browne were named Santa Paula directors of the new club.

February 25, 1934 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING AND FISHING – by Jack Boaz – The season on tidewater steelhead closes next Wednesday. During the past five or six years steelhead fishing in the mouths of some of our southern coastal streams has prove more or less a joke. With the lack of water, oil pollution, seals and illegal gaff fishermen, the steelhead runs in our southern

streams might be considered a thing of the past. The time was when an enthusiastic tidewater steelhead fisherman could visit the mouth of the Ventura, Santa Clara or Santa Ynez rivers and be practically assured of at least one fish, and in most cases a limit. (Editor's note: a limit would be total catch not weighing more than ten pounds, which would figure out to be about three to five fish.) These days apparently are gone forever.

February 28, 1934 – Los Angeles Times

LAKE CLOSED TO FISHERMEN – by Frank Bockway -- …The steelhead fishing season in tideland waters of California will close tonight at sundown, marking perhaps the poorest season the anglers ever had with this fighting type trout. The heavy rain of New Year's washed out the bars at Santa Clara, Santa Ynez and Ventura River mouths, but the bars formed again soon after, and very few fish got by this barrier to get up the stream. (Body of the article concerned closing of Cuyamaca Lake in San Diego.)

April 12, 1934 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MUCH ENTHUSIASM SHOWN BY ROD, GUN CLUB MEMBERS AT OXNARD SESSION – With approximately 50 present, an enthusiastic session of the newly organized Ventura County Rod and Gun club, composed of sportsmen of the county, was held last night at the civic center in Oxnard, Dr. J.A. DeSerpa, of Ventura, presided.

It was reported that about 300 members have been obtained throughout the county. The membership fee is only 30 cents for two years. Expenses for this year have already been paid, it was said.

Various committee reports were made. It was announced that the condition of county streams at the present time is favorable for fishing. W.E. Johnson, of Ojai, reported on the efforts being made for planting trout in streams of the county.

Lafe Browne, of this city, gave a demonstration of trout fly tying which proved of much interest.

All present were urged to cooperated in the program of the Rod and Gun club. "We are making an unselfish effort for the betterment of fishing and game conditions in the county," it was declared.

There has been some lack of interest among fishermen and hunters in the county in the new organization, but this is probably due to lack of knowledge of the body and what it is attempting to accomplish, it was pointed out.

At this time, it was said, the greatest interest is being shown by the club in fishing conditions. Later other matters for the benefit of county sportsmen will be taken up.

One of the plans, it was said, is to plant quail to provide a hunting ground for the general public.

The next meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of May. The place and program will be announced later but something of interest to all fishermen and hunters will be provided, it was declared.

Browne, Jack Gooding, James Pope, Glen Good and Domingo Hardison attended the session from this district.

April 18, 1934 – Santa Paula Chronicle

REPAIRING BIG SESPE ROAD – The road up the Big Sespe creek, is being repaired beyond Tepic flat for the opening of the fishing season, reports the touring department of the National Automobile club. The creek is clearing rapidly and fine fishing is anticipated.

April 21, 1934 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ANGLERS URGED TO GET TROUT LICENSES – As the store only has a limited supply, local anglers who are preparing for the opening of trout season on May 1, today were warned by Jimmy Cross, Western Auto company manager here, to procure their licenses as soon as possible.

This morning the store had only 48 licenses left, with the possibility that more may not arrive before fishing starts.

April 24, 1934 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – April Bargain Days—25, 26, 27, 28. Goin' Fishing? Fishing Season Opens May 1. Exceptional bargains in fishing equipment and sporting goods. Primmer's.

April 26, 1934 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BETTER TROUT FISHING THIS SEASON SEEN BY WARDEN; MANY AGED FISH PLANTED – Trout fishing in Ventura county this season, which opens next Tuesday, May 1, will be considerably better than in 1933, according to Walter Emerick, county fish and game warden.

The warden today gave the *Chronicle* the following statement concerning the season:

"The steelhead run from the ocean was heavier than anytime in the past three years. However, it was greatly under a normal run. These fish went into the Ventura river, Sespe and Santa Paula creeks.

"Owing to no snowfall in the higher elevations and very little rain since January, the streams are running low but there will be a fair amount of water at the opening of trout

season May 1, and probably through the months of May and June, if the weather stays cool.

"Twelve thousand aged Loch Leven trout were planted in the county during the period April 16th to April 21st. These fish ranged from five to nine inches in length and were well distributed in the streams.

"Five thousand were put in the Matilija and Murietta canyon, 3,000 in Santa Paula canyon between the bridge at the Doheny gate and the falls; 4,000 in the lower Sespe creek between the dam and the wire corral, and 1,500 in the Upper Sespe between Tule creek and Lathrop's.

"R.E. Bedwell, state game warden, had charge of the fish planting and members of the newly formed Rod and Gun club assisted in the work."

April 30, 1934 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HUNDREDS OF ANGLERS AWAIT OPENING OF TROUT FISHING SEASON TOMORROW – One hour before sunup tomorrow, May 1, trout fishing season opens in this district and hundreds of disciples of Izaak Walton will be out with their equipment, old and new, in quest of the usual limit, 25.

While a few local parties will go deep into the mountains or into other counties for several days' outing, many will spend part of the day either along the Santa Clara river, up Santa Paula or Sespe creek or in the Agua Blanca region. The Ventura river also is expected to get "good play."

Walter Emerick, today issued a final warning on licenses. He said he will have five or six deputies in the field to see that the regulations are followed.

The warden looks for better fishing in county streams this year than last, despite the fact that there is only a fair amount of water due to lack of snow in the mountains and rain during the past winter and spring.

The steelhead run from the ocean has been heavier this year than anytime in the past three years, he stated.

Twelve thousand aged Loch Leven trout were planted in the county during the middle of April. These fish ranged from five to nine inches in length and were well distributed in the Matilija-Murietta, Santa Paula canyon, lower and upper Sespe sections, the warden stated.

Members of the newly formed county Rod and Gun club assisted R.E. Bedwell, state game warden, and Emerick in the planting.

May 1, 1934 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SCORES OUT FIRST DAY OF FISHING, BUT LIMITS SHY – Although scores of local fisherman were out this morning to greet the opening of trout season, only two limits—25—had been reported at press time today. Bruce Burns and Vern Harpster, local boys, succeeded in getting 25 in the Sespe country.

The Santa Paula creek and the Sespe to draw the largest throngs of disciples of Izaak Walton. The weather was perfect for fishing.

DID YOU SEE – Frank Mosher with his "limit" of fish—four?

--Frank taking a ribbing from his friends who said he swore he would come back with 25?

--Hundreds of parked cars in Santa Paula canyon, proving that trout fishing is still popular?

May 2, 1934 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHERMAN'S LUCK NOT SO GOOD – "I caught one yesterday up the creek that was fully that long" can be heard on most any corner this morning. Most of the fishermen are convinced however, that the multiplied thousands of trout planted recently in local streams each has a diploma in "hook avoidance" tucked under its fin, for the limits were few and far between on the opening day.

May 10, 1934 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DID YOU SEE – The 25-inch steelhead caught by Earl Goldsberry, local barber, in the Santa Paula creek?

--Earl hurrying to get ice on which to "lay at rest" the shimmering beauty?

August 24, 1934 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ROD, GUN CLUB JOINS FISH, GAME DEVELOPMENT BODY – Affiliation of the Ventura County Rod and Gun club with the Fish and Game Development association has just been announced by L.I. Herrington, executive secretary of the association.

The Ventura club ranks wit the largest clubs of the state, numbering more than 700 members in Santa Paula, Ventura, Santa Maria, Oxnard, Fillmore, Saticoy, Camarillo, El Rio, and surrounding area. J.A. DeSerpa of Ventura, president, points out that the affiliation of his club with the statewide association is directly in line with sportsmen and sportsmen's clubs throughout the state to unify their strength and efforts under the banner of a sound wildlife restoration and conservation program.

Carl F. Johnson, noted conservationist and president of the statewide body, commented on the affiliation in this manner: "The Ventura club gives us another strong link in the chain of sportsmen's clubs throughout the state. Our organization plan embraces clubs extending from the Oregon line to San Diego, with one or more affiliated clubs within every county in California, I might add, that never in history has there been a more optimistic outlook for sportsmen of this state towards sound, united conservation effort."

Officers of the Fish and Game Development association report that the affiliation of the Ventura club and the Yolo County Sportsmen's association, which was announced a few days ago, brings the membership in the association to over 38,000 members in California.

1 9 3 5

Rainfall – 21.74 Inches

January 25, 1935 – Santa Paula Chronicle

'LIAR'S LICENSE' NOW AVAILABE FOR FISHERMEN – By complying with the simple and easy regulations, local followers of Isaak Walton may obtain the new "Liar's License for Fishermen," it was revealed here today by local bait and tackle experts.

Stamped with the seal of Ananias, prince of liars, the license lists three grades of piscatorial falsehood fabricators: cheerful liars, unmitigated liars and d—am liars.

Besides swearing to comply with the regulations, the holder must have a reputation and long practice, coupled with a vivid imagination, exhibited all of the proper requirements of lying, prevaricating and otherwise showing extreme recklessness with the truth concerning matters relative to fishing and fish.

Regulations which must be followed include:

Without notice, lies may be told at any place or time.

Elastic rulers may be employed, cameras may be used and weighing scales doctored.

Rented fish, or those which have been borrowed, may be used, exhibited and gloated over at all times.

Fellow fishermen may be bribed or otherwise induced or threatened to back up all good lies. (The good ones only.)

Lies may be added to at will, but for no reason shall they be retracted.

Remember, an extra "inch" or "quarter pound" will improve all fabrications.

March 6, 1935 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BIG FISH STORY – Sacramento (UP) – The state division of fish and game planted over 37,000,000 fish, mostly trout, salmon and bass, in California streams last year in an attempt to keep up with the steadily growing demand of sportsmen for game fish.

March 22, 1935 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RE-STOCK CO. STREAMS WITH BIG TROUT – With 4,000 slated for Santa Paula creek, about 20,000 big trout are being stocked in streams of Ventura county, according

to an announcement today in Ventura by E.L. Carty, vice-president of the county rod and gun club.

With Dr. J. S. DeSerpa, Carroll Wright and Joe Hurd, Carty returned this week from the fish hatchery at Forest Home near San Bernardino with 20,000 trout.

Eight thousand are scheduled for the Ventura river and 8,000 for the Sespe.

March 24, 1935 – Los Angeles Times

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES – by A Sportsman – When the California trout season opens May 1, every stream in the State should provide good fishing grounds for those who thrill to the tug of a taut line and the battle of flashing trout, for the streams and lakes of the State are being well stocked with trout by the Fish and Game Commission.

The stocking of all streams and lakes will be carried on until the opening of the 1935 season.

- A report from Warden R.E. Bedwell of Ventura county states that the streams in that county are clearing up, and arrangements are being made for stocking next week.

- From a check made during a drought period it has been learned that the brown and rainbow trout survive the drought better than other species. Also it was found that the brown trout had demonstrated its ability to hold his own in the face of heavy fishing.

March 28, 1935 – Santa Paula Chronicle

22,000 LOCH LEVEN TROUT BEING PLANTED IN STREAMS OF COUNTY – Three thousand Loch Leven trout, six to ten inches long, were planted in the Santa Paula creek and a like number in Matilija creek yesterday by representatives of the Forest Home hatchery at Idlewild and members of the Ventura County Rod and Gun club, according to Lafe Browne.

Tomorrow and Saturday, more trout are to be placed in the two streams and in the Sespe as well, it was said. In all, about 22,000 trout are to be planted at this time.

At a later date, a large number of fingerlings will be placed in county streams, it is said. Just how many are to be placed in this section is not known as yet.

The trout are being brought here in tank trucks made for the sole purpose of transporting fish.

April 12, 1935 – Santa Paula Chronicle
FISHING LICENSES AT WESTERN AUTO – First batch of trout fishing licenses were received today by the Western Auto Supply, according to Manager C.E. (Jimmy) Cross. The licenses cost $2, the same as in past years, he said.

Trout season opens in this district on May 1 and many anglers already are planning to greet the opening day of the season by seeking favorite pools along the Santa Clara river, Santa Paula creek, Sespe and elsewhere.

April 25, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT OUTLOOK BETTER THAN LAST YEAR – Trout fishing in this county are better this spring than last year, Walter Emerick, deputy fish and game warden, told the Chronicle today. The season opens one hour before sunup next Wednesday, May 1.

"There were fairly heavy runs of spawning steelhead in the Ventura, Santa Paula and Sespe this year," the warden said, "especially in the Ventura river."

"In addition, about 22,000 trout have been planted in the streams of the county."

The limit again will be 25 trout, he added. He warned that all anglers must have their licenses which cost $2.

April 29, 1935 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishermen—Are You All Ready? Trout Season Opens May 1. 24 years experience in buying gives us the finest trade of tackle for these streams. We have a variety and prices as never before. The Primmer Co.

April 30, 1935 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RAIN PUTS DAMPER ON TROUT OPENING – Despite the fact yesterday's rain muddied up streams of the county, making fishing a doubtful proposition for the next few days at best, some of the more ardent anglers will be out tomorrow to greet the opening of trout season.

"Well, anyway, it stretches out the fishing," commented Deputy Fish and Game Warden Walter Emerick today. He added that it may be possible the Santa Paula and Ventura will be cleared up by next weekend.

"I doubt if very many will try to get up into the Sespe because of the poor condition of the road," he added.

Local anglers pointed out today that the usual influx of fishermen from Los Angeles and other southland points will probably be absent tomorrow.

It was learned also that some local anglers who had planned trips to the Bishop and Kern river sections had postponed their jaunts for several days at least.

Repots from these sections last week said trout conditions were good but it is believed the same storm which struck here yesterday may have hit there also and roiled up the streams.

May 1, 1935 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DEARTH OF TROUT LIMITS OPENING DAY; ELMER SOPER FIRST TO BRING IN 25 – Harry P. Carver and N.O. Anderson, of the Peoples Lumber company, reported lat today they had hooked the limit of trout in the Santa Paula. Walter Harrington, in charge of the planing mill of the company, and Anderson's son accompanied the pair and although they did not get limits, they had a good time "just fishing," it was said.

Elmer Soper, manager of the Southern Pacific Milling company, was the first to report a limit of trout today, first day of the 1935 season. Soper returned to town with 25 beauties from the Santa Clara river.

Although muddy streams made poor fishing, many anglers greeted the opening of the season, a survey revealed. The Santa Paula creek drew at least 50 of this morning while others sought favorite spots along the river. Angling, however, in the Sespe was almost out of the question, it was reported due to the roily waters.

Walter Emerick, has expressed the belief that streams of the county may clear up by the weekend unless another storm comes up.

Check ups at the county building, the Western Auto Supply company, the Primmer company and other centers where anglers congregate, this morning failed to reveal any other local men who hooked the limit.

Soper had his 26 before 8 o'clock. He reported several other fishermen in the vicinity of his favorite spot.

William Wagener, Fillmore publisher and trout fishing enthusiast, said the Sespe was far too muddy to attract anglers this morning.

A.I. Pyle, of the county fire department, reported only a very few had gone into Henley camp and Upper Sespe region.

DID YOU SEE – Elmer Soper with a big grin and a limit of trout?

"Wimpy" Mosher telling on two friends, who assertedly had been "n------fishing?" (Editor's note: this colloquialism means people crowding in on your fishing spot when you are more successful than them.)

George Palmer, Fillmore, lose a 16-inch trout from his basket?

Worm fishermen getting the trout and fly fishermen getting the sack?

Did you see Newt Norman doing all right for a beginner?

May 2, 1935 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ELMER SOPER AGAIN LANDS LIMIT OF TROUT – Proving that his hooking of the limit of trout on the opening day yesterday was no fluke, Elmer Soper, ardent local disciple of Izaak Walton, this morning again brought home the limit of 25 beauties from the Santa Clara river. He was accompanied by Bill Mills, local business man, who did not get the limit but landed several nice ones.

Among the local fisherman out yesterday were Chief Thornton Edwards and his son, Thornton, Jr. Between them they hooked 16 trout which averaged about nine inches in length from a tributary to the Sespe. They hiked into the section and reported the stream was fairly clear. Thornton Jr. brought home a 10 ¾ inch beauty.

DID YOU SEE – Bill Mills admitting Elmer Soper has the best of him at trout fishing?

Fremont Humphrey, Continental meat official, recalling an "out of season" trout incident of recent date?

May 9, 1935 – The Piru News

SESPE CREEK FISHING PROSPECTS – Heavy rainfall has brought Sespe Creek to a high level, but it is expected that the stream will clear soon, according to reports received by the Touring Department of the National Automobile Club. The State has planted quantities of fish ranging to nine inches in length in the creek, which promises good fishing for the opening.

May 10, 1935 – Santa Paula Chronicle
May 16, 1935 – The Piru News

22-INCH RAINBOW TROUT LANDED BY CARL BECKWITH – One of the largest trout hooked in these parts in recent years was brought home from the Santa Paula creek today by Carl Beckwith, local outdoor enthusiast. The fish--a beautiful rainbow—measured 22 inches in length and weight 2 ¾ pounds.

He and his father-in-law, Bill Botts, brought the trout to the *Chronicle* office for inspection and measurement.

Beckwith said he came across the big boy in a large hole several miles up the creek. It took him about 20 minutes to land him because the trout got behind a large rock after it took the bait and Beckwith was afraid his line would snap.

Asked if he had got the limit of fish, Beckwith said: "Gosh me. After I got that big fellow, I just quit."

1 9 3 6

Rainfall – 16.57 Inches

January 24, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

COUNTY STREAMS TO BE STOCKED WITH YOUNG TROUT – Ventura County Rod and Gun club today was planning to stock four county streams with trout in preparation for the coming fishing season, which will open May 1.

A committee headed by Lafe Browne, Santa Paula, was appointed Tuesday night to secure the fish. Other members of the committee are Ben Brown and Dr. J.A. DeSerpa, Ventura; James McCormick and Edwin Carty, Oxnard; and William Hendrickson, Ojai.

Recommendations for planting the streams were: Sespe river, 8000 mature fish and 10,000 fingerlings; and Santa Paula creek, 2000 mature fish and 10,000 fingerlings. The club also recommended that 1000 mature fish be placed in smaller streams and that 10,000 young fish be placed in rearing ponds near Santa Paula.

Albert G. Shaffer, Ventura, reported that seals are damaging the salt water fishing and that there is a movement to have this district opened for seal hunting.

April 6, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT PLANTED BY GUN CLUB MEMBERS – Six thousand rainbow trout were planted in Santa Paula and Matilija creeks Saturday by members of the Ventura County Rod and Gun club. The fish ranged from seven to 11 inches in length.

April 10, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Starts May 1. Better check up on your tackle. We carry the most complete stock of fishermen's supplies in Ventura Co. Hymes Furniture Exchange. 1075 Main. Supplies for every fishing expedition.

April 23, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens May 1. Complete Trout Outfit, 6 pieces $3.39. This is a peach of an outfit at a "Give Away" price! Value you'll find only at Western Auto Supply Co. Tune in…The Outdoor Reporter. KFWB, KFOX—Thursday 7:45 to 8:00 p.m. Up to the minute news of fishing conditions.

April 27, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle
ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens May 1st. Get Ready Now. We have fishing the coast and streams of Southern California the past 25 years and know what is best. Our line of ocean tackle will surprise you this year. Primmer Co. Established 1911.

April 28, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle
April 30, 1936 – The Piru News

BIG SESPE FISHING GOOD, IS REPORT – Unless further rains fall, fishing will be very good in Big Sespe creek in this county for opening of fishing season May 1, according to the touring department of the National Automobile club. The stream is well stocked with trout. The road to the camp is under construction to a point two miles beyond Henley's gate.

April 30, 1936 – The Piru News

EDITORIAL – Trout's The Thing! – An hour before sunrise…

While most residents of Santa Paula are still sleeping, and the milkman starts on his route May 1, many others will hear only the swish of fishing lines cast into cold-rushing waters for the long-awaited intent of bringing up a trout. It's the opening day of California's trout season.

A number of streams will be closed to trout fishing during the 1936 season, effective May 1, as part of the state fish and game commission's conservation program, which is endorsed by protective organizations and every true sportsman with a realization that the future must be considered now. Consequently, restricted waters again will abound in trout for the next army of rod 'n reel enthusiasts.

With interests in outdoor life keen at the present time, we offer a few observations from the department of natural resources:

The brown or Loch Leven trout, one of the most abundant in California, comes from Europe, while the most abundant is the rainbow or "speckled" trout found in mountain, coastal and foothill streams.

Weighing as much as 30 pounds, the steelhead is respected for its fighting spirit, and swims in coastal streams from Ventura county northward, particularly the Klamath and Eel rivers.

Red spots along the under side of its body distinguishes the eastern brook trout imported for extensive planting in California by the fish and game commission. It is also known as "charr", "speckled," and "brook" trout, and has small almost imperceptible scales.

But no matter what the variety, the main thing next Friday will be to yank in the limit. Then for the exhilarating return to camp to fry the catch and lean back with an agreeable feeling of accomplishment. (Or the discouraging trudge unburdened by anything at all.)

All sportsmen, however, will join in expressing their appreciation of the state's ceaseless efforts to make California, amongst other things, a fisherman's paradise.

May 1, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

'…AND BABY ATE HIM LIKE A MAN' – Little Thomas Trout and his brothers, big and small, were biting rather well today. They started snatching for brightly-colored bits of metal and thread just before 5:08 a.m. today—with the result that a goodly flock of them had felt the inside of a frying pan before 1 o'clock.

Approximately 250 local anglers had taken out fishing licenses, and most of them were on hand early to greet the first day of fishing season, with high hopes of limit catches.

Up Santa Paula creek, where the Ventura county Rod and Gun club recently planted several thousand trout, were centered most of the fishermen, until the Ferndale ranch gates began to resemble the environs of the Los Angeles coliseum on an autumn Saturday.

Other fishermen tried the Big Sespe creek, where fishing was reported good, and other streams in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

Santa Paula creek, however, being closest home, seemed the most ideal spot to most anglers, Elmer Soper was the first to bring in a limit, returning home with 25 specimens before most folks had sat down to breakfast.

Largest fish from the canyon reported at the *Chronicle* office was an 18-inch rainbow caught by Leroy Tucker, Ventura, along with several smaller ones. Lafe Browne brought home 18 trout, with Boyd Strange and Ernest Baker each hooking 16. Dozens of other fishermen were loaded down.

Not only the grown-ups came home with "big ones," however, Stephen Booth, 12 and Bill Robbins, 13, proudly displayed a 21-inch steelhead from the Santa Clara river. They used worms, they said.

May 2, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING PARTY—BUT NOT FISH – Among recent events inspired by the opening of the fishing season was a slumber party at the home of Miss Anita Bell Smith. Her guests included Beverly Rhode, Mildred Kitteril, and Alice Virginia Steele. Joining them for breakfast were Jackie Mills, Kathleen Silva, Hazel Spear, Beverly Hutchins, and Ione Pyle. They all went fishing at Santa Paula falls, but with the proverbial fishermen's luck.

May 4, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WHAT THE FOLKS YOU KNOW ARE DOING – Pete Ilharreguy, Lester Merrill, and Jasper Stroud each caught limits of trout in Hopper canyon yesterday, they reported today.

June 18, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

INVITE THEM HERE – Can you think of a nicer place to spend the Summer, than right here in Santa Paula? Invite your friends from the interior to come over to Santa Paula and enjoy real weather this summer. We are only 19 minutes from the Ocean, 11 minutes from the hills and a trout stream, and about a minute and a half from a river with water in it. And it rarely ever gets over ninety here. And the nights and mornings well, you just can't beat 'em.

November 19, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BIRDS AND FISH TOPIC OF ROD, GUN CLUB HERE -- …The club also listened to reports of conservation work undertaken by the organization during the past few weeks. President Lafe Browne conducted the meeting.

A total of 85,000 small trout have been planted in county streams, 10,000 rainbow trout in the Santa Paula creek and 75,000 Loch Leven in the Sespe and Matilija creeks. An even heavier planting is contemplated for next spring. A fish ladder will be put in the Sespe to permit the fish to swim upstream, it was revealed. (The rest of the article is about the condors, pheasant planting and hunting and sardines.)

November 21, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

COMICAL CHRONICLES -- …A Ventura fisherman found a dollar bill in the stomach of a salmon trout. This hoarding is not to be encouraged.

December 22, 1936 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CONSERVATION CLUB'S CHIEF AIM; ROD & GUN MEMBERSHIP OVER 1,000 – This is another of a series of articles designed to reacquaint the *Chronicle's* readers with Santa Paula clubs and organizations.

by Millard Browne – With all activities formed into a long-time rather than immediate program to promote better hunting and fishing in the county, the Ventura County Rod & Gun club probably is the most active group in this district in fish and game conservation work.

Manned with 975 members, more than 100 of which are Santa Paulans, the club has completed many projects in fish and game protection since it was organized in March 1934.

The organization, for example, has succeeded in having Ventura county-re-established on the list of counties possessing desirable fishing waters which should be annually re-stocked by state conservation units. Since the big forest fire several years ago, Ventura county has been left off the list designated for fish planting, but this year several large plantings were made, and the Rod & Gun club members have received assurance of more

plantings later. (The article also included information and game birds, bounty hunting of crows and purpose of the club.)

1 9 3 7

Rainfall – 26.49 Inches

February 20, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

STEELHEAD NEARLY BAFFLED BY SIX-FOOT DAM IN CREEK – For Mrs. Sue Steelhead, early spring is a sentimental season.

As she busies herself with plans to raise her annual family, Mrs. Steelhead's thoughts waft back to those blissful, serene days of her childhood.

Babbling brooks. Mountain fastnesses. Clear, cold water. What a contrast to the tumult and hazards of the open sea. Yes, decides Mrs. Steelhead about the middle of February, her children shall have the solitude of the upstream waters to while away their childhood and grow strong enough to brave the rigors of the ocean.

So Mrs. Steelhead wends her way down the coast and finds the spot where the Santa Clara river meets the Pacific ocean. She doesn't have any trouble finding this junction, for she spotted it carefully when she swam out to sea last fall.

Up the river—turbulent now, what with heavy winter rains—Mrs. Steelhead swims. She comes to the Santa Paula creek junction and makes a left turn. For it is at the head-waters of this creek that she intends to do her spawning.

About four miles upstream, though, her carefully laid plans run amuck. Blocking off the stream is an obstruction—six feet high—placed there some years ago by the Santa Paula Water Works.

That dam is a pretty high jump for a trout, although Mrs. Steelhead could make it—if it weren't for the currents and whirlpools at the bottom of the man-made waterfall, which make it impossible for her to get a run at the thing.

Yesterday, the creek bank was lined with sportsmen, all of who were pulling for Mrs. Steelhead and her kinsmen as they concentrated every scale on their bodies in the supreme effort. Time after time they hurled themselves up the wall of water. Sometimes they almost made it, other times they missed their stride and barely got out of the water.

None of them got over. The current was too severe, and six feet is a long way up.

Give up the whole idea and go back to the ocean? Nor Mrs. Steelhead. She didn't get that name of hers for nothing.

Nope, She just tries over and over again. A few of her kinsfolk get killed in the try, a lot of them lose scales as they are bashed against the rocks. Once in a while one may get over.

Sooner or later they get smart, though, and move over to the side of the river where these same engineers who put the dam in their path in the first place have thoughtfully built a fish ladder to help out the steelhead in the fanatical urge to get upstream.

With an abnormal amount of water coming over the dam, even the fish ladder is giving these trout some trouble these days, however. The currents aren't just right, and the first jump in this ladder is around two or three feet high. Some of them are getting over the hump, and are en route to the stream's headwaters to lay their eggs unmolested.

If Mrs. Steelhead and a substantial portion of her ilk make the grade, it means good fishing for a lot Ventura county sportsmen, come autumn and open season for anglers. But right now, there are laws and a lot of folks backing them up to guarantee human neutrality in Mrs. Steelhead's war with this swollen waters.

February 23, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SECOND DAM BUILT IN CREEK TO HELP STEELHEAD – The dramatic story of Mrs. Sue Steelhead, as related in Saturday's *Chronicle*, appeared to be moving toward a happy ending today.

For her battle with torrential rains which had swollen Santa Paula creek was successful, and she is now heading unmolested to the headwaters of the creek to lay her eggs and grow a new family of steelhead trout.

The fight was won unassisted by the larger and hardier trout who hurled themselves at the six-foot Santa Paula Water Works dam four miles north of here.

But for the smaller steelheads, man-made help was provided by members of the Ventura county Rod & Gun Club over the weekend.

Another dam was constructed Sunday morning. It is down stream a few yards from the tall irrigation dam, and it provides a resting pool for Mrs. Steelhead and her kinsfolk, thus permitting them free access to the fish-ladder thoughtfully provided by the irrigation company when it first built the more formidable obstruction.

Several members of the steelhead clan made use of the fish ladder Sunday, and nearly the entire school had passed the dam by today.

This spawning season, however, if just beginning, according to Rod & Gun clubbers. Due in a few weeks are the "spawn chasers," smaller and younger fish, and they will go through the same process as that just completed by the steelhead in their annual trek to the headwaters.

Building the resting-pool dam, and helping the less hardy steelheads over the taller obstruction by using nets were Lafe Browne and Glen Good, assisted by Elbert Barnes, Ben Takets, Lon Tate and Carl Blankenbiller.

March 3, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

STEELHEAD TRAVELING FAR – Steelhead, fighting their way into the headwaters of Ventura county rivers and creeks in an effort to find suitable spawning grounds, were reported today to have progressed further than at any time in the past 14 years.

Ventura county sportsmen were jubilant as the run, the first of any consequence in this section for many years, forecast good fishing for future seasons, even if only normal rainfall is received during winter months.

In one instance, a few of the hardy fish were reported to have been seen making their way past the Maricopa highway maintenance station, located in Sespe gorge above Hartman's Cold Springs. This means that the fish, coming in from the ocean to spawn, have made their way up the Santa Clara river to Fillmore, turned into Sespe creek at that point, and fought their way back along the Sespe until they are directly back of Ventura—instead of in front as they once were.

Sportsmen estimated this trip at more than 600 miles of some of the toughest stream bed in California.

Fish entering the Ventura river are halted by falls just north of Oreta's camp on the Matilija, but a record number have reached this point, observers say.

Fishermen were warned today by T.J. Smith, California Fish and Game warden, that the season for fishing for steelhead in "tidewater" is over and that a close watch would be kept for violators. "Tide-water" in this district is described as the portion of river lying between the railroad bridges and the sea.

Heavy rains which also allowed the steelhead to make their way up county streams will also help all county wild-life, smith said. Quail and deer will benefit, he said, and a great numbers of them are expected during coming seasons.

March 9, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GUESTS AT FERNDALE GLORY IN FISHING FOR SPARKLING TROUT IN PRIVATE POND – Shading trees, sparkling pool, the first timid blush of wild flowers and the beauty of a perfectly arranged home combined with the invigorating weather to charge guests of Mrs. E.L. Doheny at Ferndale Sunday.

Mrs. Doheny brought her distinguished guests from Los Angeles and Sunday presided at luncheon for approximately 30 friends.

…All guests and their hostess enjoyed fishing in the private trout pond on the estate, catching more than 40 sparkling beauties.

April 8, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

IT'S LOVE SEASON FOR SEALS – Tidewater fishing is hampered to no end these days because the mouth of the Santa Clara river is literally sealed up, local anglers report.

Large schools of seals are swarming up and down the coast from Santa Barbara south to Long Beach these days as their mating season gets under way.

Steelhead and other game fish, consequently, are too frightened to do much biting at fishhooks.

The notion that it is because of steelhead runs that the seals flock to river mouths along the coast was dispelled today, however, by Thomas J. Smith of Ventura, deputy fish and game warden.

Claiming the seals are not more abundant at the mouth of either the Santa Clara or Ventura rivers than any other place along the coast, Smith said it was the call of mating season, not the call of steelhead fishing, that brings the seals to the Ventura county coastline in such great numbers.

The beasts of the balancing beaks mate in the open waters along the coast, then flock back to the channel islands to rear their young in the island caves.

"There are some seals along the coast all year around," Smith explained, "but during April and May they are more profuse than at any other time during the year."

He said there are nearly 300 seals just off the Rincon point overhead bridge.

"They feed on any fish they can catch," Smith remarked, "but they're eating comparatively few steelhead."

"And besides," the fish and game warden added, "the steelhead aren't coming back to the ocean yet. A matter of fact they're still going upstream to spawn."

Smith said he had seen several steelhead jumping the Santa Paula creek dam four miles north of here just yesterday. Steelhead will not be coming back to the ocean in any great numbers for another three or four weeks, Smith said.

"They'll wait upstream until the fishermen begin chasing them out after fishing season opens."

April 16, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Grand Opening Saturday, April 17th. Fishing Season opens May 1. Get your fishing license at Primmer Bros. Free Prize! For the first limit of trout brought into our store, providing, limit was caught on our tackle. Trout Rods varnished free! A complete outfit for fishermen which includes rod, reel, line, leader, hooks and creel for only $2.69. Primmer Bros., formerly Primmer Co.

April 17, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISMENT – Like to fish? We have a new complete stock of everything for the sportsman. Entire new stock of lures for the fly fisherman. Yes, there is a new day for the bait fisherman. Ask us. Trout rods varnished free! We are giving away a prize for the first limit of trout brought in May 1st by anyone of our customers. Also a prize for the largest trout caught in the month of May. Open evenings. Primmer Bros.

April 26, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ANGLERS SET FOR OPENING DAY SATURDAY – The streams and hills of northern and eastern Ventura county were line with sportsmen over the week-end.

No picnickers or Sunday drivers, these men went into the hills for a purpose. From Santa Paula and Ventura—even from down in metropolitan Los Angeles—they came, just to have a look-see.

They comprised a counting patrol, and their journey was the final reconnaissance trip before the real bombardment.

At the crack of dawn next Saturday, these same scouts, along with thousands of other sportsmen, will be lining the banks of every Ventura county creek fully armed with rods and reels, flies and spinners as the annual open season on stream-fishing gets under way.

As anyone in the week-end's advance guard will tell you, there will be lots of competition Saturday as fishermen swarm all over each other in a drive for opening-day limits.

And that's why these scouts were touring the back-country. They were looking for fish, for likely spots, and generally getting things in order so they can hop in cars Saturday morning—or Friday night—and drive directly to the scene of fishing operations, or to take-off place where they will trek into more fertile fish country on foot.

If these several hundred sportsmen had looked as sharply as they might have in Ventura county's hill yesterday and Saturday, here's a rough idea of what they-collectively—might have seen:

NEW PLANTINGS

About 9,000 freshly planted rainbow trout, ranging from six to 10 inches—

Approximately 150,000 small fry rainbows, grown up from what were two-inch fingerlings last fall—

Several thousand native steelhead still spawning in the headwaters—

A few thousand imported Loch Leven trout.

These fish are all beckoning. Some, of course, are too small to be taken; some will escape the hordes of anglers who flock to Ventura county from the better populated metropolitan areas. But a pretty fair percentage will be sizzling on camp-fire frying pans between next Saturday and Oct. 31.

Only a few of these fish are native to Ventura county, the rest having been planted in the county's streams especially for this open season.

Just last week, 9,000 adult rainbow trout were scattered along all the streams in the county—Santa Paula and Sespe creeks getting the majority of them.

These rainbow cam from Forest Home hatchery in Riverside. They were brought here in trucks by the state division of fish and game under supervision of Tom Smith, state fish and game warden stationed in Ventura.

Assisting in the planting were Ventura County Rod & Gun members and various county fish and game officials. These fish, ranging from six to 10 inches were furnished by the state, and they are all ready to make opening day worthwhile for county fishermen, both native and alien.

Other trout plantings have been made from time to time during the past year. A large number of Loch Leven, foreigners to the streams of this county, were planted last fall, as were 150,000 rainbow fingerlings. Some of these minnows, ranging from one and a half to two inches when they were planted, have grown to a catchable size, while others planted in previous years are fully grown and ready to bit at the first tempting bait that comes along.

Steelhead that came upstream two months ago to spawn are still lurking in the pools of the creeks' headquarters. These run as big as three feet in length, and the big one that gets away is almost a cinch to be one of these overgrown trout.

A lot of the scouts who went into the back country yesterday saw what they came to see, and many on the them have literally staked their claims on potentially productive angling sites, and if you're planning to join the opening day parade, you'd better set the alarm bright and early.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Tackle Sale – Complete Trout Outfit – 15 Pieces $3.95…Western Auto Supply Co.

ADVERTISEMENT – Notice of Fishermen. Our stock of fishing tackle this year is Larger and better with prices to suite you. Hymes Furniture Exchange. (Bring in your old reels…and Let's Trade!)

ADVERTISEMENT – Saturday, May 1 is the day! Is your fishing outfit complete and up to date? We have the necessary items to bring it right up to the minute so THAT BIG ONE hasn't a chance. Come in and see our complete stock. Primmer Bros.

April 29, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GOING FISHING SATURDAY? HERE'S WHERE THEY'RE RUNNING – Any place in Ventura county that produced fish 15 years ago will do it again this year!

This is what the old timers are saying as they look over their equipment and make last minute repairs preparatory to the annual opening day excursion Saturday.

It's a cinch, claim the local Izaak Waltons, that this year will be one of the best fishing years in history. Streams that have been dry for years are flowing again—and they're full of fish as well as water—which is a pretty fair indication that this will be a banner year for the county's anglers.

Reasons for the prosperity are the heavy winter rains and the heavy fall, winter and spring plantings of fish.

The rain, sportsmen point out, filled creeks which haven't been running for years, and thus enabled steelhead to spawn and trout to enter back country pools that had been barren of fish life prior to this winter.

This year's good fishing will not be entirely a seasonal affair, what's more, claim the experts. Turbulent waters and spawning steelhead will insure the survival of small fish and will make good fishing conditions in 1938 and 1939 a foregone conclusion.

But let's get a little more specific for the benefit of some of you who may be all dressed up with no place to go. Scouts who have been roaming in the hills to line up potential fishing grounds have offered the following bits of information about where the smart Ventura county fishermen will go—if they aren't quite smart enough to find a new place the Man On The Street doesn't know about:

Santa Paula creek—Lots of people will be catching lots of fish here, particularly above Santa Paula falls. Water is too high to get through the gorge up at the headwaters, and anglers will have to go around. There's plenty of water all along the creek, and it's clear enough (unless there's an unexpected downpour before May 1) to make excellent fishing.

Seesaw stream—The left fork of the creek, running up into the upper Ojai from Ferndale ranch, has been carrying water for the last three years and is so situated that it will have about half of all the fish planted in the S.P. creek. Six miles of good fishing stream. Barren years have turned the crowd away from this territory, and fishing here would be less crowded than in the main creek.

Sespe creek—Excellent fishing all the way up stream. From above Alder creek down to the river fish are plentiful. Barren since the big fire, the Alder creek country is back in prosperity again with lots of fish—planted and native—romping among the rocks. Steelhead are running far up into the Sespe's headwaters and have been seen in all tributary streams. Steelhead have been sighted even in the far up Sespe country where the Maricopa highway crosses the stream.

Matilija creek—Clear water, lots of fish in main creek and in side streams; fish have returned to ancient haunts above Wheeler hot springs after many years' absence. Plenty of fishing in the Murietta, a tributary of Matilija. Farther down, the Ventura river proper will be drawing vast crowds of fishermen who have every reason to expect success.

Hopper creek—This country back of Piru will run much the same as the other county streams, plenty of water flowing, being plenty of fish. Average conditions will draw a average crowd.

That just about covers the situation in Ventura county. Some county sportsmen will take auto trips over toward the Sierra and up into the Santa Barbara county back country. (Remainder of the article about Bishop and Owens river.)

April 30, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BEST FISHING IN DECADE LOOMS AS ANGLERS AWAIT OPENING DAY – With licenses still "going like hotcakes" and more than 250 having been issued up to noon today, a recent crowd of Santa Paula fishermen was expected to line the banks of Ventura county's trout streams at the crack of dawn tomorrow for the opening of the best fishing year in a decade.

Local fishing license vendors were expecting to dispose of licenses; numbering nearly 400 before closing shop late tonight.

With the usual hordes of anglers from metropolitan Los Angeles added to this record crowd of local talent, the county's turbulent streams and babbling brooks are expected to be smothered with sportsmen.

Licenses are being issued at Primmer's sporting goods store, Western Auto Supply Co., and Watkins Hardware store. Each place, and other dealers handling fishing equipment, reported record sales of both licenses and tackle as the year-after-year opening day

fishermen were joined by old-timers who have not been out among the opening day crowds for years.

The record is jointly caused by the high waters, well-stocked streams, and the possibilities of snagging a big fish because of the big run of steelhead this year.

Paradoxically, the huge opening day crowd will find fishing not quite up to snuff so early in the season. The season, true enough, will be one of the best in history but high, roily waters will make it difficult to hook limits.

Most popular fishing grounds in Ventura county will be in Santa Paula creek and the Seesaw stream forking off from the creek; Sespe creek up to its very headwaters, Matilija creek, its tributaries and other feeders for the Ventura river, and Hopper creek back of Piru.

County Fire Warden L.R. Orton has issued a warning to fishermen to use discretion in building campfires, pointing out that grass is dry at this time of year and will burn readily.

No campfires may be built, he cautioned, without a permit, and these permits are available only at the county fire station. This office will be open this evening to handle late applications for permits. More than 25 had been issued to Santa Paulans by this noon.

An insurance against forest and brush fires and infractions of fishing regulations, all streams in the county will be well patrolled by fish wardens and fish and game wardens and deputies.

No smoking is permitted except at established camp grounds in the national forest areas, Orton emphasized.

Los Angeles district sportsmen had begun to show up at camping grounds in the Sespe and Matilija creek areas as early as last night, State Fish and Game Warden Tom Smith of Ventura said today after a tour of the more popular streams. A steady influx of anglers was expected, starting early this afternoon and getting more dense until daylight tomorrow.

FISHERMEN—PRIZES AWAIT YOU!! – If the little ones fall all over themselves trying to get at your hook, or if you succeed in catching that gigantic steelhead you're going after tomorrow, there's a prize waiting for you!

The first limit caught in Ventura county and the biggest fish taken from a county stream during May will produce dividends, it was disclosed today.

Prizes will be awarded for each of these feats in a contest jointly sponsored by the Primmer Bros. sporting good store and the *Chronicle.*

To the person catching the first limit will go a double taper fly line valued at $4.50.

To the catcher of the biggest fish during May will go an automatic reel valued at $7.50.

Only specifications are that fish must be caught in Ventura County streams. Entries must be brought—in the flesh—to Primmer Bros. There they will be exhibited in a special refrigeration unit.

A word of caution: The big one that got away won't county in the biggest-fish contest.

May 3, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SEVEN-YEAR OLD JAPANESE LEADS BIGGEST FISH CONTEST! – Opening day's biggest fish…and biggest fish story…brought memories of the wharfs of Yokohama or the fishing boats of Tokyo harbor to Santa Paula today as a 20 ½-inch beauty reposed in a refrigerator at Primmer Bros. sporting goods store.

Responsible for both the fish and the super-story was little Takeshi Chida, seven-year-old Japanese boy.

Takeshi checked his 20 ½-inch steelhead in as first entry in the biggest-fish-of-the-month contest, jointly sponsored by the *Chronicle* and Primmer Bros.

The little fisherman also had a story to tell about the 21-inches that he gave away. There was something about the kid's straightforward manner that distinguished this 21-inch yarn from the numerous ones floating around town about the beauties that got away.

He caught his sizeable steelhead on worms in the lower Santa Paula creek—the same territory that was fished by huge throngs of opening day sportsmen—Saturday morning. "Garden tackle" was what turned the trick, Takeshi reported as he came into the sporting goods store clutching the beauty, almost as tall as he was.

"I hope this big enough to get in your contest," he said, bashfully and a little uncertainly, as he checked in and reported he-d be around to pick up his fish this evening.

Besides that which won the $4.50 double taper fly-line Saturday, three more limits were reported as having been caught Saturday morning. Guy Tate reported back with Santa Paula's No. 1 limit at 8:15 a.m., and Lee Brandon, Verne Harpster and Bruce Burns, who traveled farther for their limits, straggled in with 25 apiece early Saturday afternoon.

All streams were reported nicely filled with fish, but most of them were equally filled with food, which made the fish comparatively tough to catch. Indications, however, were that when the water goes down and natural food is a bit less abundant, the wily trout will be grabbing at angler's hooks with increasing frequency.

The Lyons canyon country added itself to the usual run of popular haunts for Santa Paula district fishermen, with nearly everyone in this county bagging seven or eight fish, and some catching nearly limits. Walt Primmer got 22 fish at Lyons and reported "lots of fish, but too much food."

Other popular pools were located up Santa Paula and Sespe creeks as far as the very headwaters, and in the Matilija and other tributaries of the Ventura river.

May 7, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Primmer Bros. Complete Radio and Refrigeration, Service Engineering. …The Fish Are Just Beginning to Bite! We are giving detailed information on fishing and places to go in this area. (Ask about our personally tested tackle.) A 20 7/8-inch trout caught in Santa Paul Creek now holds the lead for the month's biggest fish.

May 10, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CLAUD BAKER HOOKS 23 ¾-INCH FISH, LEADS IN CONTEST – Santa Paula's biggest-fish-of-the month contest graduated from a battle of youth into a fight among all local anglers today when an entry submitted by Claud Baker of Willard road measured 23 ¾-inches and thus outdistanced a previous entry brought in by young Philip Sloan totaling 20 7/8-inches.

Baker caught the fish Saturday afternoon in the upper Sespe on a frog, he said. It is a steelhead, and will be on display until tonight in Primmer Bros. sporting goods store. The contest is jointly sponsored by Primmer Bros. and the *Santa Paula Chronicle*.

To the one who hooks the biggest fish in Ventura county waters during May will go a $7.50 automatic reel.

May 14, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Primmer Bros. …Local Trout Fishing Is Better! A 23 ¾-inch trout caught in the Sespe now holds the month's record.

June 1, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BAKER WINS BIG-FISH PRIZE, GETS $7.50 REEL FOR HUGE STEELHEAD – The winnah! It's Claud Baker, and he will receive a $7.50 automatic reel as a reward for turning in the biggest fish of the month in the join Chronicle-Primmer Bros. contest.

Baker's 23 ¾-inch steelhead beauty, submitted in the middle of the month, withstood a last-minute assault, and none of the fish taken out of Ventura county streams over the holiday week-end could compare with it.

The contest, which was for the biggest fish caught in the county waters during the month of May, closed at noon today.

Although Baker's giant was not beaten in size, many Santa Paula anglers reported some of the best fishing of the season over the week-end since waters have begun to settle down to mid-season heights.

Baker's steelhead came from the Sespe river and responded to a frog. He moved into the lead after two local boys had been ahead with entries of 20 ½ and 20 7/8 inches respectively. The first was brought in by seven-year-old Takeshi Chida, who caught his steelhead on worms in the lower Santa Paula creek, and the next entry was submitted by Philip Sloan, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Sloan, which also came from Santa Paula creek.

June 26, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ABOUT FOLKS YOU KNOW – Mr. and Mrs. Norman Harvey will be hosts this week-end for their son-in-law, E.R. McCloud, and a party of friends, from Los Angeles. The visitors will spend the day's trout fishing while here.

August 20, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Sporting Goods. New Tennis Supplies! Trout fishing is just getting good in this territory! See us! Hunting season is just beginning! And don't forget our key and service departments! Primmer Bros.

October 18, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

100,000 BABY TROUT FOR COUNTY STREAMS – Ventura county streams will be stocked soon with 100,000 fingerlings trout, according to a report received by the Ventura County Rod and Gun club.

The state fish and game commission has set aside the trout at its hatcheries, to be used in the Ventura and Sespe rivers and their tributaries, and in Santa Paula creek. (Remainder of the article about pheasant hunting in the county.)

November 11, 1937 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GUN CLUB WANTS DIFFERENT TROUT – Fish and game propagation in Ventura county was discussed by members of the rod and gun club at their meeting in the Elks club in Ventura last night.

Sound movies of Mt. Lassen national park were shown. Another short subject describing the operation of the China Clipper, trans-Pacific air transport, was exhibited.

Reports were made on the bird plans in Steckel park. There the members have been feeding young quail and partridges until they mature. After that they are liberated throughout the county. Recently they have imported some chukker partridges for Ventura county. These birds are of an oriental specie from the Himalaya mountains in Tibet, according to Member Tom Harrison. A few have been established in the upper Sespe.

Plans were made by the club to ask for some other specie of fish to plant in Ventura streams. The state has been planting Loch Leven trout in the county rivers. These fish, according to members, are primarily lake fish and do not survive the heavy spring floods occurring here. In their place the rod and gun club prefers Rainbow or Steelhead trout. (Editor's note: The rest of the article was missing from the microfilm, so I do not know if there was additional information on the club's request for different trout.)

1 9 3 8

Rainfall – 27.77 Inches

January 23, 1938 – Los Angeles Times

STEELHEAD RUN STARTS – by Bill Froelich – Here is good news for the angler. The winter run of steelhead trout is on, and the angling fraternity, or those of the super-ethical expert type who take to coastal streams for fighting steelhead trout, are making ready to invade them.

Steelhead fishing is enjoyed during the winter season. It is at this time that these fighting trout leave the ocean and head for the cold water of the many inland streams to do their spawning.

The steelhead season closed February 28, and from reports received excellent fishing is being enjoyed especially in the Santa Ynez River, where the trout occupy the spawning grounds as far up the river as Buellton Ridge. Santa Clara and Ventura rivers also are receiving a heavy migration of these fish.

During the early part of the season the mouths of these streams were muddy and filled with silt, which prevented the steelhead from entering them, but recent rains have cleared up the waters and schools of these big fighting fish are heading for the spawning grounds.

Steelhead trout fishing may be just fishing to many anglers, but to those who have not experienced the thrill of landing one they will soon learn why the steelhead is recognized as the gamest trout of them all.

In weight they run from four to twenty pounds, and hooking one of these fighters in the swift-running waters will bring a thrill even to the veteran fisherman.

Expert anglers claim they never wait for the quarry to approach the bait, but always make the cast far out, permitting the bait, to drift to the stream.

The strike is fast and hard, the steelhead taking the bait with a rush, and his notification to the angler is the screaming departure of many feet of line, after which comes the struggle of landing him.

Even under the most favorable conditions it is quite impossible to land more than a small number of steelhead entering the streams. It is claimed by anglers participating in this sport that many fishermen retire minus tackle or with smashed rod tip after a session with a good-sized steelhead.

Most anglers fishing these streams do not bother with the young trout. By eliminating the small fish they are assured of a good run the following season, inasmuch as next season's

supply depends entirely upon the young that are allowed to reach a size which will enable them to make the long and difficult migration to the ocean.

The limit on steelhead in Districts 2, 2 ¾, 12A, Tide in 2, 3, 15, Santa Ynez to Buellton Ridge, is three fish, but in the Sacramento River and tributaries five miles from the mouth to Middle Creek in Shasta county, Districts 1 and 1 ½, there is a limit of five fish.

February 13, 1938 – Los Angeles Times

EARLY OCEAN FISHING SEEN -- …Steelhead fishing is now picking up and many catches of large-sized specimens are reported. The heavy rains during the past week have caused the opening of mouths of all rivers, allowing migration of heavy schools of steelhead to their spawning beds.

With inland water fishing season opening on May 1, State hatcheries are preparing to start planting trout on April 1. Fingerlings are now being released in many streams, and this work will continue until the regular adult planting starts.

Employees of the State hatcheries believe that the coming fishing season will be exceptionally good and every effort is being made to stock all streams with a heavy supply of trout.

April 21, 1938 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens May 1st. Check your trout tackle. We have a complete line of Latest Equipment for he Trout Fisherman…Watkins Hardware Co.

April 22, 1938 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens Sunday, May 1st. See our new bigger and better 1938 Tackle Department. Ask us for License and information—Our Scouts have seen plenty of fish in the local streams. Let us show you our new and exclusive trout rod, especially designed for our local streams. Ask us about it! Primmer Bros.

April 25, 1938 – Santa Paula Chronicle

'SOONER' GETS 37 TROUT, 25 DAYS IN JAIL – Ventura – Donald Hughes, 25-year-old Santa Paulan, apparently couldn't wait for the opening of the trout season so now he'll have to spend May 1 in the county jail.

Fish and game authorities placed him under arrest yesterday afternoon after he allegedly had caught 37 trout in Santa Ana creek.

Taken to Ojai justice court this morning, Hughes was ordered to pay a fine of $50 or spend 25 days in jail by Justice of the Peace Boyd Gabbert. Hughes said he preferred to spend the time in jail.

Because of Hughes' pre-season outing, Ventura county fishermen received a pretty good indication of what to expect in the way of piscatorial pleasure when dawn arrives May 1.

ADVERTISEMENT – Western Auto Supply Co's. Sale of Fishing Tackle. Complete Trout Outfit, 12 pieces $3.95. The Outfit includes…1 split bamboo fly rod, cork grip, 1 single action fly reel with click, 1 25-yard enameled "Guilford" line, 2 three foot leaders, 6 No. 12 Salmon egg hooks, 3 wet flies, 1 jar salmon eggs, 1 leatherette fly book, 1 roomy creel with sling, 1 tube split 'BB shot sinkers, 1 Colorado spinner, 1 round aluminum leader box.

April 26, 1938 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH CONTEST BREAKS SUNDAY – What the state fish and game commission says about all the trout being washed into the middle of the Pacific ocean doesn't mean a thing to Santa Paula fishing enthusiasts.

It may be true, according to local sportsmen, that the main streams will be pretty lean pickings, but that means that there'll be all the more in the little shallows and backwaters, just hanging round and waiting for May 1.

And anyhow, say the sportsmen, there's that lucky enthusiast who's already caught 37 trout this year, so even if this fellow townsman does have to spend 25 days in the lock up meditating on the fly versus worm theory—well, if there weren't any fish he wouldn't be where he is. (Game wardens, please copy.)

So it's May first for the opening of the big contest sponsored by the Primmer Brothers and the *Chronicle.* The prizes will be in the bag for someone next Tuesday. No entrance fees, no nothing. All you have to do is catch 'em. You don't even have to bring 'em back alive.

First prize is a Montague fly rod. Second is a Bronson level-winding reel. Prizes go to the heaviest limits of 25 trout brought in by Monday noon, May 2. Fish must be cleaned and the heads left on. Needless to say, they've got to be caught in Ventura county.

A leather-bound creel will be the grand prize for the largest fish caught during the whole month of May. This is any kind of fish. Only whales are excluded.

April 27, 1938 – Santa Paula Chronicle

KEENE REPORTS PLENTY OF TROUT BACK OF SESPE – The leather-bound creel for the largest fish caught in May will only be awarded for trout and not for sharks, catfish, eels, guppies or what have you, as originally stated. Any variety of trout will do just as long as it is a trout. So anglers may bring in what they can starting Monday, but all fish will be carefully inspected against any Jumping Frog of Calaveras county tricks.

Herman Keene, in between catching rattlers, has managed to take a look at Squaw Flats, Sespe Hot Springs and Burson Flats. His story on returning from his hike yesterday, was that in spite of the fish and game commission and the whole government of California, for that matter, he's seen trout this year poking up their noses in lots of places.

So, even if everyone doesn't catch the limit, somebody's bound to win those prizes offered by the *Chronicle* and Primmer Brothers.

April 29, 1938 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Headquarters for Sportsmen. Trout Season Opens Sunday, May 1st. The water is good and good season is expected. We have an excellent line of fly rods, reels, line, leaders, hooks and accessories. We know the country and streams. Fishing licenses issued. See us for your fishing needs. Watkins Hardware Co.

April 30, 1938 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RAIN GIVES LOCAL ANGLERS BREAK FOR OPENING SUNDAY – The fishing season gets off with a bang tomorrow morning, and though the noise may be a bit dulled by the local rain, every cloud still has a silver lining. For the chances are that it will mean less per square inch coverage by the Pershing square and Hollywood-and Vine Waltons. The streams may be a bit muddy but local anglers will have first crack at them.

Busy refuting the pessimistic fish and game report which hinted that there wasn't a minnow left between here and Hoboken, Herman Keene, our local rough-on-lions, reports, that he saw plenty of trout on his recent trip to Hot Springs. What's more, lots of the old brush has been swept away, leaving the banks free of interference. So you can spend your fishin' time fishin', and not climbing willow trees.

Keene reports fish in the upper Sespe. The road is open now to Bucksport, leaving a tolerable walk to Alder creek trail for those who want to fish there. Those who feel they must fish in Sespe canyon will have to use foot locomotion, for it is impossible to drive a car farther than the Fillmore Irrigation Co., about a mile below Henley's camp.

Best fishing will probably be in the backwaters and small tributaries where the fish have had a chance to brave out the bad floods a bit better. There is always the cheerful example of our local fish enthusiast who went to jail last week for catching 37 fish out of season. Anyhow, he did catch them!

Much competition is expected for those prizes offered by Primmer Brothers and the *Chronicle*. First prize is a Montague fly rod, second is a Bronson level-winding reel. That's of course for the heaviest limits of 25 trout brought in by Monday noon. Then there's the prize for the biggest trout caught during the month of May. That one takes a leather bound creel.

Keene, in his recent travels, has brought back a rattlesnake which is in Primmer's window. Local anglers who wish to try snake casting are invited to try their luck.

May 5, 1938 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GROVE CAPTURES REWARD FOR HEAVIEST LIMIT – It was a threatening and overcast morning after a previous day's rain that welcomed in the 1938 fishing season, but local anglers were out on the job early yesterday and in spite of the pessimistic reports about the flood carrying the trout out to Honolulu, there were still plenty for those who know where to look.

Due to the rain, the streams were all muddy and this cut down considerably on the day's haul but many fish were seen and in Ventura county altogether there were some 1500 limits caught. The legal limit per day is 25 fish or 10 pounds and one fish.

Claimant of the prize for the heaviest catch of 25 trout contest for which closed at noon today, was Jim Gove, 963 Main Street, Santa Paula. His limit was caught, he stated today, with not too much time and effort. Grove is not a native of Santa Paula but learned his fishing up in Oregon where apparently they teach you what it takes. He has been an enthusiastic angler for a good many years now and usually catches two dozen or so limits in the course of the season.

The prize for the largest trout caught during the month of May is still open, in fact it's just started, so all anglers who didn't make their limits or didn't get round to registering, just bring that big one into Primmer's instead of just telling the boys about it. The lucky one will win the leather-bound creel now on exhibit at Primmer's window.

May 9, 1938 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT CONTEST CALLED OFF – A trout fishing contest jointly sponsored by Primmer Bros. sporting goods store and the *Chronicle* was called off today when it became known such contests are in violation of state fish and game regulations.

Learning of cancellation of a similar contest in Oxnard recently, the contest sponsors wrote to R.E. Bedwell of Santa Barbara, deputy state fish and game warden in this district, and inquired the status of the local competition. Bedwell quoted Sec. 461, Part 1, of the fish and game code:

"It is unlawful to offer any prize or other inducement as a reward for the taking of any birds, mammals, fish, mollusks or crustaceans, except under permit of the commission, issued under such rules and regulations as the commission may prescribe."

Both prizes offered in the contest, however, had been given away by today. First entry in the biggest-fish-during May part of the contest was brought into Primmer's this morning before the store had been advised of Bedwell's letter. J.J. Kemnetz, of Huntington Park, brought in a fish 18 ½ inches long which he caught in the Sespe. When the contest was

called off shortly after this lone entry, the prize of a leather-bound creel awarded Kemnetz.

Kemnetz' witness was James A. Grove, Santa Paulan who last week won the other prize, a Montague fly rod, for bringing in the heaviest limit by noon of May 2, day after the season opening.

June 5, 1938 – Los Angeles Times

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES – Fishing during the past week in Southern California streams and lakes was enjoyed by many thousands of anglers. Trout proved disappointing.

…The Santa Ynez River in Santa Barbara county is reported to be furnishing fair sport. The Ventura River returned over 15,000 trout during the opening week of the season. (The rest of the article dealt with other areas in California.)

1 9 3 9

Rainfall – 14.34 Inches

January 19, 1938 – Los Angeles Times

SPORTSMEN OPEN RIVER MOUTH TO AID STEELHEAD TROUT RUN – Santa Barbara, Jan 18.—The mouth of the Santa Ynez River, which flows into the Pacific Ocean at Surf, today stands open to countless steelhead trout which are rushing upstream in search of spawning places back in the valley country.

A group of thirty Santa Barbara county sportsmen, enlisted by warden of the California Fish and Game Commission, toiled with shovels opening a channel across the sandbar that had been formed by the tides at the mouth of the river.

The flow this year had not come in sufficient volume to break through the shoal and something of a lake had accumulated on the flat. The steelhead have been seen jumping in the breakers off-shore for several weeks and impatient sportsmen decided the time had come to help along the river.

The high seas of the last few days have effectively cleared the mouth and the sporting fish now are rushing through. Until February 28, steelhead fishing is lawful on the Santa Ynez River as far inland as the Buellton bridge, a stream distance of twenty-eight miles.

The mouth of the Ventura River, south of Santa Barbara, has been open for some time and more than thirty steelhead reported caught, the largest measuring twenty-eight inches.

April 25, 1939 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Supplies. Trout Season Opens May 1st. Local fishermen get your fishing licenses from us—and make our store your outdoor headquarters. Gear and tackle on display. Watkins Hardware Co.

April 26, 1939 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CONDITIONS GOOD FOR FISH OPENING – Santa Paula and tri-county fishermen are among thousands in the state who are preparing for the opening of the trout season on Monday.

With fair weather forecast, clear water is assured in the tri-county area and sportsmen look forward to the best early season fishing in years.

The collective forecast of state game wardens was: low, clear waters; good angling on the average but for short duration; easy access to streams in higher lands.

Mild winter weather and resulting deficiency in snow pack will have most streams in a mid-summer condition an wardens freely predicted trout would rise to the fly with the snap usually found in late August.

While water shortage was expected to aid the early anglers, there was no question of the general season being shortened by the lack of a generous snow pack to feed the streams.

Some streams will be short of fish because of last winter's heavy rains, which in many cases cleaned out streambeds or changed their courses.

There is a run of small steelhead in Ventura river, with easy access well up the river.

Good fishing is reported on Sespe creek in the vicinity of Sespe hot springs and Little Rock reservoir looks good for early season angling.

The Santa Clara too will be clear and fairly low so that good catches are expected in the river and its tributaries.

April 27, 1939 – The Piru News

HIGH WATERS, OPEN AND LIMITS LIKELY FOR TROUT SEASON – Ventura county anglers who prefer to head for the back country for their trout fishing will find many heretofore inaccessible roads open for the first day of the current season, Monday, May 1, is the report from Max Shearer, in the Watkins Hardware Store, local fishing headquarters.

Legal fishing opens a half hour before official sunrise at 5:05 on Monday, as many anglers will be poised on the banks of the streams ready to take advantage of the earliest moment to lure the wily steelhead to strike along the lower Ventura river.

Unusually light snowfall last winter will make early fishing in the upper streams ideal because of the low and clear water, is reported.

The upper Sespe and the Lyon canyon stream opening off the Sespe are reported in good condition and Piedra Blanca Creek, another branch of he Sespe, is a likely spot. Bear Creek and Alder Creek will draw their share of nimrods who will attempt to lure the early morning trout into a creel. Santa Ana and Coyote Creeks along with San Antonio are also on the list of the first-day fishermen.

Piru Creek and Sespe Creek are always a sure place to find some hopeful caster on a rock hoping to feel a "strike" send his line singing.

Favorite fishing spots on the west side of the High Sierras are all expected to be accessable on the opening day with the exception of the higher passes into the Mono-Inyo side.

April 29, 1939 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHERMEN AWAIT OPENING OF SEASON AT 4:39 MONDAY – (Caption was under man holding a string of rainbow trout. Dollar Day or no Dollar Day, Santa Paula stores handling sporting goods were kept on the jump today. Monday is May 1, opening day of the fishing season, and anglers were laying in their supplies.

May 1, 1939 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HERE IT COMES—THE FIRST FISH STORY OF THE SEASON – Here it comes—the first fish story of the season. But we can swear to this one—it didn't get away. Joe Bravo brought in a beautiful 21-inch steelhead trout this morning which weighed about four pounds. He caught it, he said, in Santa Paula creek, two miles above Steckel park, and hooked it on salmon eggs.

He managed to snag one other trout, a tiny 18 incher, but said that when he got his big fellow it was enough for the day.

It has been estimated that about 200 fishermen left this part of the county to try to snare the finny ones. All city schools were vacated—legally—and Main street was unusually quiet as men and women of all ages literally swarmed to county streams for their first legal battle with the wily game fish.

Limit catches were the rule of the day. Reports began to come lat the Chronicle office and local sporting goods stores as early as 8 a.m. with tales of limit catches and bulging creels.

Sunrise was at 5:05 a.m. and, under the state game laws, fishermen were allowed to start their work at 4:05 a.m.

By 7 a.m., the Ventura river, the Matilija creek and the Sespe were black with anglers. One veteran Isaak Walton said that in the many decades that he's been fishing Ventura county waters, never has he seen more fishermen on the streams so early in the morning.

Almost all lures seemed to be getting results in various parts of the county, although spinners and worms seemed to have the edge. Flies went strong on lower Ventura river.

Fishermen's fear for an unusually short run were increased despite the heavy catches. Low water levels were reported in almost all streams and practically no moss growth was found, it was said.

May 3, 1939 – Santa Paula Chronicle

AND THE HOSPITAL GOT THE FISH! – Charged with possession of more than the legal number of trout, Paul George Holmes, 20, of 1043 Park street, was tried before Justice of the Peace Fred G. Bagnall this morning in the justice court.

Holmes was convicted on the testimony of James Achilles, deputy fish and game warden, who made the arrest, who said he found Holmes with 31 trout in his possession on the opening day of the season. The limit for one day is 25. The youth allegedly caught the fish in Santa Paula creek.

Judge Bagnall sentenced Holmes to a pay a fine of $25 or spend 10 days in the county jail. He also confiscated the fish and ordered them turned over to the county hospital.

May 13, 1939 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING, HUNTING MOVIES SHOWN HERE – George Parenteau, Oxnard sportsman and well known moving picture cameraman who has entertained many Ventura county audiences with his moving pictures of fish and game hunting in the back country of Ventura county, last night showed two reels of colored films of trout fishing in Santa Paula, Sespe and Ventura rivers to members of the Lions club. The speaker was introduced by James H. Wood, program chairman, with John Singleton, vice president of the club, presiding over the meeting.

June 23, 1939 – Los Angeles Times
June 23, 1939 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SOUTHLAND STREAMS AND LAKES PLENTIFULLY STOCKED WITH FISH – Keeping the fresh waters stocked for the benefit of our myriad anglers, increasing yearly by many thousands, is the concern of the State Division of Fish and Game, which planted 4,500,000 trout in Southern California streams and lakes in 1938. These were principally rainbow, Loch Leven, eastern brook, golden, steelhead, and black spotted in the order named.

The greater number was logically allotted to the High Sierra region, Mono County receiving 2,000,000, Tulare 955,000, Inyo 861,000 and Kern 250,00. In Ventura County 100,000 were placed.

Planting work in the more southerly counties was greatly curtailed through destruction of the Forest Home Hatchery by floods the previous year, two small plants being depended upon temporarily. Construction this summer of a large permanent hatchery of modern design on Lytle Creek, San Bernardino County, will remedy the situation. This spring much spawn was obtained from large rainbow trout in Big Bear Lake.

October 17, 1939 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT PLANTED IN COUNTY CREEKS – An unknown number of trout was planted late last week in Santa Paula canyon by members of the Ventura County Rod & Gun club under the direction of the state fish and game commission.

The fish were planted in three locations above Doheny's ranch from a special circulating tank in which they were transported to the spots. They were part of the club's program for restocking the streams of the county.

1 9 4 0

Rainfall – 14.88 Inches

January 14, 1940 – Los Angeles Times

GOOD STEELHEAD RUN IN SIGHT – Good runs of winter steelhead are expected in the Santa Ynez River following the recent heavy rainfall.

The rains removed the sand bar at the mouth of the river and many fish ranging from one to nine pounds have been taken. Best fishing has been found at the mouth and just upstream from the railroad bridge. Salmon egg clusters and spinners are bringing the best results.

Steelhead also are being taken in the Ventura River.

The season will continue through Feb. 29. Three fish per day is the limit and a 1940 fishing license is required.

January 19, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle

EXPLORERS TO FISH – Saturday the Santa Paula Explorers club will go on an overnight fishing trip to Surf, California. At this town, which is near the mouth of the Santa Ynez river, they will fish for steelhead trout.

April 9, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle

VENTURA ROD AND GUN MEETS HERE TOMORROW – Members of the Ventura County Rod and Gun club will gather tomorrow night in regular meeting at the Eagles hall rather than at Citizens hall, it was announced today by Jack Cline, secretary of the organization.

With President Romain Young presiding at the meeting, and Santa Paula playing host to the organization, the principle address of the evening will be given by Professor William Michael of the California Institute of Technology. He will speak on the trout, its habits and how to catch it.

April 11, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RECORD TURNOUT AT ROD, GUN CLUB – One of the largest turnouts in the history of the organization put in an appearance last night at the meeting of the Ventura County Rod & Gun club in Eagles hall, when 297 members and guests registered, and more than enough to raise the total above the 300 mark did not sign the register.

Fish and fishing occupied most of the program, with the principal talk being given by Prof. William Michael of the California Institute of Technology, and several reels of motion pictures on fishing being shown.

Ed Carty of the state fish and game commission gave a report on new developments in that department. Senator James McBride and Assemblyman Roscoe Burson spoke briefly on the legislative session. Bob Beardsley reported on the recent meeting of the Southern Council of Conservation, and Harry C. Wilson and J. Geddes of Hueneme spoke on the deep sea fishing facilities going in at the new harbor.

April 25, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Special for $1 Days – 3 fly hooks for trout, 1 spool trout line, 30 feet, 1 bottle large eggs, 1 box split shot, 1 bait can, 3 spinner flys. Fishing tackle that's fit for fishing. Hymes 1075 Main Street.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Opens May 1st. Look the silver on that water. Now it's still. Now it's moving, with the action of skimming, swimming shining fish. They make your fingers itch to get around a rod. They make your eyes dart from current to current, wondering where to cast first. The fishing season is open! And you're open to these suggestions of outfitting yourself with the newest equipment—It's here, in variety for every angler's hobby. Rods, reels, lines, fly books, leader box alcock. Other fishing supplies, including sun glasses, line dryers, knives, etc. Western Auto Supply.

April 30, 1940 – Los Angeles Times

ANGLING ANGLES – by Slim Thompson. If any of your friends, relatives or business acquaintances turn up missing tomorrow, think nothing of it. They'll be back in a couple of days with wind-burned cheeks, sun-burned lips, chapped hands and, if everything holds, a few trout.

The recent stocking of our local lakes and streams with catchable-size, aged-fish—Arrowhead has received 30,000 so far this year—will make it possible for most anglers to bring home fair catches.

San Gabriel River and its tributaries offer fairly good fishing and Little Rock Creek as well as Big Rock Creek looks promising. Other local hot spots for the one-day fisherman will be Mill Creek, Santa Ana River, Ventura River, Piru and Sespe Creek.

Scads of steelhead went up the Santa Ynez River after the close of winter season in February and Lompoc residents report that not many of them went out so this should make some excellent angling along the stream.

April 30, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle
ANGLERS SET FOR FIRST DAY OF TROUT SEASON TOMORROW – Golf clubs and tennis rackets will take a back seat tomorrow as anglers all over the state will

unlimber their poles, dig out their fishing baskets and hit the streams for the first day of trout season.

No fish make be taken before sunrise—5:08 a.m.—and not more than 25 may be taken by any one angler. There is no minimum size for trout in this part of the state.

Local interest appeared to be lagging behind this time last year as license sales from the three Santa Paula license headquarters—Butcher's Hardware, Watkins' Hardware and Western Auto Supply company—totaled less than a year ago. Approximately 300 had been issued by noon today, but it was expected that quite a number would be issued this afternoon.

Recent rains, which it was feared would make the streams muddy and the catch small, appeared today not to have damaged the prospects of successful opening. Early reports from the Sespe stated the stream is in good condition and that nice catches from there might be expected.

Other local streams were considered to be in fair condition but many local fishermen were planning trips to Bishop, Lake Hughes and other favorite High Sierra spots for the opening day's sport.

Prospects in surrounding counties were reported as "just fair." In the vicinity of Los Angeles, lake fishing was reported to be the best bet for opening day with most stream fishing called "unpromising."

It was expected, however, that Santa Paula anglers would not be influenced by opening day "dope" and sunrise tomorrow will find many of them whipping the streams in this vicinity.

Seven campfire permits had been issued this morning and four in the previous two days by the county game warden's office, and many others were expected to be issued this afternoon to fishermen. It was pointed out by the department that all persons building fires in the back country must have fire permits which can be obtained either through the game warden or the forestry service offices.

State, county and forestry service men were expected to be policing the streams today and tomorrow protecting the fish against "sooners" or men fishing illegally.

<u>May 4, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

CHRONICLES: Tom Harrison back in town with his second limit of trout in three days—without losing any time from work.

<u>May 27, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>
FILLMORE – Paul Holmes of Whittier who is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Holmes here and substituting in Woolworth's store for John Chadwell during his

convalescence from a knee operation, brought eight sizable trout home yesterday as a result of an overnight trip up the Sespe.

May 28, 1940 – Los Angeles Times

RESCUE OF 15,000 BABY TROUT MADE – Santa Barbara, May 27. – Fifteen thousand No. 2 fingerling steelhead trout today were reported rescued from certain death in the fast-drying pool of the Upper Santa Ynez River by Santa Barbara conservationists.

The fish lifesavers were aided by the State Fish and Game Commission which sent trucks, nets and men from the San Bernardino hatchery.

The project will be continued through Thursday, when there will be a brief layoff to permit pools to settle. Volunteers are being asked to help the salvage next week.

Fingerlings in the upper part of the stream are being transferred to the lake behind Gibraltar Dam. Those salvaged from the lower river are being released in the lagoon near Surf, a natural rearing pond. Later the steelhead trout will be released into the ocean.

June 4, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle

STATE TO BUILD FISH HATCHERY IN SESPE – A temporary fish hatchery—possibly to be made permanent after a year's time—will be established immediately on the Sespe river near Fillmore by the state division of fish and game, it was announced here today by J. William Cook, construction estimator with the bureau of fish conservation.

Cook said a lease has been signed with Dr. Thomas McNab of the Sespe Land & Water company for an acre of land on which the hatchery will be erected. If the permanent plant is erected, Cook said, between eight and 10 acres of land will be required.

"Through the efforts of E.L. Carty (Oxnard member of the state fish and game commission) the division of fish and game will install and operate an experimental fish hatchery to determine the feasibility for the location of a permanent plant," Cook announced.

Work will be started within a week, he said. Equipment to be installed includes two rearing tanks and several hatching troughs; because the spawning season is nearly over officials will make an effort to plant eggs at the plant as soon as it is completed.

Cook indicated 150,000 fingerlings and 20,000 adult fish would be raised during one year's operation of the temporary plant. Dorrance Clanton, superintendent of hatcheries for southern California, will be in charge of its operation and Cook will oversee construction.

If the plant operates satisfactorily a permanent hatchery will be constructed at an estimated cost of $170,000; it will become the main hatchery for the southern part of the state and will supply all fishing streams south of the Tehachapi, including Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

"The permanent plant would entail production of 4,000,000 fish per year," Cook said. It will replace the hatchery at Forest Home, which was destroyed by the flood of 1938.

June 12, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ROD, GUN CLUB TO MEET IN FILLMORE – Ventura County Rod and Gun club meets tonight in the Fillmore Ebell clubhouse at 7:30 o'clock to hear Fish and Game Commissioner Ed Carty of Oxnard discuss Ventura county's new fish hatchery, and H.B. Heim report on the activities of his state game hatcheries.

June 14, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CARTY EXPLAINS FISH HATCHERY – Stating that the quantity and the temperature of the water were right for such a venture, Ed Carty, California fish and game commissioner, explained the proposed fish hatchery near Fillmore to members of the Ventura County Rod and Gun club.

Carty said the only possible objection to the site might be the hardness of the water. However, he went on, space for the hatchery has already been rented and temporary pools are being built as an experiment. The fact that there are fish in this particular water, and that there always have been, is a good indication, he stated, that the test will be a success and that a permanent hatchery will be established there.

June 21, 1940 – Los Angeles Times

FISH AND GAME PLENTIFUL ON RANCH – The Upper Sespe River has long been prized by local sportsmen for the fine fishing and hunting the region affords. Strategically located in the heart of this area is the Circle B Ranch, operated for 50 years as a horse and cattle raising outfit and only recently opened to the public as a guest ranch.

Game is plentiful, the annual take of deer in that immediate region being about 1000, and there is an abundance of mountain quail. The Sespe, which runs through the ranch is stocked with 80,000 to 100,000 trout every year.

The ranch is reached over the Mariposa State Highway out of Ojai. The 35-mile drive from Ventura is one of exceptional beauty.

July 10, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle
I BEG TO REPORT…by Dick Bergholz – Hatching Fish. There was an unusual blessed event over near Fillmore June 24—unusual because the mother wasn't present and because approximately 99 per cent of her 20,000 progeny lived.

Today most of the youngsters are doing fine, thank you, and living the life of Reilly on a special diet of beef hearts and beef liver.

When fall comes and the babies will probably be big enough to feed themselves and will be carefully transported to secluded Ventura county streams to become the so called "wily trout" which lure many a sedentary business man out of his work-a-day routine.

The 20,000 baby blessed event presented a good supply of young fish to Ventura county's first state fish and game fish hatchery and if the even proves successful all the way through, may start the way for a permanent piscatorial maternity ward here in the county.

The whole thing's just an experiment now. The California fish and game commission wants to find out if young rainbow trout can be hatched and reared in Ventura county water. The experts want to know if local water has the proper amount of oxygen, the right temperature, the correct alkalinity.

Before the Ventura county hatchery was started, all the fingerlings planted in Ventura county streams came from the two semi-permanent fish and game commission hatcheries in San Bernardino.

On June 20 the temporary fish hatchery was opened on a leased acre of the McNab citrus ranch east of Fillmore. The site was chosen because of its access to one of the "cienega" springs which bubbles up from the ground.

This water, named from the Indian term for "rising water" and applied to the numerous springs that swell forth from the Santa Clara river bottom, was found to have excellent temperature for hatchery purposes and fine chemical content.

On June 21, even before the hatchery was fully prepared, a batch of rainbow trout fish eggs arrived at the Ventura county hatchery from the San Bernardino county hatchery.

Three days later came the many thousand blessed event. Workers rushed to completion the equipment to handle the thousands of baby trout.

Through a happy combination of circumstances, the hatch proved unusually successful. Normally hatcherymen consider themselves fortunate if they can bring 90 to 95 per cent of the eggs through the hatch. At the new hatchery an estimated 99 per cent came through.

The thousands of tiny trout, hardly more than fish eggs with tiny tails and embryo fins, spent the first weeks of their existence in long troughs about 100 feet long and a foot wide. The troughs were arranged in pairs of equal size—three batteries of troughs in all.

Through the troughs coursed fresh water from the "cienega" springs, at the rate of 150-175 gallons per minute. The water is aerated—allowed to fall through the air—as much as possible to enable life-giving oxygen to the feeble fish.

After six or eight weeks in the toughs, the tiny trout will graduate into two big circular tanks, each with a capacity of 900 gallons. Water will be kept circulating through these tanks at the rate of 100 gallons per minute.

The trout will stay in these tanks until they're ready for their free life in Ventura county streams. This may be for only a few months, or maybe a year. Fish planting is usually only done when stream waters are high enough and fast enough to keep a relatively even temperature.

Food for the baby fish is beef liver and beef heart. It's hard to say how much is fed them—generally, all they'' eat. They have their meals three times daily—no in-between snacks. Their rations are measured in terms of ounces.

Vital to the baby fish is the oxygen supply. Because they're fresh-water fish and because they're mighty feeble when young, the fish have difficulty getting enough oxygen. Goldfish can live on one part oxygen per 1,00,000 parts of water, but it takes 10 times that much to keep a trout going. That's why every effort is made to keep the water falling through the air—splashing, actually—to draw oxygen down to the fish.

Hatcherymen figure about 75 per cent of the fish that are hatched will reach the size and condition for planting. Then, they figure, about 20 percent will live if planted when only two inches long; about 50 or 60 per cent will live if planted when six to eight inches long. Of course, it costs money to develop the fingerlings from two to six inches in length and poses the problem of which is most economical—to plant when only two inches long and take a high mortality or plant when months older and when more costly and take a lower mortality.

All in all, fish and game commissioners are pleased with the experimental hatchery, claim the water is excellent so far—the temperature (61-63 degrees) is constant and just right for hatching—the location is fine and there is no pollution problem encountered by other hatcheries. (When the water passes through the troughs and tanks, it is returned to the ground, and because no drinking water sources are nearby, creates no pollution problem.)

Only fly in the ointment is a recent bacteria infection which hit the experimental hatchery, mowed down a flock of young fish and had hatcherymen plenty worried. They think it's bacteria that's causing the trouble—bacteriologists have been called in and have made studies—but they're not sure they know the answer yet.

July 12, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BOY HOOKS 7 ¾ POUND TROUT – Largest trout taken out of local streams was exhibited in Santa Paula yesterday as Don Blaylock and Bill Ellis returned from an afternoon's fishing expedition with a 7 ¾ pound, 29 ¾ inch steelhead.

The fish was taken by Blaylock on a No. 8 hook and worm in Lost creek, after it had once bitten through a 15 pound test leader, escaped, and then taken another lure.

Blaylock and Ellis were fishing together on the small stream when the big fish struck, the youths said. The nine foot fly pole and light tackle being used by the boys was put to a severe test as the huge fish raced downstream.

Ellis leaped along the bank, however, got ahead of the fish and headed it off. Then followed an hour fight, before the boys were able to finally tire the trout and bring him to shore.

The hook had lodged between his teeth and he was not able to bite the leader as he had done the first time he took the bait a short time before, Blaylock reported.

August 15, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PERMANENT HATCHERY SEEN FOR FILLMORE – R.H. Heims of the state fish and game commission told more than 100 members of the Ventura County Rod & Gun club last night that results of a test fish hatchery near Fillmore had been favorable and it appears it will be made permanent. Heims was reporting for J.D. Unruh, of the state fish hatchery service, who was not able to speak at the gathering here.

October 29, 1940 – Santa Paula Chronicle

Emmett Cook and son, La Verne, spent the week-end fishing in the Sespe. They came home with 27 trout, eight of which were caught by La Verne.

1 9 4 1

Rainfall – 38.11 Inches

January 3, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ROD, GUN CLUB TO WORK ON HATCHERY – Members of the Ventura County Rod & Gun Club will start the year by doing voluntary work at the new state fish hatchery near Fillmore Sunday and installing new officers next Wednesday.

Twenty or 25 men will be needed to deepen ponds, repair dikes and do other work at the fish hatchery, located a mile east of Fillmore on the McNab estate property, according to Romain Young, president of the club. Each member is to come equipped with boots and a shovel, as well as lunch for a picnic planned in the middle of the day.

Installation will be held at the meeting scheduled Wednesday night in the Ventura County Country Club, Saticoy. Joe Higgins of Fillmore will succeed Young as president, while Hilary Herd of that city will become secretary and Joe Hughes, also of Fillmore, treasurer.

Program at the meeting, consisting of motion pictures, will be provided by Jack Cline, and refreshments will be served.

January 9, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ROD, GUN CLUB REVIEWS WORK – Doubling the number of bird pens at Steckel park shelter, and the establishing of a state fish and game hatchery at Fillmore on Sespe creek were cited last night as highlights of the year's activities of the Ventura County Rod & Gun Club.

Romain Young, deputy county agricultural commissioner and retiring president of the organization, red members the yearly report as the group help its monthly meeting in the Ventura County Country Club at Saticoy.

Young told the group the new bird pens have doubled the output of birds reared and released and set the number of pens at 20. He also reminded the Isaac Waltons that he club had installed a $125 trap shooting outfit at the Ventura municipal golf course near Montalvo.

Other speakers of the evening were "Red" Unhrue, head of the Fillmore fish hatchery, who revealed developments and activities there since the conservation unit was established on June 4. Willard Greenwall, new state fish and game warden in Ventura County was also heard.

January 16, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TWO DEER MEET SLOW DEATH IN OIL SUMP – Two deer have met slow and untimely deaths in an oil sump on South Mountain, it was reported today by Willard Greenwall of Fillmore, state fish and game warden in this district.

…Greenwall has been on duty in Ventura County for five months, having been assigned here by the state division of fish and game in Sacramento. He is the second state fish and game warden in Ventura county, the other being John Spider of Ojai. It is the first time the county has had two full-time state game wardens on duty.

Greenwall and Spicer are from the bureau of patrol, while the new fish hatchery in Fillmore is administered by the hatchery bureau of the state division of fish and game.

The new state warden reported inspecting the fish ladders at the dam in Santa Paula creek and finding them in excellent working order for the coming steelhead spawning season.

March 1, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHATTER – by Catherine Durrell. One result of last week's rain which brought something besides a lot of water to the parties involved also managed to break two laws unbeknownst to them—when one of the town's leading citizens landed a 26-inch steelhead trout in the creek near the bridge he laid himself wide open to a matter of catching a fish without benefit of tackle and he did it a little previous to May 1, when the season opens.

But whether or not their consciences were clear the family and friends of the fisherman are all agreed that it was darn good trout—all four pounds of it.

April 24, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Things you need on your Fishing Trip. We have them…. Complete Line of Fishing Tackle. Buy Your License at Butcher Hardware Co. J. Ralph Chapek. 861 Main St. Santa Paula, Phone 174.

ALONG MERCHANTS ROW – Places which sell fishing tackle are trotting out their best buys in rods, reels, lines, leaders, flies, bait, creels and the like these days. Reason: Trout season opens May 1, a week from today. Although buying has been rather slow to start, it is expected to come with a rush this week-end and during the first of next week.

Watkins Hardware, Butcher Hardware, Western Auto, and Sears Roebuck all are selling tackle and the newly remolded Firestone store has a supply due to arrive any day. Licenses may be had at Watkins, Butcher and Western Auto; Sears is scheduled to issue them for the first time this year but so far has not received the blanks.

Tackle is pretty much the same, many items have been improved, and the newest rage is the use of Nylon for lines and leaders, according to Jay Crusey, fishing expert at the Watkins store.

Nylon was tried out in lines and leaders last year, but was still in the experimental stage, Crusey reports. This year, however, the kinks have been ironed out and full assortments are being pushed. Lines come in both tapered and level types, with the level ones most popular here. Because Nylon has some "give" to it, a quality not possessed by the standard fabric lines, the angler can get by with a lighter weight leader.

A Nylon line costs about a third more than the woven silk ones. The cost, however, is more than offset by the fact that Nylon is not subject to mildew, rot or the other things that affect a fabric line, giving it a much longer life.

Crusey says the Nylon leaders call for the use of different knots. While they are always pliable and do not need to be soaked in water as do the standard silk worm gut leaders, they do not harden and cinch down a knot. Hence more secure knots are used.

There's some shortage in the supply of new hooks, as most of these have come in from Scandinavian countries—Norway, Sweden, Denmark. The shortage is especially noticeable in the standard treble hooks used in ocean fishing.

One of the new gadgets is a snap tie on the ends of leaders for plugs and spinners. Instead of fussing around with cold fingers on impromptu knots, you just snap the thing on and you're all ready to cast. Another one is a plastic fly box, with a transparent top, which hooks onto the belt.

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens May 1st. There is a Thrill in Hooking and Catching Fightin' Trout. It takes a good man and equipment. You are the man, we have the proper equipment. Lots of it. We will see you an angler's license. Tell you where the places are and supply you the right tackle to make your trip a good one. Ocean Tackle? Sure We Sell Lot's of Ocean Tackle. Watkins Hardware Co. 935 Main St.

MORE FISH, MORE WATER TO GREET ANGLERS ON MAY 1 – There will be more fish in Ventura County streams but it will be harder to catch them when fishing season opens next Thursday—abundance of rain and more fish planted will see to that.

Local enthusiasts, as they uncover the gear put away since last summer and polish it up with fanatical gleaming of the eyes, report that where formerly the elusive trout had congregated in special holes in a creek the rains have made their favorite haunts bigger now and they cover more territory.

County fish and game authorities went out yesterday with fish from the Fillmore hatchery for planting in the county's back country. Not that the one- and two-inchers will do any good this year, but given enough time they'll be fighting with the best.

The same enthusiasts who gather in droves and plan campaigns for opening day every year at this time foresee comparatively poor luck for the fly fisherman early in the season because of the high water and deeper pools, but persons who use bait (fishermen to some) will probably come chortling home with good catches as the season opens.

Meanwhile, the state legislature is distributing its abstracts on sporting fish laws in prominent places for the doubtful, pointing out information regarding open territories, shipping laws and the following:

The limit on trout is still 25 fish or 10 pounds and one fish; golden trout are still restricted and that it is always unlawful to take trout other than with rod and line held in the hand or with lure with more than two attractor blades or more than three hooks; to take trout except by angling in such a manner as to cause the trout voluntarily to take the hook in its mouth. And everyone more than 18 years of age has to have a license.

April 28, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

IT WAS A GOOD IDEA, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK – It isn't cricket to catch trout out of season and with a net, especially at a state fish hatchery, two Santa Paula young men discovered this morning.

Archie and Lawrence Kabel, who said they recently arrived here from Missouri, pleaded guilty to two fish and game code offenses this morning before Justice of the Peace C.W. Hathorn in Fillmore.

Judge Hathorn sentenced each to pay a fine of $50 or spend 25 days in the county jail, and gave them until 3 p.m. today to scrape up the money.

The two brothers, according to Deputy State Game Wardens John Spicer and Willard Greenwald, caught 24 young trout with nets in a pond at the new state fish hatchery near Fillmore.

They were charged with catching fish out of season and also taking them without a rod and line. The Kabel brothers had maintained they caught the fish with their bare hands.

Deputy District Attorney Hal V. Hammons, Jr., who prosecuted the case, said it was one of the most flagrant violations of the state fish and game code to be recorded in Ventura County.

April 30, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RAIN ROILS BOTH STREAMS AND FISHERMEN – Bellows of anguish from frustrated anglers mingled with the happy burblings of unconcerned trout who didn't know plots against their lives were underway today as the inch or more of rain last night and this morning muddied up the streams and roiled the water for fishermen awaiting opening day for trout fishing season tomorrow.

Things are looking bad for he fly fishermen—trout stay near the bottom of their streams when the water is roiled. And they don't go after artificial lures when high waters brings them other things in the way of food.

So it looks as if the bait-users will have the best luck when the season opens tomorrow. But the percentage of fish to be caught won't measure up to past years' records. The smaller streams will no doubt be clear by the week-end if the rain will hold off, but the larger ones will take a little more time, local authorities believe.

County Fish and Game Warden L.R. Orton and his crew will be out tomorrow come what may, however, checking on limits and licenses of anglers on county streams.

According to the number of licenses already sold in Santa Paula stores, some 200 fishermen are all set for the day. And the fly fishermen will be outnumbered by members of the salmon-egg, worm, grasshopper or what-have-you school, to judge from a comparison of sales in those departments.

The fly fishermen needn't give up hope, however—by the time the season has gotten well started they should see an increase in their luck for skills as the streams clear up, the silt settles and food runs low.

As for out-of-county fishing, it won't be much better. Reports from the state division of fish and game and the Automobile club of Southern California yesterday listed no streams or lakes more than fair or good.

Snow and ice will keep most of the higher lakes and streams closed or inaccessible, while those that are fishable have high water and in many cases are roiley.

Tributaries of the Sespe and Matilija are being eyed with favor by county sportsmen, while a few with more time to spare will be heading for the high county near Bishop.

<u>May 1, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

TROUT PLAY HARD-TO-GET ON OPENING DAY – A little boy caught three up near Sulphur Mountain Springs—

That was the extent of news by noon today of the hundreds of local fishermen who helped to usher in the opening of trout fishing season, with an amazing dearth of excited sportsmen rushing back to report large catches.

Yesterday morning's rain did its part in creating the hard-to-get situation, roiling the waters and sending the trout to the bottom for the anglers who started the season at daybreak today. Flies were scarce as a consequence, with the bait users given the biggest chance for good catches.

Live bait and spinners were reported to be the best lures for the fish because of the muddied waters, although a large majority of sportsmen took solemn vows to come home empty-creeled before they would resort to bait.

Listed as the best possibilities for fishing in the county by the state division of fish and game and the Automobile club of Southern California were Matilija and Sespe tributaries, Santa Ynez and Ventura rivers, Strawberry, Piru and Tahquitz creeks—and the strongest they could rate was "fair."

Four state fish and game officers were patrolling county streams today, with County Warden L.R. Orton, checking on the licenses required for everyone over 18 years old and on the size of catches, although few limits—25 fish—were expected.

In the high Sierra country reports of prospects were just about as optimistic. Majority of the streams, however, were hard to reach because of heavy snow.

May 2, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHRONICLES – Steelhead 27 ½ inches long being caught in the upper Santa Paula creek by a Los Angeles man on opening day.

FISH HATCHERY TO GET LONG LEASE – How the state fish and game commission is working in the interest of hunters and sport fishermen, in replenishing stocks of fish and game, was told to members of the Masonic lodge at their dinner in Masonic temple last night by Edwin L. Carty, state fish and game commissioner, of Oxnard.

Most recent local step in the conservation program is the move now approaching completion for leasing of a site for a hatchery at Fillmore, on the McNab property, for a 20-year period. The proposed hatchery will turn out 1,500,000 young fish for stream planting annually, Carty stated. Another local project is the series of quail holding pens at Steckel park, from which young birds are released annually.

Extermination of predators is another function of the commission and plans are under way for a survey in the Malibu district to determine to what extent the coyote is depleting the deer herds.

Carty also told of the work being done in creating sport fishing and public shooting grounds in Inyo county, in which project the City of Los Angeles, which holds water rights in the valley, is co-operating.

WHAT GOES ON HERE – Paul Holmes found Santa Paula creek good enough for 17 trout yesterday morning by the time he had to report to work at 8 o'clock, after starting at daybreak.

May 27, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

Forty fishermen, who helped Cornell University with a 10-day test providing data on trout stocking and fishing habits, revealed that it too 100 minutes on the average to catch a fish and that worms lured 66 per cent of the fish caught.

June 20, 1941 – Los Angeles Times

STREAMS, LAKES WELL STOCKED WITH FISH FOR SPORTSMEN – by C.B. Harrison, Outing Bureau Manager, Automobile Club of So. Cal. Streams and lakes of Southern California provide truly great sport for fishermen, and tens of thousands of experienced angling fans will testify that the game here compares favorably with any other section of the country. Fishing in the Southland has been on the upgrade and is constantly improving.

An energetic and conscientious effort is being made by the Division of Fish and Game through its Bureau of Conservation to provide fishing for the throngs of anglers in the State of California, and particularly the southern section.

This is being done through the Lake Arrowhead Hatchery, the new one at Fillmore, and the use of rearing ponds and reservoirs adjacent to Foothill Blvd. between Pasadena and San Bernardino. Supplementing this is the new Hot Creek Hatchery now under construction—a development which will permit the raising and planting of a great many thousands more fish in the Sierra region than has heretofore been possible from the Oak Creek Hatchery alone.

So far this year practically all the live streams and reservoirs of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura and San Diego counties have been stocked with aged fish. These range in size from five to seven inches, and at least one load was planted in each stream or lake. These loads were comprised of from three to five thousand fish each. This is to be followed throughout the summer months by the planting of fingerlings and these fish will average four inches.

This plan should permit any capable angler of Southern California to catch at least a few fish. It is nigh on to impossible to keep streams and lakes sufficiently stocked so that every fisherman could be guaranteed a limit of trout every time he went out. To do so would necessitate an enormous capacity in hatcheries and rearing ponds which are not available, and inasmuch as only 60 per cent of the licenses are sold in Southern California, it would mean slighting of the balance of the State insofar as planting is concerned.

To augment this situation, the lakes in San Diego county have been planted to spiny-ray fish and, as these fish are more prolific to spawning and of a hardy nature sufficient to withstand the warmer waters, this type of angling has developed into one of the favorite pastimes of Southern Californians. This style of sport has also been extended to the lakes

or dams formed in the Colorado River, offering winter fishing under climatic conditions that are ideal.

The High Sierra country, within five to six-hours driving time from Southern California, is a Mecca for fishermen and vacationists throughout the summer months, as there are within this area, on both the east and west sides, hundreds of lakes and miles of streams that are stocked with trout each year, and many of which are so well supplied with fish that they do not need replanting from year to year.

Due to their ease of accessibility, there are many lakes and streams that only offer medium possibilities and it is only natural that those reached by trail or pack train and are fished the least offer the best fishing during the season. This usually from the middle of June until the middle of October in the high elevations. Prior to the middle of June snow generally prohibits the use of the trails reaching these areas, and after mid-October, the danger of storms is one of the factors which closes the area to fishermen.

Whether you like fishing, camping or just loafing at a resort and enjoying the scenery or riding over the trails, California has all of the best and most varied facilities to offer to residents or to tourists who are seeking sport and relaxation.

July 21, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WHAT GOES ON HERE – Warren Smith, who has been in charge of the state fish hatchery near Fillmore since January, has been transferred to Lake Tahoe by the state division of fish and game. Replacing him in Fillmore is Carlos Gettman, formerly of Lake Tahoe station.

September 5, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Lewis of Glendale at the home of Mrs. Ethel Alexander, leaving their son, Donald, here for a week's stay with Rush Alexander. The two boys plan to go trout fishing.

October 10, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

NOTES FROM THE FAIR – The Fillmore chamber's entry is featured by two tanks of trout from the new state fish hatchery near that city. Some of the trout are 18 inches long and less than 1 year old. Also in the exhibit is a model passenger train and station, loaned by Bessie Rudkin. The display has a background of solid oranges and lemons with various colored wrappers.

October 29, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FILLMORE TO GET $75,000 HATCHERY – by Ned Thomas. Convinced that hard spring water of the Santa Clara riverbed will grow rainbow trout faster than any other

fresh water in California, the state fish and game commission today prepared to spend $75,000 building a permanent fish hatchery near Fillmore.

Phenomenal results, including the raising of 16-inch trout in a year's time, of an experimental hatchery on the site during the last 16 months have led the state's decision to make the Fillmore hatchery one of the major ones in California.

Ernest R. Varnum, construction estimator for the state division of fish and game, is in Fillmore conferring with Byron (Gar) Unruh, hatcheryman in charge of the experimental work there, on the new project.

Varnum reported that tentative plans call for construction of a large hatchery building, a garage and toll house, a food storage house and refrigeration unit, general storage space, and four residences for permanent hatchery employees.

In addition, there will be 30 fish ponds, each 100 feet long and 12 wide; six rearing tanks and 20 troughs or boxes for hatching. The present experimental hatchery has five ponds, two tanks, six troughs and no buildings at all except a shelter over the rearing boxes and tanks.

A new road also is planned into the property, which is held by a renewable 20-year lease from the Sespe Land & Water Co. The new plant will cover some 10 acres, Varnum said construction would start as soon as contract details can be worked out. Hatchery schedules call for the new setup to be in full operation by next spring.

When the expanded hatchery is in production, Unruh figures its output will be roughly a million fish a year—40 tons to trout! Next spring's output, which has just been hatched out, will be 250,000 fish. In December he will plant 50,000 trout, Ventura county's fall allotment, in the high streams of the county; these fish were born last spring.

It is the unprecedented growth which fish have achieved in the experimental hatchery that has resulted in the location of a major plant in Ventura county, according to Unruh. In most hatcheries it takes two years to produce fish big enough for stream stocking, while in Fillmore it can be done in a year.

In six months these Fillmore trout will vary from six to nine inches; in a year they will run as large as 16 inches. They grow at a rate of better than an inch a month.

Not only that, but Fillmore fish will be ready to spawn earlier than any others in California. Fish and game men used to figure it took three years for fish to grow large enough for spawning. Their Hot Creek hatchery in the High Sierras above Bishop reduced this period to two years. The Fillmore hatchery will have fish ready for spawning in 18 months.

The secret is warm, hard water at constant temperature. All 26 state fish hatcheries, with the exception of the one at Hot Creek, are in higher altitudes where the water temperature is considerably lower. Trout simply hatch quicker and grow faster in warmer water.

The Fillmore hatchery's water supply come from springs in the Santa Clara river bed. Located just west of Fillmore below the Southern Pacific railroad crossing, the plant has a constant flow of water which never varies more than two degrees from 62 degrees—winter or summer. In some hatcheries the water temperature varies from 10 to 20 degrees, and fish have to be moved out.

This constant temperature is another factor which makes for quicker, steadier growth. It also enables hatcherymen to plan ahead and make schedules which they know will not be thrown out of kilter by sudden changes in water temperature.

The water also is hard, having a high lime content, and Unruh reports this makes bonier, healthier fish than soft water. He feels that the fish grown at Fillmore are just as healthy as those raised in cold mountain water.

The Fillmore hatchery raise rainbow trout exclusively, because rainbow are native to the coastal and southern California regions, and because they are peculiarly dapted to the Fillmore water conditions. They are hatched out in long metal boxes which are kept covered to protect them from the sun. At present there are some 150,000 of these, varying from five to nine days in age—little fellows from a half to an inch long.

It takes trout 15 days to hatch from egg in the warm Fillmore water; in water of temperature from 45 to 48 degrees, like that in High Sierras, it takes a month. Eggs for the Fillmore hatchery come from Hot Creek.

After the baby trout are about two weeks old, they are transferred from the relatively quiet water of the troughs to circular tanks, where water is sprayed in through pipes. Rainbow trout don't do well in quiet water, so the hatchery sees to it that the water is kept well agitated.

When the fingerlings are a month or six weeks old, depending on their size, they are dumped into the ponds, which are long shallow sections of the spring-fed stream running through the property. One of these ponds is filled with luscious looking fellows varying from 12 to 14 inches in length—all of them a little less than a year old.

<u>October 29, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

CHRONICLES – Stub Cullins taking an involuntary bath in Sisar creek this morning (brrr!) while taking his last fling at the fishing season.

<u>October 30, 1941 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>
RAINBOW TROUT GOT MIXED UP – Somewhere between California and Massachusetts and Missouri the spawning schedule of some rainbow trout got all mixed

up, resulting in the phenomenon which allows the state division of fish and game to raise two crops of these fish every year.

This is on the authority of Byron Unruh, hatcheryman in charge of the state's experimental hatchery on the Santa Clara river just east of Fillmore, and Ernest Vernum, construction estimator planning the new $75,000 hatchery to be built there.

California rainbow trout, of course, are "spring spawners." Some years ago, it seems, the state of Massachusetts decided it wanted to introduce rainbow to that country and it imported some from the Pitt and McCloud rivers, the two rivers now being harnessed by Shasta dam in northern California.

Some time later, the story goes, Missouri became interested and decided to propagate rainbow trout, which it got from Massachusetts. Somewhere along the line, however, these rainbow got their schedule mixed up and began spawning in the fall.

To complete the cycle, The California state division of fish and game imported fall-spawning rainbow from Missouri and bred them up, with the result that the hatcheries are able to produce two crops of rainbow trout each year.

The spring spawners are natives which never got away to learn new things, and the fall spawners are also native Californians who got that way in Massachusetts and/or Missouri.

Here are a few more interesting facts about rainbow trout, picked up from Unruh and Varnum, which you may not have known:

They're able to change the shade of their coloring to fit their surroundings. In dark holes, in shady spots, they become almost black, while in sunny locations where the bottom of the stream is light they turn very light. They are able to change in 15 or 20 minutes.

They grow as big as their pond—that is, they attain a maximum size in a certain size pool and do not get bigger unless they are put into a bigger water area. It's the same way with goldfish. The sleek looking trout 14 and 15 inches long at the Fillmore hatchery won't get much bigger until the new and larger ponds are completed.

The hatchery fish are fed almost exclusively on beef liver until they are two months old, when they are put on a general diet of canned fish, beef blood, bran and fresh fish. Canned fish is the biggest item. It is estimated that when the new permanent hatchery is in full operation, producing a million fish a year, the food bill alone will run around $20,000 a year.

1 9 4 2

Rainfall – 14.19 Inches

February 6, 1942 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DEEP SEA FISHERS PUZZLED OVER IDENTIFICATION – Los Angeles – (Body of the article is about personal identification.)

…You can just forget about steelhead angling for the nonce, anglers. Situation on the Ventura and Santa Ynez river is still bad, with very few fish of any size being taken…

March 9, 1942 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT FISHING UNCHANGED – According to the Automobile Club's "Outing Bureau," present conditions have not materially dampened the trout fisherman's outlook for the opening of the season, and many reservations are being placed for accommodations and boats at the various fishing areas for the opening day, May 1.

Anglers are advised to place reservations immediately if they plan to fish in any of the local areas on opening day.

April 25, 1942 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PHEASANTS BECOMING STATE GAME BIRD – Edwin L. Carty, member of the state fish and game commission, predicted last night in a talk to Federated Sportsmen of Santa Barbara that pheasants will be the coming game bird of California.

One hundred twenty-five sportsmen in attendance started the wheels in motion to petition for opening of Los Padres National forest to hunters and fishermen.

The public relations committee of the Federated Sportsmen will do the petitioning.

Commissioner Carty also explained the great advances in the system of planting trout and declared that California streams are soon to become among the best trout streams of the nation.

April 28, 1942 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING SEASON OPENS THIS FRIDAY – 8,000 Trout Turned Out In Upper Sespe. You fishing enthusiasts—get your angling license, unlimber that old arm and dig up some worms. The fishing season opens May 1, and you don't want to be caught napping at some stream or lake which the early birds cleaned out.

It is expected that 100,000 fishermen will turn out in California the opening day of the season, and with the forest service and the Division of Fish and Game cooperating to the fullest, the outlook for the opening is promising in most sections of the state.

George P. Miller, executive secretary of the Division of Fish and Game, recently declared that hunting and fishing will not be curtailed as a part of the wartime program of the Division as was rumored. The forest service personnel has been working overtime to increase the convenience of fishermen who will be flocking to streams and lakes.

Fillmore schools will be closed for the opening to allow students to try their luck; and the announcement by the State Fish Hatchery at Fillmore that 8,000 rainbow trout have been turned out in the upper Sespe weighing a total of 4,000 with an average length of 8 inches, should mean that students and others who take advantage of the opening day, plenty should catch the limit in record time.

In other fishing areas, the Mono-Inyo sector has been well stocked with trout. The forest service announces that the Santa Cruz, Manzana and Santa Ynez river as far upstream as the Red Rock are teeming; and at Bishop, center of High Sierra fishing country, a display of the first day's catch, some two to three thousand fish, will be made with prizes going to lucky anglers who catches the largest rainbow trout, who has the best-looking basket, who has the most uniform limit, and who brings in the first limit.

ADVERTISMENT – Our Fishing Tackle Puts Up a Fight! It's trough enough to take the challenge of the fighting-salmon, trout or bass! Every minute you have for relaxation is going to be precious this year, so make the most of it by equipping yourself with the quality fishing equipment that will add the thrill of success to the thrill of your sport! A complete stock of reels with automatic features from 95 cents. Spinners that will lure fish to your line! From 15 cents. Fishing rods featuring perfect balance. Models from 85 cents. Flies no fish can resist. Strong beauties. From 10 cents. Fishing License. Butcher Hardware Co. 861 Main Street.

<u>April 29, 1942 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens May 1st……but first to SEARS! Fisherman's Paradise of Values. Sears fishing headquarters is ready with complete stocks of right fishing equipment! Everything for Salt Water Fishing, Too! Take a tip from thousands of experienced sportsmen who land the big ones with Sears famous tackle! Large selections, economy prices. Get Your Fishing License at Sears. Sears, Roebuck and Co. 910 Main, Santa Paula.

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season……..Opens May 1. Make Watkins Hardware Your Fishing Headquarters. We know the streams and how to get there. We have all the Fishing Equipment to make your trip a big success. Fly Rods, Creels, Casting Poles, Flies, Reels, Fine Leaders, Lines (Taper & Level), Spinners. Take your boy or girl fishing. Our prices will fit all needs. See you on the stream…..Jay. Watkins Hardware Co. 935 Main St. Santa Paula.

April 30, 1942 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING SEASON OPENS TOMORROW – (Special) – Trout season opens tomorrow with sunrise scheduled at 6:05 Daylight Saving Time, states the Outing Department of the National Automobile Club. On that day it is expected that 100,000 fishermen will be on the streams and lakes of California with the outlook for the opening very promising in most sections. Indications are that there will be little high water, and the snow pack is about normal. Heavy stocking of streams and lakes in southern California should assure fishermen of excellent sport on opening days.

The list of closed streams and lakes, issued by the State Fish and Game Division, is practically the same as last year. Fishermen are urged to purchase their 1942 angling licenses prior to May 1, to avoid the usual rush at this time and perhaps disappointment at not being able to obtain a license. A resident fishing license cost $2 and the limit of trout is 25 fish or 10 pounds and one fish.

BEST FISHING BETS – Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties: The Upper Sespe river and Piru creek look like good bets. The Sespe is high, but fairly clear, and Piru creek is high and quite roily. Bait fishing will undoubtedly produce best results on these two streams. Prospects look good for fishing in the Santa Ynez river, as there is a good supply of 8 to 10-inch trout in that stream. Water is high and slightly roily and bait fishermen are expected to come out with the heavier creels than fly purists. Many of the ranches bordering the Santa Ynez river are posted against trespass, and anglers are reminded to be certain they are welcome before entering these areas. Gibraltar reservoir will be closed to fishing this year.

May 1, 1942 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SOMETHING'S IN THE AIR TODAY! – Long before the crack of dawn today, for the first time since the novelty of the first air raid warning and blackout turned people out of beds in anxious interest, men and women all over Ventura county dusted the sleep out of their eyes, grabbed a cup of coffee and a roll, and dashed in mild confusion out into the brisk morning air. Some were seen returning in haste to their houses as if they had forgotten their rights to live; others worked desperately in hoed patches beside their homes—and it didn't look as though they were planting victory gardens—and others sped along highways with odd looking equipment protruding form every window of their cars.

And last night strange fires burning lazily by the edge of streams could be seen all over the state with figures wrapped in blankets slumped on the group near the burning embers in postures resembling that of sleepers. No reports, however, reached the county sheriff's office that the leather jacketed figures around the mysterious blazes were enemy saboteurs or an army of Jap invaders.

Added to the mysteriousness of last eve and this morning, schools were let out today, some towns were nearly vacated, and hundreds of empty cars were discovered parked

along the highways bordering streams and lakes. Every whiff of wind carried the breath of speculation and intense enthusiasm, with possibly the tint of exaggeration thrown in as added flavor.

Today, May 1, the fishing season opened!

Latest reports from the fishing front are that Mrs. W.M. Stein of 216 Main street got her limit of 25 trout up Santa Paula canyon. Mr. Stein, who accompanied her, landed 14.

July 14, 1942 – Santa Paula Chronicle

OLSON MAY ATTEND HATCHERY OPENING – It is expected that Governor Culbert L. Olson will be present at the dedication of the Fillmore Fish Hatchery, Sunday, July 18, according to the Ventura county Rod and Gun club who has been asked by the California state fish and game commission to take charge of arrangements.

Activities will start at noon with a barbeque prepared by the pit method at which it is planned to serve 1000 people. The charge will be $1.00 per plate.

A total of $75,000 has been appropriated to be spent on the hatchery for 1942 and at the present time there are approximately three quarters of a million trout at the hatchery and may be seen by the people during the dedication, says the committee.

July 20, 1942 – Santa Paula Chronicle

1200 ATTEND HATCHERY DEDICATION – "This is my first visit to Fillmore, I am glad you people have approved the work of the Fish and Game Commission. I pay my respects to them, because they are more capable of enforcing and administering this type of work than I am."

Those were the words of Governor Olson, spoken to 1,200 Ventura county sportsmen who attended the formal dedication of the Fillmore state fish hatchery yesterday afternoon, over which the governor presided.

Before the governor arrived, Edwin "Nick" Carty, who acted as master of ceremonies, introduced the speakers on the dedication program which included some of the most prominent local sportsmen and state fish and game officials. Carty, in his opening remark, said that the growth of fish in the new hatchery has been "terrific," and the initial results of the hatchery have far exceeded all expectations.

The hatchery cost $75,000, and 800,000 fish are being grown in 30 ponds. It was pointed out that in five months time the fish in the hatchery are equal to fish in streams one year old.

This year the hatchery stocked the streams in seven counties with 150,000 fish, and it is hoped that by next year more than 600,000 fish will be released in southern California streams.

First speaker, Jermain Bulke, commissioner of the Fish and Game Commission, said that the commission is not trying to establish monuments, and fine buildings in the state, but hatcheries that "will get results." He thanked local sportsmen for their cooperation in starting the hatchery.

George P. Miller, secretary of the commission, next on the program, said that the new hatchery sets a standard for such institutions in the United States.

"The committee is responsible to sportsmen," Miller said, "because none of the four million dollars spent by the commission annually comes out of state taxes, but all of it is raised by sportsmen in the form of fish and game licenses."

Allen Taft, chief of the bureau of the fish conservation program, was the next speaker. He said that the prime of the conservation program is to raise larger rainbow trout in California.

Members of the Ventura Rod and Gun club were in charge of clearing places for the tables, and the barbecue of elk meat which was supplied by the Fish and Game commission. During the afternoon candidates in the Ventura county August primary elections, Arthur Waite, Howard Durley, Lester Price, Perey Dennis and Al Dingeman were introduced.

<u>August 7, 1942 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

ROD-FUN CLUB MEMBERS HEAR "TROUT REARING" TALK WEDNESDAY – The Ventura county Rod and Gun club will meet at Steckel park, Wednesday, August 12, at 8 p.m., to hear an address given by D.A. Clanton, bureau of fish conservation, on "Trout Rearing," P.A. Larramendy, secretary of the club announced today.

Films will be shown that will be interesting to both hunters and fishermen, added Larramendy, urging that each member bring a friend. Refreshments will be served.

1 9 4 3

Rainfall – 28.98 Inches

January 28, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MANY FISH LOST FROM FILLMORE HATCHERY – Over a half a million fish were lost from the State Fish Hatchery at Fillmore during the recent storm. This is about half of the total number of fish at the hatchery. Most of the fish were lost into the Santa Clara River.

There was no damage done to the concrete work at the hatchery itself.

January 29, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH RETURN HOME – Ed Carty of the state fish and game commission reports that there were less fish lost from the state hatchery at Fillmore than was previously estimated. Some of the fish are now wending homewards in quest of food.

March 29, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT SEASON – San Francisco (UP) – The state division of fish and game today assured fishermen that he 1943 trout season will open as usual on May 1, despite rumors to the contrary.

April 21, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING SEASON – With L.R. Orton, county fish and game warden, busy transporting trout from the Fillmore hatchery and local dealers beginning to display their supply of equipment, local Nimrods may look forward to the opening of the fishing season May 1.

Various war restrictions to the contrary, things look pretty good. Although various sections may be closed for the protection and conservation of trout, the remaining streams, though harder to reach will be better stocked for the sport.

According to S.A. Nash-Boulden, forest supervisor, all fishing streams on National forest lands within Los Padres National Forest (except those draining into the Juncal and Gibraltar Reservoir) will be opened to the public during the month of May.

As for the equipment, dealers feel sure they have enough in stock to take care of the normal replacements if purchasers do not buy in unnecessary quantities. Any shortages will probably be of rods and reels made from a Chinese cane, which is no longer available, and instruments containing a high percentage of copper or steel.

In the county streams Orton stated, there are large amounts of native trout at present in addition to the schools planted.

After June 1, it is quite possible that streams within national forests will be closed by the national forestry service, due to the fire menace, game officials believed.

Anglers are reminded that they must secure their new licenses because the 1942 permits have expired. Licenses may be obtained from sporting goods stores or any store handling fishing supplies.

April 23, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Season Opens. Trout Fishing this year will be good in this area. Get ready now for that old fishing thrill. Come into Watkins Hardware for your fishing needs and be sure to get your 1943 angling license—we have them. Check over these important fishing needs……As well as all those little repairs for your gear. We give women anglers and young people special attention regarding their angling needs. Send the children to Watkins Hardware. See you on the streams. Watkins Hardware.

April 24, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

EAT 700 TROUT – As a prelude to the fishing season which opens next Saturday, the Masonic order of Oxnard recently served approximately 700 trout to a huge crowd.

This fish-fry is a traditional event of nine years history and Joe Paul, Jr., of *Oxnard Press Courier* has advanced the statement that a total of 63,000 inches of trout have been consumed during that period.

In regard to the technique of trout eating, Paul states there are two schools of thought. One is "pick and struggle" method which involves the use of a fork. The other is known as the "harmonica" system and calls for the use of both hands.

Paul claims that Masonic authorities have announced as the average speed in trout devouring for the experienced eater is 37 seconds.

Following the meal, Ed Carty, fish and game commissioner, encouraged prospective fishers with the statement that the trout were plentiful in California streams.

Also speaking was the patrolman of the state fish and game commission who said that extensive work was being done in conserving and restoring the natural resources of the state, preparing for the day when the "boys come home" and want to enjoy the fields and streams of the state.

April 28, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT FISHING WILL BE GOOD IN MOST AREAS OF THE STATE – San Francisco (UP) – The state fish and game commission reported today that trout fishing will be good in most areas of the state when the season opens Saturday.

The commission pointed out, however, that reports from game wardens depend on the continuance of cool and clear weather.

In Los Angeles county the big Santa Anita and Bouquet Canyons are in good shape with plenty of good-sized fish left over from last year's plant. There is no game fishing in Riverside county but carp is plentiful.

The trout running at Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino county. The Santa Ynez river and smaller streams looks very good in Santa Barbara county.

April 29, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCAL STREAMS ARE STOCKED WITH TROUT FOR FISHING SEASON – Local Fishing enthusiasts are polishing up the gear and trying to stretch "A" book allowances for trips to distant streams in preparation for the fishing season which opens Saturday.

The local streams have been stocked with trout from the Fillmore hatchery and a supply of native fish is also expected. The winter rains have not damaged the stream although there have been fears that oil in the Sespe stream may prove a handicap and hard on equipment.

Fire permits may be obtained from L.R. Orton, fish and game warden, at the county fire department, and fishing licenses from any dealer of fishing equipment.

There are no indications as to how long the season will last as there are indications that certain forest reserves may be closed to the public during the dry summer season.

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens Saturday, May 1st. Let's Go Fishing. Angling Licenses Issued. Trout Fishing is the ideal sport. Health activity in the open country. Keep fit in these times of stress by going Trout Fishing. Poles, reels, trout lines, Weber Flies with snells, bait hooks and all the other trout gear. Watkins Hardware.

May 1, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING SEASON – Early this morning Gary Bunting, a seven-year-old second grade pupil at Briggs school, announced that he had hooked a 20 ½ inch rainbow trout so the suspicion which had been felt when George Harding sent his weekly servicemen's letter by proxy—that the trout season had officially opened—was confirmed.

There was some doubt as to whether this was really May 1 because the fish's terror, Chief Sam Primmer was on duty at the police office rather than on the bank of some stream. However, he stated that it was just the call of duty which kept him in town, but his heart was up the canyon baiting a hook and winding a reel.

All the sunrise sportsmen reported good creels at the Santa Paula creek and the Sespe and stated that worms were proving the best bait, eggs next, but that fly users were not having as much good luck.

Probably the earliest to be out were the group of boys seen late yesterday afternoon heading up the canyon with sleeping bags.

The carrier who brought in the largest fish by 3 o'clock this afternoon received a dollar prize from the *Chronicle*.

The state division of fish and game reported early indications were for an exceptional turnout of anglers despite tire and gas rationing with rivers and streams close to metropolitan centers getting an increased play.

The fish and game wardens had predicted a successful opening day providing streams were not swelled or made murky by unseasonable rains.

May 10, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHIEF IS LUCKY – Chief Sam Primmer stuck to his job though he longed to go fishing when the season first opened and was rewarded when he did take the trip on his day off by a catch of 17 rainbow trout

He and James Achilles tried their luck at the Sespe creek.

May 21, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING BILL – Governor Warren today signed Senator McBride's bill permitting steelhead fishing in the Ventura river from May 1 to February 28.

June 26, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

JUNIOR WRITES THE NEWS TO HIS PALS IN SERVICE – Hi-ya Buck: The WAAC's have been recruiting this week. The women in Uncle Sam's army are all right if these gals are any fair sample. The Sgt. Here says Uncle wants 9,000 more. Boy!

Remember Joe Avedano? He's a first lieut. Now. He just received the Air Medal and the Oak Leaf Cluster. He was graduated in the class of '36. Very proud of his Apache Indian lineage, you recollect. He's been in the European scrap.

Two of the fellows from here have been taken prisoner by the Japs—Sewell Peck and Joe Victoria. Peck was flying in a pursuit squadron; Victoria was a bombardier. Peck's family have had word of him through the International Red Cross. Victoria's have had only the official report, so far.

Say, the trout are biting like nobody's business in Steckel Canyon. I got six yesterday. Boy, when you guys get back, these little fellows ought to be granddaddies. There aren't many guys fishing these days.

Warren L. King is going to Camp Beal to represent Santa Paula in the Black Cat Division (California's own) program. I understand there'll be a pretty little tank named for our bailiwick. Pretty nice? For a while it looked as if Mayor Hardison wasn't going to be able to find anyone who could spare the time to go. A couple of girls in City Hall volunteered, but the mayor had to point out that it wouldn't do—guests were expected to stay at the barracks at night. So' long.—JUNIOR.

August 4, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WORK OF STATE HATCHERY TOLD – D.A. Clanton, superintendent of the state fish hatchery at Fillmore talked on fish culture, and told the Lions club members what the fish and game commission is doing to stock California streams, when he addressed them at their weekly dinner meeting at the Mupu Grill last night.

Guests of the organization at the meeting were Rev. Harold Essert and George Bowker. Bob Simmons was taken into the club as a new member.

Clanton's talk revealed that the state fish and game commission is making an attempt to stock the streams twice yearly with 6-inch trout.

Approximately 80 percent of the planted fish are fished out by sportsmen, he said. It was thought that with so many men abroad in the armed forces the sale of licenses would decrease. But instead, 1942 showed a 13 per cent increase over 1941, and this year's licenses have topped the number sold in 1942.

The commission has received many letters, Clanton said, from service men, stating their approval of the conservation program the state is promoting, and urging the commission to continue it. They all state that they are looking forward to more hunting and fishing when they get back home.

November 1, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT SEASON ENDS – Santa Paula anglers, young and old took advantage of the last day of trout season yesterday and Santa Clara creek was swarming with them—the anglers. No sensational catches were reported and most of the fish were barely over the legal minimum length.

November 23, 1943 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ROTARIANS HEAR OF FISH PROGRAM – Subject up for discussion in the meeting yesterday of the Rotary club was fish, according to the report of Fred Udall, Rotarian.

D.A. Clanton, from the State Fish Hatcheries at Fillmore spoke on the state program for conservation of fish, and in particular mentioned the planting of a new species of game fish in Southern California waters.

Fishermen from the east have complained, he said, that there were no real game fish here except trout. Their reason for complaint may be removed in a few years, Clanton pointed out.

The state conservation department is making an effort, so far successful to stock streams and ponds with fish of the Spiny Ray family, known to easterners as the bluegill and bass.

The fish are a game fish, weighing around nine pounds, and “When you have one of them on a light line you have something,” he said.

The Rotarians, many of them ardent fishermen, listened with attention, Udall said.

The dinner was their regular Thanksgiving dinner, “with trimmings.”

1 9 4 4

Rainfall – 24.37 Inches

April 13, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – A Big Dream Now a Reality On May 1st. No Fooling. Better check over your trout gear and come in to WATKINS for your needs. Good stock supplies on hand. Trout lines, Leaders, Snelled Flies, Egg Hooks, Spinners, Leader Material, Salmon Eggs, Canvas Creels and a lot of other gear. Watkins Hardware Co.

ADVERTISEMENT – Going Fishing? Packing to any point on the Sespe Ranch. Complete Equipment. By reservation only. Call 414X1 – or – Call 748Y1 G.H. Rasmussen Bill's Hilly Ranch. 10 miles up Santa Paula Canyon.

April 20, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WITH STREAMS STOCKED FISHING SHOULD BE GOOD ON MAY 1ST – D.A. Clanton of the state fish hatchery at Fillmore announced today that all streams in the county had been stocked with catchable size fish, and that he predicted one of the best fishing seasons in recent years when the season opens, May 1.

Clanton said the following number of fish had been planted in Ventura county streams since the close of the fishing season last year: Upper Sespe, 14,000; Wheeler Creek, 4,000; Santa Clara, 4,000; Wheeler Gorge, 4,000; Siscan creek, 4,200; and Santa Paula creek, 4,500.

More than 200,000 fish, weighing over 14 tons, have been planted since the close of the fishing season it was learned. Since January 1, over 106,000 fish weighing over 13,000 pounds have been planted in the district.

"We will plant 700,000 fish weighing in excess of 32 tons during the fishing season," Clanton said.

"With excellent condition of the water, and the longer season, plus the heavy steel heads I have seen in the streams, points to a very good fishing season."

April 21, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

EDITORIAL – FISHING SEASON – We can tell by the feel of the air, and sporadic attacks of Spring Fever, as well as the calendar, that he opening of the trout season isn't far off. Then, just to make a bad matter worse, one of the national magazines came out with a cover page last week, featuring two beautiful rainbow trout, a fisherman's hat, pole and creel—and we wondered how any editor could be so unkind to his readers.

It's a sad situation, to be sure, but even though the trout season will soon be open, hundreds of thousands of Californians, who would rather fish than eat, will be missing from their favorite streams this year. A lot of the lads are overseas, fighting in swamps and jungles, so that no pompous Hitler or strutting Tojo can rob us of our simple pleasures in the future. And even here on the home front, there are many jobs to be done that can't be postponed, so the opening day of the fishing season won't draw anywhere near the usual crowds.

But just think how big those trout will get by the time this war is over. We can see them now; they'll be whoppers—and we'll have the gas, then, to go get 'em.

April 24, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MORE FISH TO SOOTHE TRIGGER FINGERS AFTER WAR – by Roger Johnson. San Francisco (UP) – Among those who are planning today to rehabilitate the post-war world are the members of the California state and fish and game commission.

They foresee the day when the fishing rod will be in conspicuous demand by men from the fighting and the home front, who are going to take creel in hand and head for a cool trout stream and "regenerate."

As former President Herbert Hoover, a fisherman, said in a recent *Colliers*:

"When the guns cease firing, and the gas comes on again, some of us are going fishing."

In anticipation of Mr. Hoover's F-day, the California fish and game commission is hatching plans and fish.

"We plan to build more and bigger hatcheries, establish more game farms, plant more fish, and stock more streams," said W.J. Harp of the commission.

Harp, however, found no relationship between gasoline supply and the number of fishermen in the mountains. Manifesting cynicism, he reported that there were as many flycasters in action along California streams in 1943 as there were in 1942. He did not attempt to explain this phenomenon.

The commission wants the post-war streams to be full of fish because there may be a fisherman behind most of the boulders.

If Izaak Walton were alive, he probably would be unmoved by the prospect of refrigerators that say mama and automobiles that add and subtract.

He would favor fishing rods for all and an angling license with every honorable discharge and income tax bland. In 1853 A.D. Izaak , in the "Compleat Angler", wrote:

"Indeed, my friend, you will find angling to be like the virtue of humility, which has a calmness of spirit and a world of other blessings attending upon it."

Mr. Hoover agreed with Mr. Walton that fishing is an excellent method of unjangling the nerves and soothing the trigger finger.

Whether he be Republican or Democrat, the angler probably will agree with this Hoover statement on fishing:

"It is the chance to wash one's soul with pure air, with the rush of the brook, or with the shimmer of the sun on blue water..

"It brings meekness and inspiration from the decency of nature, charity toward tackle-makers, patience toward fish, a mockery of profits and egos, a quieting of hate, a rejoicing that you do not have to decide a darned thing until next week.

"And it is discipline in the quality of men—for all men are equal before fish."

April 29, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ISAAC WALTONS BEGIN TREK TO MOUNTAIN STREAMS TO FISH – The big trek to the mountains was on bright and early this morning, although sunrise May 1 isn't until Monday. To you who aren't familiar with the meaning of the particular time, it is the long waited hour when the fishing season officially opens.

Groups of men on horseback, each with a boyish look of anticipation, their pack rolls tied to the back of their saddles, were seen starting out this morning for the Santa Paula and the Sespe to be the first to their favorite fishing hole in the back country.

Small boys loaded down with sleeping bags or bed rolls, food, and of course their poles, were trudging up Santa Paula canyon wistfully watching each car that passed hoping for a ride.

War or no war, come invasion or no invasion, Monday is the opening of fishing season and nothing can prevent the nimrod from taking to the streams, even though it be only up the dam on May 1.

With the streams heavily stocked, lots of water, and a break in the weather fishermen are expecting a good first day, and a good season.

Local stores will be short of help Monday morning, and the attendance will be off at schools.

Those who can't go out for the day or for a week, as many are doing, plan to roll out bright and early Monday morning to get in a few hours of fishing before they report to work.

The Chronicle will pay a prize of $3 to the first fisherman who reports to the *Chronicle* office with the limit of trout Monday. To the fishermen catching the largest trout the *Chronicle* will pay $2. The first boy 12 years or under report to the newspaper office with the limit, will be present with a $2 prize.

May 1, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BAKER CATCHES TROUT LIMIT FIRST IN HOUR, 15 MINUTES – The air was full of wild tales today that would put Robert Service to shame. However, some of the tellers had the proof to back up their stories.

The yarns generally weren't of the usual variety. With the opening of the fishing season today the big stories didn't deal with how long it took the teller to land the big one, but what a fight that six incher gave. The contest in story telling reached the peak when the contestants started to telling how long it took them to catch the limit.

Harold Baker was the first to report with the limit at the *Chronicle* office this morning. Baker had snagged his 25 trout in an hour and 15 minutes, just above the second crossing above Ferndale in Santa Paula creek. He reported at the *Chronicle* office at 5:45. Within the next hour at least twenty fishermen reported catching the limit at the Chronicle office.

Hugh Crockett, 12, was the first boy to report with the limit. Hugh, accompanied by his father, said he caught his limit in a couple of hours about ten miles above Ojai.

Proof of the size of the catch is borne out in the fact that until 1 o'clock today no one had entered a fish over ten and a half inches long in the *Chronicle* contest.

Schools reported a "terrible lot" of students absent today. There were a lot of tardy boys this morning also, one principal said.

All schools in Fillmore and Bardsdale were dismissed today.

Santa Paula creek was lined with nimrods at 5:50 this morning each waiting with great anticipation for sunup.

May 10, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

EDITORIAL – LET'S SHOW APPRECIATION – Is American appreciative of its servicemen? When a man comes home from the fighting front, for a brief furlough, under existing regulations he is allowed a paltry five gallons of gasoline. He can't go fishing, he can't go hunting, can't visit friends, can't renew himself by trips to the country.

He may well doubt our interest in him when he sees countless civilians and public officials allowed ample gas rations because of their "essential" activity. What is more

"essential" that relaxation for a weary servicemen when he is on leave, and freedom from petty official annoyance?

May 12, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FRONT PAGE PHOTO: Two women carrying rods and creels, wearing shorts and wading boots. Caption: "Nifty Nimrods!"—With the advent of fresh water fishing season in Southern California, Anne Gwynne and Vivian Austin hie themselves to the nearest stream in the San Fernando Valley region to try their luck with rod and reel. No wonder fishing is a popular sport. (Editor's note: The article next to the photo is "March on Rome" about Allied troops going against Germany on a march to Rome. The world is at war, but we still were trout fishing!)

June 1, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Time for Good Cheer. That Big! (Man holding his hands apart, fishing rod next to him.) Well, maybe not quite that big, but he was a beauty. A mountain stream, trout browning, and Rainier beer. Memories now—except that wholesome, refreshing Rainer is still mellow-aged to be the finest beer in the West. And fishin' days will come again if we keep working for Victory, keep buying those War bonds. Rainier Aged Beer & Ale.

July 10, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

The New York State Conservation Department has at least a partial answer to the question, "how far do trout migrate after being stocked in good trout waters?" A department survey of two Western New York creeks shows that 60 percent of tagged fish were caught in practically the same area as planted. The longest migration recorded was a spring planted trout which moved upstream nearly eight miles.

October 17, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

COASTING ALONG – San Francisco (UP) – There have been millions of words written about the great boom such sports as baseball, boxing, racing, football, etc., will go through after the war. And most of the predictions are based on fact.

But the boom these competitive sports enjoy when the boys come marching home will be strictly of a minor league nature compared with that which will strike the hunting and fishing industry.

When the war is over—then comes the reckoning for bruno bear, the deer, the elk, those rainbow trout, those steelheads, those ringneck pheasants and all other type of game.

With that in mind, such outdoor sports states as California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Arizona and Nevada are going to be hard pushed to keep up their stocks of fish and game that have developed to such an extent since 1940.

Fish and game commissions, probably working under the most-democratic of all democratic forms of government in these states, have been compiling suggestions from various sportsmen's organizations, incorporating the useful ideas into actions.

In California, 200 sportsmen recently meeting at a lodge on the Russian river asked the establishment of a hatchery for striped bass; urged the setting aside of "archery reserves" where hunting of wild game would be allowed only with the bow and arrow; requested that courses be established in public schools teaching wild game and fish conservation and forestry.

Nevada, Utah and other states of the west are going through similar growing pains as they prepare for the greatest influx of sports in history.

October 18, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle

OXNARD MAYOR SPEAKS AT ROD, GUN CLUB – The regular meeting of the Ventura County Rod and un club was held in the American Legion hall in Ventura last night with President E.E. Barnes, presiding.

Ed Carty, mayor of Oxnard, reported on a session he attended of the state fish and game commission, and criticized the system of federal control of state lands and streams. He maintained that there was no good reason for closing national forests in June and July because of fire hazards.

Jack White, county game warden, said that strip burning was the proper procedure for fighting fire in forests. More than 464 deer have been taken in the county during the summer season. Dove shooting was light. He added that trappers had caught 40 coyotes during the month. Although the duck season opened three days ago, so far, White said, it was the lightest in years.

Other statistics given by White were: Since August 21 more than 10,000 catchable fish have been put in the Santa Clara, Santa Paula and Matilija rivers; 400 pheasants have been released.

Clarence Matson gave an outline of the crow shoot planned. The club will apply for priorities so as to get enough shells, Matson pointed out. He said ther would be prizes for everyone. The funds for this purpose will be raised from the Walnut Growers' association, and among the ranchers. Fred Hart, Republican candidate for congress from this district, was present and gave a short talk.

Door prizes were given and refreshments served.

October 24, 1944 – Santa Paula Chronicle
HEAVY RAINS MUDDIES WATERS OF SESPE TO SPOIL FISHING GAME – Hopes for a good late fishing season ended when a heavy rainstorm last Saturday struck

on the Sespe river, seven miles above Sespe gorge camp. This information was gathered by County Game Warden Jack White after a visit to the area.

There was no damage done in the district, but the violence of the rain muddied up the fishing waters. This disturbance will make fishing ineffective for the balance of trout season ending Oct. 31. From the same source, it was learned that fishing is holding up in the Matilija and the Santa Paula. White added that the steelhead season will be open until Feb. 28 on the Ventura river.

1945

Rainfall – 15.13 Inches

February 8, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING GOOD IN SANTA INEZ RIVER CLANTON REVEALS – Local fishermen had best get their rods and reels and head for the Ventura or the Santa Inez river, for the steelheads are really biting, according to D.A. Clanton, head of the fish hatchery at Fillmore. Clanton said that since the rains the steelhead fishing in these streams has been exceptional.

The season, which opened the first of December, has been centered on the Ventura river, as far inland as Foster park bridge, and the Santa Inez river to Buellton, on highway 101, Clanton disclosed. All other streams are open at tidewater.

According to army regulations, persons intent on fishing at the Santa Inez are required to secure permission from the commanding officer of Camp Cook before fishing on military reservation. Permission can be obtained by letter.

The trout season is scheduled for opening on the first of May, with the steelhead season closing on February 28, officials said.

February 18, 1945 – Los Angeles Times

SOUTHLAND FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – A few warm days seem to remind us that it isn't too long till we can expect some real good fishing. Some reports from around the southern part of the State indicate that the fishing is pretty good already. Here's the dope that I've found from some of our sportsmen.

There are only two streams in Southern California open to steelhead fishing. These are Ventura River in Ventura County, and Santa Ynez River in Santa Barbara County.

Fishing in the Ventura River has been reported to be very good. Last Sunday saw a good turnout of fishermen and a great many of the boys were rewarded for their efforts with some fine steelhead. Spinners and salmon egg clusters have been the most productive lures.

Sportsmen interested in fishing the Ventura River should be reminded that the stream is open only from the ocean to the Foster Park bridge. This gives the boys about four miles of stream to work.

The Santa Ynez River has produced some fine steelhead lately. The recent rains raised the river considerably, and a great many steelhead have run in from the ocean. The stream has cleared up a great deal and fishermen are taking good advantage this midwinter fishing.

The Santa Ynez River is open to stream fishing from the ocean to the Buellton bridge. This consists of approximately 2 miles of good water.

The lower end of the Santa Ynez known as the lagoon area, lies within the confines of Camp Cooke. Permission to enter the area must be obtained from the provost marshal's office at Camp Cooke.

February 22, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CARTY TELLS CLUB LOS PADRES PARK MAY REMAIN OPEN – "Los Padres National forest will not be closed under any conditions until July 2 this year," Edwin I. Carty president of the Southern Council of Conservation clubs told 200 members of the Ventura Rod and Gun club at their annual meeting in Ventura yesterday.

He inferred that there was a chance that the forest might remain open during the entire year.

Two hundred thousand additional acres in the Frazier mountain area of the forest will be open this year for deer hunting, Carty said. Carty, who is a former state fish and game commissioner, said that thirty-three million dollars will be spent by the government during the next three years in the forest. The work will include check dams, roads, parks, etc. Carty also discussed proposed legislation now before the state legislature.

Jack White, county game warden, reported on steelhead fishing, and on the quail and pigeon season. "The streams are alive with trout," White said. Charles Edmonson, state trapper, said coyotes are on the increase in Ventura county. "There are three times as many coyotes in the country as there were ten years ago. Whenever you see a deer you will find a pack of coyotes following it," Edmonson said.

Dr. De Serpa predicted the Rod and Gun club would have a thousand members this year.

February 25, 1945 – Los Angeles Times

SOUTHLAND FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – This will be the last weekend of the winter steelhead fishing. The season which closes on February 28 has probably produced more good fishing in Southern California than has been enjoyed for several years.

The Ventura River has gone down a lot, and as a result there are very few steelhead running. A few fish are still being taken, but on the whole the fishing is poor in the Ventura. Fishing is lawful from the Foster bridge to the ocean. This covers an area of about four miles.

Last minute report from the Santa Ynez River tell that steelhead fishing has slowed down to a walk. The stream has cleared up a great deal since last week-end, and the catches for the last couple of days have been poor. There are still quite a few good-sized fish in the

open area of the stream; however, they don't seem anxious to fall for those spinners and salmon eggs as they did in the last two weeks.

March 1, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MUDDY WATERS IN CREEKS STOPS ALL STEELHEAD FISHING – San Francisco (UP) -- High and muddy waters in many creeks have resulted in the ending of winter steelhead fishing in California, the state fish and game commission announced today.

The steelhead take was poor, the commission said.

A meeting of the commission will be held here tomorrow to discuss fish and game bills before the current session of the legislature. Recommendations on streams and lakes to be opened or closed for trout fishing also will be studied as well as problems of the sardine industry.

March 1, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

EDITORIAL – VACATIONS THAT ARE TO COME – War obligations won't suffer by the quiet community plans now progressing apace in many localities to help meet the state's biggest vacation and recreation demand in history, expected to trip gaily in on the heels of peace. Not even the military high command is oracle enough to prophesy just what moment the back-to-nature rush will start. But California is going to be ready for it.

The returning veteran, his battles behind him, is going to be greeted with the kind of vacation paradise he dreamed about during the busy, fateful years of fighting. And the weary war plant worker will look for the first time in years on wooded mountains where the gurgling trout streams are born.

Without slighting a patriotic responsibility, plans are in the making to accomplish every preparation that war-time restrictions in time, equipment and manpower will permit.

Streams will be restocked wherever necessary—though report has it that many of the best, whose banks no fishermen have trod since the fighting began, are so full of rainbows and Dolly Vardens that they nudge each other ashore in the riffles.

Mountain roadways long unused and perhaps impassable even to the coming jeep parade must be put in order, and new roads into new territory must be hewn out.

War savings in many cases will finance bright new inns in the broad desert stretches, or rustic retreats in the hills. They will buy saddle horses and pack animals, pipe beneficial waters into new health spas, enlarge accommodations at the northern ski chalets, and build gay beach clubs in the south.

"A crowded, industrial California certainly will need new playgrounds," points out Editor E.A. Fitzhugh of the *Imperial Valley Weekly*, outlining his community's plans for expanding recreational facilities in the sunbound desert country.

Despite the general flurry of refurbishing, the natural God-given beauty of parks and forests, largely undisturbed by the hands of men, are to be made accessible, too, by a new system of hiking paths and bridle trails contemplated by bills now being considered at Sacramento.

Many a civilian, in the days following victory, thankful for the surcease of casualty lists ended and his own war job well done, will look to the vacation lands with fresh appreciation.

Many a tired veteran, his nerves as tight as a drawn bowstring, and bearing his worst war scars too deep for the world to see, will be grateful for the quiet peace and the recreational welcome he will find here when he turns his eyes once more toward home.

March 10, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TWO FISHERMEN DRAW $25 FINES – County Game Warden Jack White announced yesterday, four violations of state fish and game code regulations.

J.G. Pickens, Glendale, and E.D. Harry, Oxnard, drew $25 fines for snagging trout in the Ventura river, while Harry's fine was suspended. A juvenile boy, arrested on the same charge, was turned over to youth authorities.

A.J. Hammer, Los Angeles, who was arrested on a charge of fishing above the Foster park bridge—a closed area—also drew a $25 fine, according to White.

White and Al Crocker, deputy state fish and game warden, arrested all violators, except Pickens, who was arrested by L.R. Metzgar and Ted Jolley, deputy fish and game wardens. All the defendants appeared in Ventura justice court.

March 28, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

EDITORIAL – THIS INDUSTRY CAN BE EXPANDED – Perhaps the biggest industry in California after war should be recreation.

It is already the third largest industry in the state—about 650 million dollars a year—ranking next to manufacture and agriculture. And it could be much bigger because we have everything to offer.

Fortunately, recreation is an industry that does not create surplus goods to embarrass other industries, and it is one industry where you see a resource over and over and still keep it for endless future sales.

Jerry Carpenter of the State Chamber of Commerce, who works, eats and sleeps recreation, pausing only to keep his pipe filled, has been working for months to make an appraisal of the recreation industry of California, and he produces some interesting statistics.

We are prone to think of football as being a pretty large recreation industry. Well, it does add up to about $6,000,000 a year for games admissions. But that's peanuts. Fishing in this state is a 55 million dollar industry; deer hunting, 19 million dollars, duck hunting, 36 million dollars. These are sums of money spent for hunting and fishing equipment and for licenses, transportation, etc.

Sea fishing lures some 2 million persons a year to Florida. We have 1,264 miles of tidal shore line in California, not to mention several hundred lakes and 26,000 miles of potential fishing streams, which puts us up on Florida in total opportunities.

Some years ago Mr. Carpenter started pushing for winter sports. It has grown to a 15 million dollar industry and is still in rompers, so to say.

We mentioned recently that California has more riding horses than any other state. But it is New England which gets the trade in vacations on horseback, because they have provided the trails which make it possible for horseback riders to amble, explore, and stop at interesting inns and old historic spots. California could easily excel in this.

We have mineral springs in California which equal in health properties all the famous spas of the world, but we have not made much use of them.

These are all things which furnish employment, bring in revenue, contribute to health and well-being.

Mr. Carpenter suggest that proposed expenditures in the state by the federal government, state and local communities, all of which tie into recreation, and travel, could furnish 11 million man-made days of labor for reasonable cost spread over the postwar period, and the recreational returns alone will make them swell investments. These things include placing more trout in streams, doing a better job of controlling predatory animals, improving and expanding the parks, forests, beaches, winter sports, riding trails, historic landmarks, and airports which may be used by out-of-state and home vacationists.

These are suggestions which California could get its teeth into and the dividends in health and dollars add up to sound after-war planning.—*Pacific Rural Press.*

April 5, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Going Fishing? Make Your Reservation Now for packing down the Sespe River. Pack Horses and saddle horses at Piedro Blanco Call 748Y1 G.H. Rasmussen.

April 11, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

STEELHEAD FISHING DISCUSSED AT ROD, GUN CLUB SESSION – Over a hundred persons attended the Ventura County Rod and Gun club meeting held at 8 o'clock last night at the Masonic hall in Oxnard.

Included on the agenda was a discussion of the steelhead fishing situation in the Ventura river and the coyote problem with relation to the loss and damage to livestock and deer. The aspects of the legislature making laws relative to the fishing and gaming in the state were reviewed. President J.A. DeSerpa pointed out that the legislature meets but once every two years and that during this period rulings relative to limits and restrictions should be made in order to avoid loss.

Three motion pictures were also shown to the members touching on the sporting, fishing and hunting in the country. Fifty new members joined the club at the session last night.

April 26, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Let's Go Fishin'! Tuesday May 1st is the day. Secure your angling license now! There is no thrill like fighting a trout on your line…and that thrill is reserved for the fisherman. Out on the stream you have a grand time and meet a lot of fine fellows. We have fly lines, leaders, leader material, flies, hooks, salmon eggs, bass lures, canvas creels. Coleman Camp Stoves, Coleman Lanterns, Camp Axes and Shovels. Let us help you getting your gear together. Watkins Hardware Co. 935 Main.

April 27, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

IZAAK WALTONS GET FISHING TACKLE READY FOR MAY 1ST – "You'll get a line and I'll get a pole." This will be the main tune sung by local fishermen when May 1 dawns and opens the fishing season. From all indications the town will be deserted and the boys will be off to the mountain streams and reservoirs trying to catch the BIG one.

Jay Crusey, local authority, said today that in his estimation the season would be "good." He pointed out that last year the fishermen averaged 20 fish per person, that this year the outlook was cut to about 15 fish.

"However," Crusey added, "the fish are going to weigh more this season, so in the long run we'll have a better run—to be puny."

The four main areas for the localities are Santa Paula creek, Ventura river to the Matilija creek, lower Sespe and Wheeler Hot Springs to the upper Sespe.

April 28, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HATCHERY PUTS 3,000 TROUT IN STREAMS – Over 3,000 trout have been taken from the Fillmore state fish hatchery in the past week and stocked in Cucamonga creek

above Ontario. It was pointed out that more than half of these are over six inches long, with some running 10 and 11 inches, and hundreds eight and nine inches in length.

One spokesman for the state fish and game wardens said that in the heat of the summer a number of the streams dry up and trout stocked in the streams die in the mud; winter floods wash them out of the streams and they die when the water recedes.

In an effort to control this sort of thing, the small young trout have been ignored this season, and the six-inchers and up have been planted. The majority of them are rainbows, spawned and raised in running water at the hatchery and full of the old fight that lures thousands each year to snag them from watery beds.

Steelhead fishing this year is expected to hit an all-time high. Emphasis was laid on the fact that the water is high this year and therefore feeding good. At various times the water has been low and the moss food low, and as a result the fish were small.

A number of local residents are planning pack trips into the mountains Tuesday in order to be there bright and early and catch their quota.

County Game Warden Jack White, and Al Crocker, state fish and game warden, have stocked the following streams, according to B.H. Unruh, fish hatchery man:

Lockwood creek, upper Piru district, 2,000 trout planted.
Matilija creek, 5,000 in both forks.
Reyes creek, 1,800, located near upper Maricopa road and Lock wood valley road.
Santa Paula creek, 2,000; all larger trout from eight to 10 inches long.
Sespe river, 5,500 trout planted from the upper Sespe to the lower end toward Fillmore.
Rincon creek, near the Santa Barbara line, 1,500 trout planted.

<u>April 30, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

SLOGAN FOR ANGLERS MAY 1ST: "CAN'T TODAY! GOIN' FISHING" – The "three little fishes" had best take to dry land Tuesday May 1, when one-half the population of the county starts its annual trek to the old fishing holes around this vicinity.

The outlook for sportsmen today is "good." Virtually all waterways in Ventura county are well stocked by state and county authorities, and Jack White, game warden, said the most successful fishing season in recent years is anticipated.

The warden forecast the best fishing in Santa Paula creek, the upper and lower Sespe, Matilija creek, Matilija north fork, San Antonio creek and Rincon creek. Some 18,000 aged fish have been planted in these streams and in Lime canyon and Howard creek, White said.

In addition, 10,000 fingerlings were planted in headwaters of the Senior canyon and 6,000 in the headwaters of Piedra Blanca, according to White.

The Ventura and Sespe rivers and Matilija and Santa Paula creeks have all bountiful supplies of native fish, White declared, and fishing should be exceptional in these four streams. He added that some steelhead have been sighted spawning recently and predicted that Coyote and Santa Ana creeks will be high on the list of fishing spots.

All fishermen over 18 years of age must carry state licenses, now obtainable at sporting goods stores in Ventura county. Sportsmen are urged to secure licenses now and not to wait until tomorrow morning.

The daily bag limit of 25 fish or 10 pounds and one fish will be enforced strictly by White and a staff of county and state fish and game wardens who will patrol the entire countryside, the warden added.

Fishermen will cast their lines as the go signal is given, an hour before sunrise at 5:35 a.m. Schools in Fillmore will not keep that day and the attendance at the local schools is expected to be slacked off.

May 1, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HAROLD BAKER, FIRST ANGLER TO BRING IN LIMIT – Alarm clocks jangled throughout Santa Paula this morning as early as 3 a.m. and in the cold gray light of dawn, the local sportsmen gulped down a cup of steaming black coffee and then hied off to the "old fishin' hole."

Fishermen from 9 years up lined the banks and cast their lines, concentrating on catching the limit and racing back to town to capture the title of "first."

Santa Paula look deserted in the early morning hours. Stores were manned by as meager a force as thought advisable and those who remained behind, cast envious glances toward the mountains and sighed wistfully.

The elementary schools and the high school were confronted with the usual May 1st absentee problem as Johnny and Mary substituted rod and reels for "reading, writing and arithmetic."

At 11 o'clock the rush was on' the fishermen had returned. Drug stores and restaurants were filled to capacity and the "fish stores" were the order of the day. Trout shoved aside the war news and wagers as to when the Germans would capitulate.

The "first" to report his "limit" to the *Chronicle* was Harold Baker, also the top of the list last year. Baker said he was off to the creek at 3 o'clock this morning had caught his limit by 10:45 a.m. Contrary to previous reports, Baker declared that he did not believe the fishing this year comparable to other seasons. He declared that last year he had caught his quota by 9:30 and "it took over five hours this time."

Fishermen said this is one of the heaviest opening seasons and estimated that over 150 cars were jammed around Santa Paula creek at 8 o'clock this morning.

One of the reasons for such an increased interest this year is attributed to the current meat shortage. Baker remarked that there were over four persons to each fishing hole.

Delbert Clegg, first string pitcher for the Cardinals, accompanied by his pal, Bobbie Burleson, did a little fancy hurling of a line into the Santa Paula creek today and when Clegg pulled his reel out of the water he had landed a 20-inch steelhead trout.

The boys were out of the hay at 4:30 a.m. and on their way up the canyon to the spot they had selected above the second crossing at the falls.

Fishing was so heavy in the Ventura and Sespe rivers and Matilija creek, all of which were planted with bountiful supplies of fish. Jack white, game warden, emphasized today that the daily bag limit of 25 fish or 10 pounds and one fish will be enforced strictly by a staff of county game wardens who will patrol the entire countryside.

Spokesman said they expected that almost 500,000 anglers will seek trout before the season ends Oct. 31, and added that they believed more than 400,000 licenses will be sold. Persons under 18 and servicemen can fish free.

May 2, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

I SAW…Dale von Trebra fishing with "steen" others in the Santa Paula creek above the Ferndale ranch. He caught one small one and threw it back. A second was hooked. It was tossed in again. Then he got a whale just as he was about to land the 20-inch trout, the imp winked its eye at Dale and plopped back into the stream with the little ones.

I SAW…Fishing rods, reels, and camping equipment displayed in Watkins window and decided that a law should be passed preventing the exhibition of such alluring gadgets. They have such a marked tendency to take a person's mind off his work.

September 17, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TO PLANT TROUT – Recent efforts by the state fish hatchery at Fillmore to plant young trout in Ventura county streams has been frustrated by the extremely warm water in the local streams, it was learned recently. It was said that the small pools of water were so warm that the fish would die. Efforts to replant the streams will be made later, it was said.

September 20, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TEAGUE SHOWS FILMS ON HUNTING, FISHING AT GUN CLUB OUTING – Approximately 100 members of the Rod and Gun club met for an outdoor session in

Steckel park last evening to see colored moving pictures of hunting and fishing trips, shown by Milton M. Teague.

Jack White, county game warden, gave a talk regarding hunting and fishing in which he told of the 5,000 trout taken last week to be returned to the fish hatchery at Fillmore when the water temperature ranging from 79 to 81 degrees proved too warm.

In regard to the return of the trout, Keith Coffee, club secretary, suggested that the club members and Boy Scouts build small check dams in local streams in order to keep the water at a cooler temperature for the assurance of better fishing.

November 25, 1945 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March -- …Over the holiday I was at the Fillmore hatchery and had a chance to see the trout which are now being moved out to the local lakes, such as Big Bear and Lake Arrowhead. Lake fish are planted at this time of year and stream plantings are done in the spring of the year. D.A. Clanton, the hatchery manager, informed me that prior to the opening of the trout season next spring he will issue to the paper a list of the plantings which have been made from now till the opening.

November 26, 1945 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH HATCHERY AT FILLMORE KEPT BUSY RAISING RAINBOW TROUT FOR STOCKING NEARBY STREAMS – If you happen to be near the Santa Paula creek or the River of Doubt some day and see some men drive up with box-like truck, jump out carrying pails and then dash down to the waters edge and appear to be very busy, do not think they are bailing out the stream or panning for gold. You would find that they were from the State Fish Hatchery in Fillmore and were engaged in stocking the streams with rainbow trout.

Did you know that from 170,000 to 200,000 each year are put in the streams in Ventura county by the state? In general the principle followed is to stock each individual creek prior to the opening of the fishing season which is May 1.

Some of the streams nearby which are ready for the Izaak Waltons and juvenile anglers are the Santa Paula Creek, Lost Creek, Jap Creek below Fillmore; the River of Doubt (really part of the Santa Clara River); Sisar Creek which flows into Santa Paula Creek, San Antonio Creek near Ojai, Matilija Creek which is located in the upper sections of the Ventura River; Wheeler Gorge Creek, the upper sections of the Sespe River and the lower Sespe near the dam, the Rincon Creek, the Reyes Creek, north of the mountains and toward Maricopa, Piru, Bucks and Snow Creeks.

So popular is fishing in these regions that Fish Culturist D.A. Clanton, and assistant supervisor of hatcheries, actually counted 700 anglers along Santa Paula Creek, and most of them had caught something.

To provide an ample supply of rainbow trout for the enthusiastic sportsmen between the months of May 1 and October 31 (the extent of the season) requires no end of preparation. Suppose we get on the live car which we saw drive up to one of the streams and which brought the trout, and ride back on it to the hatchery at Fillmore to see how these thousands are grown.

Upon arrival on the scene we are confronted with a pleasant setting with a system of three streams with 30 ageing ponds each 100 feet long. Piping is so arranged that each pond can be supplied with fresh water as needed.

Going on a little further is what is called the hatchery building. Here are eight tanks and circular ponds. Water is tumbling down miniature falls so as to give it plenty of oxygen, for otherwise the tiny fish would die. Trout must have aeration. Their natural habitat is a stream; so the water is agitated and the fish swim along with it.

After this general view of the hatchery building we get very curious and want to see what each tank contains. This first one contains a wire basket full of fertilized eggs which had been trapped far way in some mountain lakes. We learn that they had to be packed in ice and then sent down to Fillmore. To our surprise we learn that this is nothing for eggs have been shipped in this manner to Newfoundland and England. To continue with our investigation we note that the eggs will hatch in 21 days and during this period they are like most things which come into this world, fed from the eggs.

Here are some fish 48 hours old, and some only one minute. When they get clear of the egg, they drop down through the screen in to the tank below. The yellow sack or part of the egg stays attached to the new-born fish for about two weeks. One of the troughs alone contained over 208,000 tiny rainbow trout.

As they grow older they are shifted to different tanks and get fed finely ground liver. The little ones are fed six times a day, and the older ones twice. The trout who go through this primary training soon graduate into the large stream described above. When they are big enough they are taken for a ride in the live car, and turned loose in the various creeks, but not for long. Soon some eager angler has them hooked and like so many of their predecessors they wind up in the frying pan.

In fact from 35 to 40 tons of rainbow trout catchable size, are put in streams in one year's time. They are raised at the hatchery by trained culturists and in general each fish grows about an inch a month. Yes, it is the diet that makes them develop. They have anchovies, sardines, clams, shrimp, and canned fish which has been condemned due to faulty tins, crimped surfaces, etc. While walking around the grounds of the hatchery we have a hard time keeping our minds on the fish due to the presence of Mable.

Mable is a legendary creature—a fawn—who when very tiny was seized in the claws of an eagle and carried aloft, supposedly for a meal. However, pursuing eagles disturbed the bird with his prey, and near the hatchery, he dropped the baby deer into a tree.

Several people had noticed the "gimme" game in the sky and when the fawn fell, they rushed to the spot, rescued the "gal" who later become know as Mable.

Now Mable, is very tame and follows you around just like a pet dog. She will let you pet her and feed her if you are very slow. The children at the hatchery have adopted Mable, and each house is visited by the fawn every day for her allotment of milk or some other hand-out. So if you are not careful you will be more interested in what Mable does than you will be in how the fish get into their ponds.

While we look at the fawn out of the corner of our eye, we hear Clanton, the boss of the hatchery tell of the many other activities of his men such as the rescue work. When the water gets low in the streams and fish are about to die, the culturists hurry out to the danger spots and bring these fish back to the hatchery until such time as the rains fill up the streams. Over two million fish a year are saved this way.

Last year over one million bass were rescued and about 22,000 pounds of blue gills, catfish, and crappies. Not only does the water get low, but also too warm for the fish to thrive.

Clanton is trying to educate us. He says there are 260,000 miles of potential fishing streams in California, 8,000 lakes, and in 1950 the population of the state will be nine million. So what? The point is that there will be a need for more fish hatcheries, travel will be great and fishermen will have to be able to pursue their favorite sport.

The whole fish and game department is self-supporting for the money is supplied through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. There are 300,000 hunting licenses.

<u>December 30, 1945 – Los Angeles Times</u>

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – All this rain we have had can mean only one thing for the fisherman and that is steelhead fishing will soon be here. The low fog which we had over the holiday season opened the Santa Ynez enough to allow a fair run of fish, but to date the streams are muddy and high, and any fish that sneaked in from the ocean are having it their own way up till now. If the streams clear by the week-end we will probably get our first steelhead of the season.

Let's brief review the restrictions both for limit and open areas so we'll know where we stand. The two streams open for steelhead here in Southern California are the Ventura, at Ventura, where the anglers have four miles of stream from the ocean to Foster Park Bridge, and the Santa Ynez, in Santa Barbara County, which is open as far as the Buellton Bridge—an area of about 28 miles. The limit is three per day regardless of size. Let's mention here that any tidewaters at the mouths of any streams is legal area, but the streams are closed.

1 9 4 6

Rainfall – 11.32 Inches

January 6, 1946 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – …Before we start with the steelhead picture, let's remind the angling fraternity to pick up their 1946 fishing licenses now so when they get fishing fever they'll be all set. I was one of a host of disappointed anglers who visited the Santa Ynez River last week-end.

The stories seem to bear out that the fish have just failed to arrive in any number as yet. The river has plenty of clear water and the opening at the ocean is intermittently open, depending on tide conditions; however—no fish. One lucky boy who calls himself Newt Collins and resides in Topanga Canyon brought home an eight-pounder, which any of the anglers would have been more than pleased with.

On the Ventura River the story is about the same. Some fish have been taken, but as yet it isn't worth the trip.

Capt. Macklin of the Division of the Fish and Game tells me that he hopes the commission will strongly consider the closure of the steelhead areas during the regular summer season. Not only are the young fish caught at an alarming rate, but these waters are needed for rearing ponds for the young fish. By making these few closures we would be putting into practice the same program which has been used so successfully in Northern California.

Our steelhead run gets better every year and this is due mainly to the closure of the lagoon area on the Santa Ynez; however, this program should be extended to include all winter steelhead areas in Southern California. Then when we get a fish, rather than getting a young steelhead which might go 6 inches, we will be getting those season babies which run from five pounds and up.

January 13, 1946 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – …In the fishing picture the big run on steelhead is still coming up. Ventura River is getting almost no fish at all while the Santa Ynez can only report a very few fish being taken. Until we get a good rain we can almost cross steelhead off our list.

The recondition of the Chatsworth Reservoir so that the water supply will be fit for human consumption will close the chapter on using these grounds for public fishing. At present the lake is drained and altered to get rid of oil seepage, which has put it out of circulation for the past few years. Many of our local anglers have claimed that this lake held some fine fish, but the commission feels that carp have taken over the lake to the extent of eliminating the game fish.

January 27, 1946 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – …Our sporting blood will have to be satisfied with the pursuit of the finny tribe for the some little time now, and there is the picture at present. On steelhead there are no runs in progress due to the lack of rains; however, there have been some good fish taken in the surf at Ventura and a few at Malibu. On the subject of Malibu and steelhead, I have checked with Capt. Mackling of the Fish and Game and he tells me that the tidewaters of all coastal streams are open for steelhead fishing. On the Malibu this includes the water to the highway bridge—the water above the bridge is closed till the opening of the trout season.

January 30, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LIMIT ON TROUT CUT FORM 25 TO 15 FISH BY COMMISSION – Los Angeles (UP) – The limit on trout today was cut from 25 to 15 fish, or 10 pounds and one fish, as a conservation measure by the state fish and game commission.

The reduction was favored by southern California sportsmen who said that streams in the Inyo-Mono area almost were depleted last season under the old limit.

A proposal that the shipping of trout be fixed at two limits per season was taken under consideration but the commission's attorney said it did not have power to pass such regulations.

February 10, 1946 – Los Angeles Time

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – Steelhead fishermen can put their rods away again and go back to watching the weather reports because there just wasn't enough rain to open the rivers. On the Santa Ynez River there was a small run of fish but nothing to get excited about. The Ventura failed to open enough to bring in a run of fish, however, here have been some good catches in the surf. Neither of these streams to our north received as much rain as we did locally, so—no fish. At Malibu Lagoon, known locally as the "poor man's Klamath," there have been less than a dozen good fish taken, despite a barrage of shiny hardware from the fishermen.

February 24, 1946 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – This will be your last chance at the steelhead because the season closed Feb. 28. This has been a very disappointing year on the steelies and the blame can all fall on the weatherman. If we don't get heavy rains the rivers don't open up enough to let in the big runs of fish.

At present the prospects for a good closer are pretty slim. There are a few fish in the Ventura, but here are 20 fishermen for every fish. At the Santa Ynez the story is even slower, with only an occasional fish taken. This sounds like a Sad Sam, but if we get a

heavy rain, grab your rod and come running because there are plenty of fish in the surf and the picture could change in a matter of hours.

March 13, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHANGES MADE IN SPORT FISHING LAWS – Jack E. White, county game warden, disclosed yesterday that several changes in the sport fishing laws were recently enacted by the state fish and game commission, meeting at Los Angeles.

According to the new rules, salmon may not be taken with a spear in any part of the state of California. Not more that 15 trout, 15 Rocky Mountain whitefish, or 15 of both, not more than 10 pounds of one or both may be taken or possessed in any day. Chumming in inland waters is forbidden, and black bass may be taken only by angling between May 29 and December 31 in the south lake of Lake Merced.

Black bass, Sacramento perch and sunfish may be taken only by angling between May 1 and October 31 in all waters of Lake Britton, situated in the county of Shasta, and no California whiting of less than 12 inches in length shall be taken.

The new rules became effective February 15.

March 15, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FIVE JUVENILES FIGURE IN MINOR OFFENSES HERE – Juvenile offenses continued to hold the spotlight in the police records of the last few days, with five Santa Paula boys involved in minor offenses.

Three 13-year-old boys were taken into custody by the state game warden here for fishing steelheads out of the Santa Clara river out of season. The boys had taken the afternoon off from school Wednesday to fish. The boys were turned over to juvenile authorities at Ventura.

March 16, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH BAT SELVES TO DEATH TRYING TO GET UPSTREAM – (UP) – Huge steelhead fish are battering themselves to death by scores in a frantic effort to get upstream to spawn over the “ladder” across the Santa Ynez river near Lompoc, Game Warden Herald Lantis was told today.

Justice of the Peace Horace T. Reed of Lompoc asked Lantis to stretch a screen across the river below the ladder or throw a sandbar across the mouth to keep the fish in the ocean.

He said “hundreds of large fish were fighting to get up the ladder” in pools below it so shallow they could have been taken by hand.

April 5, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING SEASON OPENS MAY 1 – With the approach of spring and its balmy days, a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of—no, it's fishing here in Santa Paula, not what you thought we were going to say. And that statement holds true today from H.R. Dunbar, chief of the bureau of licenses of the California division of fish and game that all anglers better begin buying their license now and avoid the perennial last-minute rush. The season opens May 1, and it is a cinch that many a local businessman won't get to the office until 10 a.m. that day.

"Experience has been in the past that sportsmen wait until the last few days to buy their licenses causing undue strain on the agencies," Dunbar said. "More than 1600 agents are handling licenses as an accommodation to the sportsmen and are still working shorthanded. As a favor to them, the sportsmen should buy now and not wait until the last minute."

Dunbar expects sales this season to break all existing records including the high mark last year of $1,100,000.

April 25, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHERMEN URGED TO GET LICENSES TO AVOID RUSH – Santa Paula fishermen are urged by the county game warden, Jack White, to get their fishing license early to avoid a last minute rush on sporting goods stores. The 1946 trout season is set to open May 1, only six days away.

Licenses may be obtained at all local hardware stores stocking fishing tackle, White said, as well as any throughout the county.

Bearing in mind the late rains that have raised the level of rivers and creeks throughout the county, local anglers are hopeful for a good opening day.

April 26, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT REPORTED WORKING BACK INTO CREEKS – Scouts have been out checking on the trout fishing prospects and generally speaking report that fish in Ventura county are working back into the creeks. Bert Stewart, Jr., of the National Auto club, says that sport for trout fishermen opens on May 1, and the late run of steelhead interests the anglers.

Few steelhead reported in Matilija near Lyons Springs.

April 30, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCAL ANGLERS EXPECT RESULTS ON OPENING DAY FOR FISHING – In Mexico, everybody makes his plan for "manana." And in Santa Paula, and other Ventura

county communities, they are doing just that today. For “manana,” or tomorrow, is May 1, and somewhat of a national holiday in these parts. It isn’t the town’s anniversary or the Glen City equivalent of the Fourth of July—it’s even better than that. It’s the opening of the annual fishing season, which last until October 31.

Life won’t begin at 8:30 tomorrow morning in the business district. In fact it may not begin at all in some shops. But while the usually bustling shopping district will look like some Sunday morning, the local trout streams will be full of fish clothed in suits of armor to duck the lead and steel thrown in by anxious anglers. For tomorrow the seasoned professional fishermen will rub elbows with Joe Doakes in an effort to bring that first catch home for mama to admire.

According to the number of licenses sold thus far in local hardware stores, about 500 would-be Isaak Waltons will be out there tomorrow when old Sol rises, trying to lure the wary fish with bait and fly.

According to Jay Crusey, of Watkins Hardware store, the Santa Paula creek is now well stocked, in anticipation of the first post-war fishing season.

“There are plenty of fish all the way up and down the creek,” he said, “and the lower and upper Sespe are also well filled, from what I have heard.”

As of about 10 a.m. today, some 200 licenses were sold by Crusey, and he anticipated plenty more.

“I expect that the percentage of anglers in the local streams will be about the same as last year,” he declared, pointing out that although there are plenty of returned vets back this year, the lifting of gasoline rationing has made it possible to travel to all points of the state.

Asked if the fly fisherman was to take all the honors tomorrow, as is usually the case with trout, Crusey was inclined to favor the bait fisherman.

“The biggest catches will be made on bait,” he said, “although the flies will catch plenty.”

“In fact,” he predicted, “about 75 per cent of the catches tomorrow will be made on bait, and this will hold true particularly during the first few days.”

At this point, Lt. Frank Ingledow of the Santa Paula police, who was signing up for his licenses, pointed out that “the fish are all under the water looking for bait, and ignore the flies on the surface.”

Ingledow asked if he was going out tomorrow, answered emphatically in the affirmative, pointing out that he had “been fishing ever since he could remember and he was 54 years old now.

Officials of the state fish hatchery at Fillmore confirmed Crusey's predictions about the streams being well stocked, and said the additional fish were planted in an anticipation of a record group of anglers tomorrow.

"Everyone is fishing-minded all of a sudden," one official said. He pointed out that in the 1945 season some $1,100,000 worth of licenses sold, and anticipated that the sum would be even more this year.

Ralph Chapek, manager of Butcher's hardware store, envisioned plenty of "Huckleberry Finns: with bamboo poles and string, due to the tackle shortage.

"We have sold about 100 licenses thus far, and expect to sell more before the day is over," he said, pointing out that even the shortage of tackle isn't discouraging the local lads.

Russell Chambers, Santa Paula's traveling council member, is going to Lake Gregory for his angling. He did not disclose whether any of the other councilmen were accompanying him.

The fishing problem is being handled in various ways by the school officials both here and in Fillmore. In the latter place, both high and elementary schools have been given the day off, in observance of what one school official termed a "traditional holiday."

"Very few students will come to school anyhow," she said, "so the board made it official."

Santa Paula school officials, however, look upon the event with a fishy eye (no pun intended). According to Freeman Eakin, high school principal, students who wish to go fishing tomorrow will have to make arrangements with the attendance officer and have their parent's permission, and the time missed will be made up later. In the elementary schools here, students may be excused to go fishing if they present a note signed by their parents, certifying that they are going fishing in the company of their parent or guardian.

And so it goes, with everyone from the colonel's lady to Judy O'Grady preparing to cook that trout for tomorrow's dinner. If you have any business to transact tomorrow, our advice is to let it go until later. Because, here, as in Mexico, everything is going to be postponed from Wednesday until "manana."

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Opens Wednesday, May 1 Sunrise 5:05 a.m. The water in the streams is up, and good plants of trout have been made in this area. Let's go Fishing! Watkins Hardware has a good supply of Fishing Needs Reels-Creels-Hooks-Leaders-Flies-Eggs Come in and fill in your needs. Make this your outing year. Watkins Hardware Co.

NEWS FROM RANCHO SESPE – Norman Harvey, Attorney Harry Wesley, Dr. C.R. Illick and Earl McCloud and a friend of Los Angeles left today on a several day's fishing trip in the Piedra Blanca region.

May 1, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ON FISHING TRIP – Dr. Fred Schlichter, his brother, Walter Schlichter, Fay Fort, Paul Keith and James Sharp are members of a camping party who packed into the upper Sespe for a fishing expedition yesterday to remain until Sunday.

ABBIATTI BROTHERS FIRST TO REPORT LIMIT CATCH TODAY – The first catch reported to the *Chronicle* by early morning anglers today came in at 7:30 a.m., when Howard "Dutch" Abbiatti, of the Limoneira ranch, and Max Abbiatti, 926 Terracina drive, came to the office with 15 rainbow trout each, their limit under the fish and game regulations.

The fish were caught in Santa Paula creek between the bridge and the first crossing. Each weighed about one pound and eight ounces, and the brothers used salmon eggs for bait.

Asked if the catch put up much of a fight, the pair replied that it was "quite a battle, but worth it."

Both brothers have been going out on May day for the opening of the season since 1936. Max, however, missed one season because of the fact that he was in military service.

May 2, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RUDY MORUA, 13 YEARS, CATCHES BIGGEST TROUT – Perhaps the proudest fisherman in town yesterday was Rudy Morua, 13-year-old angler, who walked into the *Chronicle* office around 6 p.m. yesterday with sparkling eyes and a broad smile to display a 23 ¾ inch rainbow trout. It weighed just one ounce less than three pounds.

He was using salmon eggs for bait and caught the prize beauty in Santa Paula creek just above where it joins the Santa Clara river. The fish put up quite a battle and in his excitement the young fisherman jumped in the creek to make sure of him. But shucks! What's a little wetting more or less, for a fish like that?

May 4, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

I SAW…Franklin Duncan returning from a fishing expedition up Santa Paula creek and reporting that the trout just refused to bite except two little ones.

May 5, 1946 – Los Angeles Times
HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – This week-end will probably see the largest turnout of fishermen ever to invade the lakes and streams of this fair State. The

enthusiasm for fishing which has been retarded for the last four years by the war effort and the gas shortage is now free to go as far as it can. Looking over the early reports on the opening catches we can see several bright spots in the picture. Hottest openers were Little Rock Dam, Crystal Lake and the Sespe River. These three favorites were well up to standard but gloom hovers over several spots which we were assured had plenty of fish stocked for the opener. The San Gabriel River saw the largest turnout it has ever experienced but the fishing was poor and the best anglers had trouble filling the 15-limit.

We are used to all types of shortages, so a fish shortage shouldn't shock us too much. Prior to the opening, the State Fish and Game stocked 162,630 aged trout in our local waters. This is a lot of fish but if we consider that one-third of the anglers of the State are in Southern California and we sold over 500,000 licenses last year this figures about one fish for every fisherman. The story isn't quite this bad because there is a certain percentage of natural spawning and then there are the bass lakes to consider. At present there is one hatchery at Fillmore, one under construction at Whittier, and another on blueprints for Victorville. These hatcheries are all devoted exclusively to trout raising. There is no attempt being made to raise bass which are more prolific and faster growing than trout.

The business of fishing is a multimillion dollar business in this State from the angle of equipment and recreation facilities for sale to the public. Fish and Game Commissioner Ben Williams has said that when things got bad enough there would probably be something done about it. Well, let's hope this year, with a full-strength commission in action, that we can accomplish something to benefit Mr. Average Fishermen.

May 7, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Going Fishing? Take your Portable Radio equipped with proper batteries, properly installed from qualified technicians listed below….R.E.S.A. Radio Electronics Specialists Association

NEWS FROM RANCHO SESPE – A number of the Sespe men went fishing Sunday and had the good luck to catch the limit. Also several of the Sespe residents attended the rodeo at Ventura the same day.

June 29, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FOUR VIOLATORS OF FISH AND GAME LAWS ARRESTED IN JUNE – Four violators of the fish and game laws were arrested in Ventura county during the month of June, it was announced by Jack White, county game warden, Friday.

Thomas Lennon of Santa Monica was arrested in Santa Paula creek for fishing without a license. He was apprehended by Henry Shebley, state game warden, and fined $20 by Judge Frederick E. Bagnall in Santa Paula justice court on June 7. The same was arrested again June 22 and charged with giving false information in obtaining a license. He was sentenced to pay a fine of $25 but the sentence was suspended.

White arrested Ray McCook of Chatsworth for fishing in Lake Eleanor on May 30 without a license. He was sentenced to pay a $35 fine in Judge David Flynn's Camarillo justice court.

George H. Gill of Los Angeles and Robert J. Hostetter of Beverly Hills were fined $25 each with $15 suspended by Judge E.C. Graham in Simi justice court June 16. The two men were arrested in the Santa Susanna area for hunting without a license, the same day. White and Deputy Sheriff Bert Stephens made the arrest.

July 1, 1946 – Oxnard Courier

A QUICK FLIP OF THE HANDS-FISH CAUGHT – Saturday afternoon Dr. Elliott Stoll made good a vow to catch a certain steelhead trout in the stream of Foster Park, and he did it without the aid of fishing tackle.

Stoll and Robert Petit had first gone fishing in the stream on Sunday, June 23, and after catching a dozen or more trout averaging about seven inches long, Stoll spotted a trout that dwarfed the others. He hastened back to get Petit, thinking that they could drive it into shallow water. When they returned to the spot, the fish had disappeared.

Stoll who teaches at the University of Southern California dental school, told friends that he was going to return the following week-end and get the fish. Saturday afternoon Stoll and his father, Dr. A.H. Stoll, once again started fishing in the stream at Foster Park.

After they had caught half a dozen trout, young Stoll spotted the big steelhead about 100 feet from the spot where the fish was discovered the week before. Stoll stepped into the water to drive the fish into a shallow pool, but it layed motionless until finally grasped with both hands and flung up on the bank. The beauty measured 24 inches long and weighed 4 ¾ pounds.

Stoll then took his prize to a photographer so that he could prove his fisherman's tale.

July 30, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHIEF PRIMMER TELLS ABOUT FISHING IN GOOD OLD DAYS – Modern fishermen in this area might be interested in hearing that in 1908, Santa Paula Creek and all streams in Ventura county were literally full of trout and that there were very few Isaak Waltons pulling the fish out of the water. This was disclosed yesterday by no less a fishing authority than Samuel T. Primmer, chief of police, who can look back on that many years of fishing in local waters.

Reminiscing, Primmer said that in those days the streams boasted trout up to twelve inches long. Because the trip from Ventura to the creek and return took all day, there were very few persons dangling bait in front of the fish then. At that time the road went from Santa Paula across the creek where Steckel Park is now, then through the Anlauf

property, and up what was known then as "Dietz Hill," a very steep hill on the west side of the creek. It forked here, according to Primmer, one section going to Ojai, the other to the place known as the Boy Scout Camp.

In 1919, however, the trout became somewhat scarce. Feeling that other streams were getting most of the trout planted, a group of local fishermen and sporting enthusiasts formed the Santa Paula Fish and Game Association, with J.N. Proctor as president and Stanley Lothridge as secretary. This organization existed for many years after, taking care of the Santa Paula and Sespe creeks and bringing back the "good old days" when fish were plentiful. One of the first plantings was in the Santa Paula creek above the falls. This was the first time trout were seen in that section of the stream.

In those days, Primmer noted, all schools closed on the opening day of the fishing season and everybody in the family went out to try his luck. Local stores gave prize for all types of catches from the smallest trout to the longest limit laid end to end. Prizes went as high as a $40 trout rod, he recalled.

Later, the Sespe Light and Power company built a road up to what is known as "Grassy Flat" and a trail to Alden Creek, making the Sespe easily accessible to autos and ruined the trout fishing, the chief said. The road was washed out in the floods of 1938 and the trail is now grown up to brush, making the lower Sespe very difficult to reach. The present Ventura County Rod and Gun club was organized to foster fish and game activities in the county, and the efforts of this group, along with the work done by the new fish hatchery at Fillmore is bringing Ventura county fishing back to the status it once had in days gone by, Primmer said.

During the period when there was little or no trout fishing in the county, Santa Paula fishermen began going to the area near Bishop, over roads that were sandy, devoid of pavement, and crooked. It took the greater part of two days to make the trip, but those who went brought back stories of golden Eastern brook and rainbow trout weighing up to 11 or 12 pounds. Many local residents make the Bishop area their vacation land now, with Convict Lake, Mammoth Lakes or June Lake the favorites. Crowley Lake and the Owens river are about the only places with any "big ones" left. Unless they travel into the back country, Primmer says, seventy five percent of the new visitors to Bishop usually don't bag enough trout to eat.

The trout season in this district for trout is May 1 to October 31, according to the fishing laws. The limit is 25 fish or 10 pounds and one fish. The golden trout season in this district is from July 1 to September 30.

<u>August 22, 1946 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

FISH HATCHERY VISITED – Fillmore state fish hatchery was visited Wednesday by the state legislature's joint interim committee on fish and game.

The committee planned to visit similar hatcheries in San Bernardino and Whittier, then go to Los Angeles.

October 31, 1946 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP -- by Jim March – …This is the last day of this year's trout and bass fishing for most of Southern California's lakes. All lakes and streams close at sundown tonight except lakes in San Diego County and the Colorado River, which enjoy year-round fishing on spiney rayed fish.

On the whole this has been a record year. Individually we probably all caught less fish than in the past few seasons, but there were far more people fishing. It is clear that our only hope is greater fish production. This additional production is well under way in one new hatchery for trout at Whittier and another trout hatchery is on blueprint for Victorville.

By next season we should see a commendable fish raising and planting system in motion here in the South.

Giving credit where credit is due we all owe a big hand to D.A. Clanton and his gang from Fillmore for the splendid job they have done in being godfather to most of the trout we caught locally this summer.

November 14, 1946 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – …Winter rains mean just one thing to the fresh-water fishermen. Steelhead, that elusive fresh-water-run fish, keeps most fishermen checking weather reports all winter. Just what the rains can do in the way of opening the steelhead streams is hard to say at present. If we get the green light we have access to all tide water and all coastal streams.

On the Malibu Creek the highway bridge is the boundary; on the Ventura River the Foster Park bridge is the limit and on the Santa Ynez it is the Buellton Bridge.

December 26, 1946 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – Now that Santa has brought everyone his new rod and gun for Christmas, let's look over the possibilities for putting that equipment to some good use.

…Our one big change of cashing in on a lot of good fishing would be to have this rain develop into something large enough to open our steelhead trout streams. Presently, both the Ventura and Santa Ynez have been opened slightly by former rains but not enough to do much good. Experts believe a good run could be expected if we got sufficient rain to make a sustained run-off.

1 9 4 7

Rainfall – 12.86 Inches

January 4, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND CHANGES – Los Angeles (UP) – The state fish and game commission will reveal at its San Francisco meeting Jan. 24-25 decisions as to recommendations for changes in sport fish regulations, it was announced today.

The most "controversial" change offered to the commission yesterday was that by the Associated Sportsmen of California who want the trout limit for northern coastal streams to be returned to the old 25.

The southern council of conservation clubs and the bureau of fish conservation, division of fish and game, favored the present 15 limit.

Santa Barbara sportsmen suggested an April 1 opening of the trout season. The southern council recommended April 5 for all southern California coastal counties and a Saturday opening for the remainder of southern California. Several school districts favored a weekend opening to reduce class cutting.

The southern council also recommended a closed frogging season from Nov. 30 to June 30; open all southern coastal streams below Ventura to steelhead fishing during regular season; open trout fishing in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino, Imperial and Riverside counties April 5, close Sept. 28; the grunion season be opened a month earlier.

January 5, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March – The rains have paid off for the steelhead fishermen. The holiday saw good fish taken in both the Ventura and Santa Ynez Rivers. Both streams have ample water to give a good flow to support a heavy spawning run, and it appears that the sea run beauties are in fair quantities. These streams aren't adapted to much of the spinner and fly technique, so popular in Northern California streams, because the largest percentage of fish are taken on red cluster eggs.

January 14, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

OVER MILLION TROUT PRODUCED AT FILLMORE FISH HATCHERY – During the year 1946, the Fillmore state fish hatchery produced approximately 1,000,000 trout, breaking all records while showing a net gain of 85,501 pounds over the previous year. This was announced last week by D.A. Clanton, assistant superintendent of hatcheries in California.

Supplying trout for the eight southern counties from San Luis Obispo to San Diego, the hatchery consumed 395,000 pounds of feed in order to grow the fingerlings six inches in six months. Feed consisted of fresh anchovies, canned fish, horse meat, beef liver, abalone trimmings, fresh clams, and shrimp.

Outside hatcheries are now sending eggs for the new year. A total of 1,500,000 small fish and eggs are now here for use during summer and fall.

Recently the Fillmore hatchery has been hatching young fish which are transferred to the new Whittier hatchery for aging. During 1946 a total of 500,000 small fish were shipped to that station to help the production of trout for southern California by 15,500 pounds.

In 1943, the Fillmore plant turned out 75,000 pounds; in 1944 78,000 pounds; 1945, 68,000 pounds, 1946, 85,000 pounds.

Last year, some 437,000 steelhead fingerlings were rescued from the Santa Ynez river in Santa Barbara county and placed in live waters. Of these, 412,000 were placed in Santa Barbara county waters and 25,000 in this county. The crew at the hatchery also worked on rescue projects involving spiny ray fish such as crappie, bass, bluegill and catfish.

Water conditions in Ventura county during 1946 were very poor for fish planting, the report disclosed. The water was especially bad during the summer months due to low conditions and hot temperature of streams. However, the hatchery was able to plant 75,000 trout in the county weighing 11,519 pounds, and 24,000 steelhead fingerlings weighing 242 pounds.

Many regular personnel returned to their positions during the year, and man power was increased by four men.

A new aerated fish planting tank truck was obtained. It is now possible to plant 15,000 pounds in one load, compared to 500 pounds before. This will be great advantage in long hauls to such places as Big Bear, Gregory and Hemet lakes.

<u>February 2, 1947 – Los Angeles Times</u>

HUNTING AND FISHING – by Jim March – The steelhead fisherman can put down that bottle of spinner polish and wait for better rain reports, if the record speaks for itself. The recent local rains gave Lompoc only .02 of an inch of rain and Santa Barbara .65 of an inch. This indicates only one thing, and that is more fishermen than fish on Santa Ynez River for the week-end.

…Elsewhere on the fishing front the anglers can look forward to very little excitement. Now that the dies is cast for the coastal trout opener on April 5, it might be well to air some of the difficulties the Fish and Game boys are in for this year. Last season they killed an attempt to have an early opener, but this year the pressure was strong enough to

force the issue. No. 1 problem for the Bureau of Conservation is getting the streams planted prior to the opener.

The hatchery boys have to wait until the danger of spring floods is past as a heavy runoff of water is almost fatal to newly planted fish. Now whether they can get a trout planted under every rock of each coastal stream between the end of spring rains and the April 5 opener is the No. 1 question. At least one thing will be answered for us, and that is whether this is good future plan or not. The only solution is to give it a try.

February 3, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

I SAW…Thirty men fishing at the mouth of the Ventura river, with about fifty persons looking on, but even that didn't scare the fish away.

February 9, 1947 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING AND FISHING – by Jim March – …The steelhead fishing needs only a good rain to put the fishermen on the rampage. Plenty of fish are in the surf at all river entrances, and some good catches are being made in the surf at Ventura and Santa Ynez river tidewaters. If we get a heavy rain, grab your rod and hit the road because we will probably have the hottest steelhead fishing we have seen for many years.

February 16, 1947 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING AND FISHING – by Jim March – Steelhead fishermen have until the end of the month for their sport. Then the season shuts down until May 1 on all southern waters. To clear up the confusing opening dates here in the Southland it might be mentioned that all waters will open to fresh water fishing of all kinds on April 5 except in Lakes Arrowhead, Big Bear, Crystal and Gregory, and in Santa Ynez, Ventura and Santa Clara rivers.

The southern counties affected by the early opener are again San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Imperial (except District 22) and San Diego. The lakes and rivers mentioned above which do not open April 5 will open on the regular date of May 1.

We are fast approaching the end of the season on steelhead and have failed to cash in on a big run of fish. As mentioned last week, there are plenty of fish in evidence at the river entrances, but there hasn't been sufficient rain to give us a large migration of spawners.

February 22, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING RULES GIVEN BY STATE COMMISSION – Sacramento (UP) – That curtailed 15-trout limit is staying in 1947; the state fish and game commission said today.

A uniform May 30 opening date for trout in the 12 Sierra counties of central California was set by the commission. The season ends Oct. 15. The king salmon season will run from May 1 to Oct. 31.

The San Diego county trout season was set for April 5 to Sept. 28.

The commission listed the fresh water fishing season in southern California counties other than San Diego as April 15 to Sept. 28, except portions of the Santa Ynez, Ventura and Santa Clara Rivers, Lake Gregory, Lake Arrowhead, Big Bear Lake and Crystal Lake and those portions of the area in fish and game district 22 back of the Sierras.

It is said salmon and trout could be taken from the mouth of the Mokelumne river to the Lockford bridge from April 1 to Dec. 31 and trout and salmon from the Navarro river from Oct. 1 to Feb. 28. Possession limits of three trout or three salmon or three in the aggregate were set.

March 5, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LACK OF RAINFALL CAUSING CONCERN AMONG RANCHERS – Yesterday's raindrops added up to a total of .04 inches on the rain gauge of Everett Gamage, the Glen City's weather recorder. The moisture boosted the seasons total to 13.69 inches compared to 9.41 last year. A total of .10 inches was registered by the storm, Gamage reported.

The moisture shortage is causing serious concern among dry growers of beans as well as ranchers having pasture land for stock and field crop growers, it was reported this morning by Agricultural Commissioner Chester Barrett. Citrus farmers are irrigating this morning in many parts of the county, and some fruit has suffered already from the small yield of rain this year.

Trout fishermen are also concerned over the low rainfall figures as many streams are already dangerously low, according to County Game Warden Jack White. In some stream beds, the flow is underground for long stretches, White said, and unless stream water sources are replenished trout growth this season is bound to suffer.

The meager drops wrung out of the sky by the current storm don't add up to enough appreciably to relieve the present critical water situation. And the weatherman had no news this morning to offer hope of relief in the near future. Scattered clouds and brisk winds for coastal areas were predicted, but there were no signs yet of more rain.

March 6, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RECORD CROWD TURNS OUT TO WITNESS TRIAL OF ED HENKE – So many fishermen turned up to watch the opening day in the trial of Edgar E. Henke, football and basketball star from Ventura junior college, that the case had to be moved from Ventura

justice court into the superior court room to accommodate the spectators. Henke is being tried on a charge of snagging steelhead trout.

Henke, represented by Walter J. Fourt, asked for a jury trial when he was charged in a complaint signed by Warden Henry Shebley of the State Fish and Game Commission with violation of section 621.5 of the Fish and Game code which deals with snagging trout. Deputy Donald Roff of the district attorney's office is in charge of the prosecution.

Henke is a star athlete at the junior college, last season playing center on the football team and guard on the Pirate basketball squad.

ADVERTISEMENT – Grand Opening of "The Sportsman" Friday, March 7. Everything in Sporting Goods for Hunting—Fishing—Boating—Riding—Vacation—Play. We carry everything you will need for your fishing trip! Rods, reels for casting, deep seas, and fly fishing. Many other hard-to-get items…….

Dear Readers: We are opening a new store; it is not a new type of store but it is a store we feel Santa Paula has needed for some time. It is a sporting goods store named "THE SPORTSMAN," and is located in the new addition of the Rolls Plumbing Building, 120 S. 8th street.

We have a varied stock of things for every man or woman interested in sports activities, who likes to have the best equipment possible to get the fullest enjoyment out of their particular sport. We will have the best in everything we carry, and lines you find incomplete will be completed as soon as that merchandise is obtainable.

In addition to this array of merchandise we are in a position to recondition or rebuild your guns or rewrap your fishing rods. Bring them with you. "Tony" and "Guy" A.J. Prieur and G.H. Rasmussen, Owners.

March 10, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING SEASON FOR CERTAIN LOCALITIES CITED – The 1947 fishing season will begin May 1 in the Santa Paula creek and will last until October 31, it was disclosed today by Henry Shebley, game warden of the state of California.

Other localities in which the season will fall between the above dates include Sisar creek, Ventura river, Matilija creek, San Antonio creek, Coyote creek, upper North Fork and Sespe river and tributaries.

The season will be from April 5 to September 28 in the following localities: Santa Clara river above Bardsdale bridge, Piru creek, Agua Blanca creek, Buck creek, Lockwood creek, Reyes creek, Rincon creek, Lake Sherwood, and the Piru and Saticoy spreading grounds.

"Trout Fishing Regulations for 1947 have been determined by the Commission" says Emil J.N. Oott, Jr., Executive Secretary, "and became effective March 1st." All such orders are filed with the secretary of state and thus have the same effect as though enacted by the legislature, and are in addition to regulatory orders made last year.

…All species of fishes may be taken only by angling from April to September 28 in the fresh waters of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties, except the Santa Ynez River and its tributaries below Gibraltar Dam, the Ventura River and its tributaries, the Santa Clara River and its tributaries below the highway bridge at Fillmore, Lake Gregory, Lake Arrowhead, Big Bear Lake, and Crystal Lake, and except in those portions of the above counties which are in Fish and Game Districts 22.

March 25, 1947 – Report by Fish and Game

On March 25, 1947 an inspection was made of the Ventura River steelhead situation with Messrs. D.A. Clanton and Jack White. Reports had been received that due to light rains in the past two weeks, steelhead had entered the river in numbers.

The river was checked form the mouth to the Foster Park bridge, which seems to be the upper limit of steelhead movement this season, due to low water conditions. An estimated 250-300 adult steelhead were found to be present in scattered pools throughout the 5 mile section between the mouth and Foster Park bridge. The extreme low water conditions (6-7 cfs at mouth) above made it difficult for the adults to enter the river, as well as make their way upstream. In the lower two miles, the river passes over open rocky riffles which at the present time are nearly impassible to upstream movement. Steelhead in these areas are easy prey to poachers and predators, both of which were in evidence. In general the adult steelhead averaged 24-26 inches in length and weighed an estimated 5-6 pounds. Occasionally a larger fish was seen but all were fairly uniform in size. Spawning redds were in evidence at scattered locations throughout the section. In a dry year, such as this, there is an estimated maximum of 2 miles of fairly suitable spawning area below Foster Park bridge. This might support a maximum total of 1000 spawning adult steelhead. Thus, although losses are noticeable due to poaching and general low water, one cannot become unduly alarmed as these fish would probably overcrowd the limited spawning area, if all survived. This is the situation in brief.

In more detail, we examined the river mouth and found a large bar present which makes it difficult for the fish to enter the river except at high tide. Although no adults were seen in the ocean, large numbers were reported to be frequently seen just outside the bar. While standing there examining the river mouth, 3 adult steelhead were seen to enter the river from the ocean. Once over the bar, the steelhead had only a 50 yard section of stream to navigate in order to enter the lagoon. An estimated 6-7 cfs flow was entering the ocean. Several yearling steelhead fingerlings 9-10 inches in length were noted in the lagoon.

One hundred yards above the highway #101 bridge, the river [winds] into the first hole above the lagoon. The average width is 50 feet by 200 feet long, with water 2 feet deep over a sandy-gravel bottom. At this point, 30-40 adult steelhead were seen. Overhanging willows make an ideal location for poaching, which appears to be fairly

common. Four dead steelhead were found in the bushes at the pool. Young steelhead 9-10 inches in length were in evidence in most of the holes examined but in numbers less than or approximately the same as adults.

Proceeding upstream ¼ mile above the #101 bridge, the first critical riffle barrier area was encountered. The slightly increased gradient over a wide rocky rubble bottom caused the water to vary from 1-4 inches in average depth. In the first 300 yards of this section, 19 dead adult steelhead were found. No distinct central channel exists and the steelhead often enter a small pool which is a dead end. Six live adults were found in this section. They had managed to find water deep enough to keep their backs covered but could have easily been scooped out. Sea gulls were present, probably to feast on those that become stranded. This was the principal area of high loss and only 3 or 4 more dead fish were noted in the entire 1½ mile area directly above the #101 bridge.

Approximately 1 ½ miles above the bridge a large pool 40 feet wide, 450 feet long and 4 feet deep was found. This pool contained some 30-35 adults. Above this point, additional shallow riffle areas were found with occasional large pools, nearly all of which contained adults. The stream was followed for a distance of 2½ miles above the sandy mouth to opposite a large black oil tank.

Above this point, the river bottom is open and wide; and many oil wells, sumps, etc. are present. Approximately ½ mile above the Foster Park bridge, the City of Ventura water diversion intake is located. This diversion of perhaps 4-5 cfs is protected by a ½ inch mesh screen. An old intake check dam 5 feet high exists across the river at this point, which is almost a complete barrier to upstream movement during low water conditions. Only one steelhead was found in the pool below the check dam vainly trying to jump this obstacle. Water was flowing about 1-2 inches deep over the rounded concrete face. From the check dam down to the Foster Park bridge, approximately 15 adults were seen. Excellent though limited spawning gravel was noted and redds were being constructed.

The water temperature was 71ºF; air temperature 87ºF; with weather clear at 2 pm. Algal growth is prevalent throughout the section examined. Chubs and sticklebacks were the only other fish species noted. These two are found in abundance.

There has been some discussion among sportsmen and law enforcement agents of desiring a return to the former status of permitting steelhead fishing in the Ventura River only at tidewater. This would eliminate, as they say, the slaughter of steelhead during dry years". They also feel that it would reduce the poaching problem. As previously mentioned, it is believed that the river can only be utilized in dry years by a population of approximately 1000 spawning adults, due to the character of the spawning areas in this lower 5 mile section. Thus, any large number of adults entering the river on a dry year will have little effect for the conservation standpoint on improving or perpetuating the runs.

Channel improvement to reduce hazards of upstream movement was given consideration but was decided not feasible in view of the many scattered areas of shallow riffles. Although it is regrettable that such a fine steelhead may be decimated, due to low water conditions it is not deemed advisable to take any action at this time, such as rescue or channel improvement.

WILLIS A. EVANS

April 1, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens Soon Are You Ready? Add to your thrills by using good tackle and gear. The Tackle Department at Watkins is well stocked with good tackle and camping equipment. Good lines – tapered and level reels. Automatic also Casting type. Nylon leaders, tapered, level – bait hooks. All sizes telescope poles – bass rods – flies. Good Assortment. We issue angling licenses. Watkins Hardware Company.

April 2, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT SEASON TO OPEN APRIL 5 IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATERS – Sacramento (UP) – The fish and game commission today reminded fishermen that trout season will open in southern California waters April 5.

The commission said restocking streams with 119,400 catchable-size fish in areas where the season opens on that date will be completed by opening day.

The bag limit of 15 trout or 10 pounds and one fish adopted last year remains in effect.

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens April 5. The following Ventura County Streams will be open on that date…..

Santa Clara river, and its tributaries, above the Bardsdale bridge; Piru, including Lockwood, Buck creek and Agua Blanca; La Cienega creek below the fish hatchery to the bridge, and Rincon creek, Reyes creek, and Bear Trap.

Rods, reels and Lines – Bait, hooks, flies and spinners leaders and leader material – several types of creels – fishing vests – etc. The Sportsman A.J. Prieur and G.H. Rasmussen.

April 4, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WOMEN PREPARING TO KNIT AS FISHING SEASON OPENS HERE – Local stores were alerted today for a buying wave in knitting needles and accessories as Santa Paula wives and sweethearts prepared to sit out tomorrow's opening of the fishing season.

As the men folk dusted off their gear and cast an approving eye at newly fallen snow on the hills which will swell the streams, County Game Warden Jack E. White injected a sober note into the atmosphere of feverish preparation:

"While the trout season opens in southern California tomorrow, April 5, certain streams in Ventura county do not open until May 1." Following are the exceptions given by White: The Ventura river and its tributaries including Matilija creek and tributaries and

the north fork of Matilija creek and its tributaries, and the Santa Clara river from its mouth to the Bardsdale bridge, and its tributaries, including the Sespe and Santa Paula creek, and their tributaries, will be closed until May 1.

More cheerful reading for fishermen is the news from the fish and game commission that 119,400 catchable-sized fish will have been released in streams by the opening day tomorrow.

The bag limit is 15 trout or 10 pounds and one fish adopted last year remains in effect, White pointed out today.

Following are some of the local streams suggested by White where fishermen can dip a line after April 5 without running afoul the law: Rincon, Reyes, Lockwood, Buck, Agua Blanca, Piru creek above the hatchery, Hopper creek, and the stream below the hatchery.

For fishermen whose wives have issued passes to go farther afield, good early season fishing is predicted by the outing bureau of the Automobile club in Los Angeles county waters as follows: San Gabriel river (east and west forks), San Gabriel dam No. 1, Big Tujunga creek, Little Rock creek, Big Rock creek, Little Rock and San Dimas reservoirs, and San Antonio creek.

Best bets in San Bernardino county are given as Santa Ana river, Bear creek, Holcomb creek, Deep creek, City creek, and Slide lake.

Piru creek is included in the club's list of early season recommendations, as well as Sherwood lake in Ventura county. Yosemite and Sequoia national parks will not open for trout fishing until May 30, the club says, and many northern counties, including Kern, Tulare, Fresno and Madera, have similar starting dates. Lakes and streams in the east slope of the high Sierra mountains begin their season May 1.

Members of the armed forces are also reminded that they must now possess angling licenses to fish for sport in California.

April 5, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PLENTY OF FISH TO BE PLACED IN LOCAL WATER – Fishermen who took limits of trout today as the fishing season opened in southern California have the assurance of D.A. Clanton of the Fillmore hatchery that there will be more where those came from as the season wears on. The hatchery plans to continue stocking streams with catchable sized fish straight through the season, the assistant supervisor of hatcheries said this morning.

The Fillmore hatchery has planted 200,000 fish weighing 36,000 pounds in the southern counties from San Luis Obispo to San Diego since the close of the last season, and every stream capable of supporting catchable sized fish in this area has been stocked with at least one plant, Clanton said.

Santa Paula creek, which does not open until May 1, will be the scene of an experimental project to be conducted by the Fillmore hatchery this year, Clanton announced today. In an effort to prove to skeptical fishermen that a large percentage of the catchable sized fish the hatchery dumps in local streams winds up in the creels of sportsmen, the hatchery plans to mark the entire plant of catchable sized trout it will put into the local stream just before the season opening May 1.

Then a fish and game man will patrol the stream banks following the opening, and by an actual check of the catch of fishermen determine how many of the planted trout are retaken. The planted swimmers will be marked by clipping a fin, the hatchery superintendent said.

Santa Paula had a "Johnny on the spot" this morning when the fishing season opened, only his name is Richard.

Richard "Dick" Winkler, 20, 553 North Mill street, had a limit of fish by 7:30 this morning. His catch, averaging 14-16 inches, was taken at the spreading grounds near Saticoy.

April 8, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

I SAW…Clayton Walker returning from the Saticoy spreading grounds with a 23 inch steelhead caught at 7:45 this morning along with 14 other fish to make a limit from salmon eggs.

I SAW…Erbie Wilson proudly (?) exhibiting his prize catch of the fishing season—one fish, four inches long.

I SAW…Police Chief Sam Primmer coming out of the rear of a hardware store with a long fishing pole in his hand.

April 24, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT FISHING CONTEST TO BE HELD MAY 1-15 – There will be more than the lure of leaping trout to attract Santa Paula flycasters to local streams with the opening of the season on May 1. A new fly rod, an automatic reel, and other tempting sporting wares are being offered by a local hardware store as prizes to local fishermen who catch the biggest trout between May 1 and May 15.

Watkins Hardware store, sponsor of the contest, is to display the prizes in its window as a spur to contestants. Captor of the largest fish (by weight) wins a brand new fly rod. Second prize winner gets a Kalamazoo automatic reel and the third place winner is to be awarded a Nylon fly line. Six consolation prizes are to be given the runners-up in the contest.

Rules of the contest are that only fresh water trout will be counted in the competition, only residents of Santa Paula are eligible to enter, fish will be judged by weight only, and the contest opens on May 1 and closes May 15. Fish will be weighed at a local meat market.

Contest winners will be announced in a *Chronicle* ad May 16.

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Fishermen – Take Notice Contest for Biggest Trout (Caught between May 1st and 15th) Prizes Offered First Prize – Montague Fly Rod Second Prize – Kalamazoo Automatic Reel Third Prize – Ashway Nylon Fly line Consolation prizes for 6 other runners-up. Make it a big catch by making sure that you have what it takes. Come in now to select the equipment you're going to need for the fishin' season. We have the best. Get your gear together and read the rules and have fun! Contest rules: 1-Contest is for fresh water trout only. 2-Participlants must be residents of Santa Paula. 3-Fish will be judged by weight only. 4-Contest opens May 1, closes May 15 at 6:00 p.m. 5-Fish will be taken to Coles Market to be weighed and recorded. See our ad in Chronicle on May 16 for announcement of winners. Buy your fishing gear at Watkins for Good Fishing. Watkins Hardware Company.

<u>April 30, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

EDITORIALS – Goin' Fishin' (A Trout Fisherman's Lament) by Clem Whitaker.

When we wuz kids, I used to like to go fishing—but I've only gone fishing once in the past six years. That's the trouble with growing up—something always interferes with going fishing.

When wuz kids, I worked after school and Saturdays as a printer's devil for the Willits News. Even then, life was becoming serious, because Fred Loring, the editor, always upped my wages from $1.50 a week to $3 at the start of the vacation (and fishing) season, which was Editor Loring's homespun method of combating what we now call absenteeism. As a consequence, all my adolescent years, as I recall, were a constant struggle between whether to go fishing or not to go fishing.

When we wuz kids, the Willits hotel used to cater to vacationists who came to the wilds to eat trout—and the hotel paid us kids 25 cents a dozen, with no questions asked as to whether we used angleworms or grasshoppers to snare the city man's supper. So the Willits News, in fishing season, used to appear regularly with boiler-plate insides—but the city dudes could always get trout at the Willits hotel.

There's no moral to this editorial, except that the fishing season is upon us and life has sure got complicated, because nobody will pay me more today to go fishing than not to go fishing—and I'm a darn good fisherman, too. At least I was, the last time I went fishing.

FISHING SEAONS TO BE OPENED HERE TOMORROW – Santa Paulans who successfully resisted the early trout season opening on April 5 will be hard put to ignore the opening of local streams tomorrow with fish and game men dumping catchable-sized trout into streams almost within splashing distance of their homes.

A terrific strain is being put on local resolutions to keep the domestic and business front fully manned in spite of the seductive rainbow by action of the Fillmore fish hatchery in selecting Santa Paula creek as the site for an experimental test in planting catchable-sized fish.

A final blow to local will power was dealt by a local hardware store when it put on display in its show window on Main street a tempting display of prizes which are being offered to the anglers who bring in the largest rout caught between the opening of Ventura county streams tomorrow and May 15.

The fish planting experiment, explained today by D.A. Clanton, director of the Fillmore hatchery, has called for the planting of 2,000 marked fish in the lower Santa Paula creek and 1,000 in one of its tributaries, Sisar creek. The fish run to an average size of 2 ½ fish to the pound. Marked before releasing in the streams by clipping a fin, the fish will be traced to the creels of opening-day by hatchery men in order to determine what percentage of the catchable-sized fish that are planted by the hatchery are caught by anglers in refutation of claims of some biologists that only 50 per cent of the fish are recovered.

Fishermen will be checked in and out of the Santa Paula creek area at Ferndale bridge by hatchery men. Clanton asked that fishermen cooperate with the hatchery in making the tests as a favorable result in the current test will encourage continued plantings of catchable-sized trout.

Clanton also reported other streams in the county have been stocked. Matilija creek and San Antonio creek were being stocked yesterday, and today hatchery men completed planting Sespe creek. Planting will be continued at intervals throughout the season, Clanton said.

All streams in the county will be open to fishing tomorrow except the mouth of the Ventura river, from the surf to the 101 highway bridge will be closed from May 1 through Oct. 31.

<u>May 1, 1947 –Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

OVER 200 OUT FOR OPENING OF FISHING SEASON – As Red Square in Moscow echoed to the tramp of Russian boots in celebration of May Day, similar echoes were heard ringing dawn this morning in Santa Paula canyon as trout fishermen tramped upstream to stake out their favorite pools.

Between 200 and 225 anglers had been checked in by hatchery employees stationed at Ferndale bridge by 10 a.m. today. Jack Bell, fish hatchery assistant, and W.A. Evans, fisheries biologist, set up a checking station at the bridge this morning to carry out the Fillmore hatchery's test program to determine what percentage of catchable sized fish, planted by the hatchery, are retaken by anglers. In order to make the test, the hatchery clipped the fins of the fish before releasing them in Santa Paula creek. Catches by the early season anglers are being checked by Bell and Evans at the checking station and the marked fish counted. Bell said this morning a rough estimate of data compiled by 10 a.m. shoed that approximately one-fourth of the planted fish had already been taken. The earliest catches, checked in right after daylight, showed a high proportion of planted to native fish. This ratio changed later until by midmorning more native fish were showing up in the catches. The hatchery's men plan to stay on the job through Sunday unless it appears by their records that the stream has been fished out of the planted fish earlier.

Hugh Crockett, 15, of Santa Paula, came out with a jumbo sized trout weighing two pounds, one once at eight o'clock this morning. Hugh immediately had his catch officially weighed in a local meat market and entered in the Watkins Hardware store's contest. In the contest the Santa Paulan who catches the largest (by weight) trout between opening today and May 15 wins a brand new fly rod. Runners-up in the contest will win a fly casting reel and other tempting prizes.

Hugh's fish measured 17 inches in length and the youthful angler used liver for bait. The fish was one of those planted by the hatchery, and Evans held out encouragement to other prospective contestants in the big fish race by saying, "And we put three or four more like that in there."

Average size of fish taken up to 10 a.m. was approximately nine inches, Evans said, adding that the fishermen have been very cooperative in helping them to make the test. Most fishermen were using salmon eggs, although a few flycasters were seen working the stream. With fishing permitted to start one hour before sun-up, fishermen this morning made their first cast at 4:05. The hatchery men started checking anglers into the area at 4 a.m. although a few early birds were on the scene earlier.

<u>May 8, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

NEWS FROM THE RANCHO SESPE – Ross Dobbs took a 27-inch trout out of Sespe River Sunday.

<u>May 9, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

INQUIRING REPORTER – (A sampling of opinion on important topics of the day) With talk on every other street corner swirling around the all-important topic of fishing, the Inquiring Reporter sallied forth today to gather some of the many pearls of wisdom being scattered on the subject with the idea of setting them down on paper for the benefit of beginners.

"What is your favorite fishing ruse?" was the question asked the fishermen. None of them, of course, would come up with his real number 1 stratagem for taking the elusive trout, but most of them were willing to part with their second-best trick, or as with JAY CRUSEY, hardware store manager, to give some general advice.

"Most people I have noticed lately fishing on Santa Paula creek," says Jay, "Stand too close to their fishing water. Another common mistake in bait fishing is to drop the salmon egg right in the middle of the pool, which just scares the fish away, instead of dropping it in gently upstream and letting it drift down on the fish. As for fly fishing, it isn't so important how expert a flycaster is as to know where to drop his fly. My favorite water is in the quiet spot you find just upstream from where the stream falls into a pool. There is generally a fish lying in there, needed upstream. I drop my fly above him and let him come up to meet it as it drifts down on him."

TOM OSBORN, advertising man, said, "I have done all of my fishing in Colorado where I didn't need tricks to catch 'em."

CLAYTON WALKER'S trick was simple: "Solitude," said the local store manager, "except, of course, for fish, is my favorite formula."

FRED UDALL, local realtor, said "I file the barb off my hooks; it's more sporting that way," but the reporter was unable to tell whether or not he was serious.

May 21, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FILLMORE FISH HATCHERY SUPERVISOR TO SPEAK AT LIONS CLUB MEETING – D.A. Clanton, assistant supervisor of fish hatcheries for the California division of fish and game, and also in charge of the Fillmore hatchery, is to be the featured speaker tonight at the weekly Lions club dinner meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Masonic temple, it was announced today by R.S. McKelvey, program chairman.

A heavy turnout of Lion fishermen seeking inside information is expected, as Clanton is the official responsible for the planting of streams throughout southern California with trout.

May 29, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TRAFFIC TOLL EXPECTED TO RISE FRIDAY -- …D.A. Clanton, supervisor of the Fillmore fish hatchery, had good news for local anglers on the eve of the Memorial Day holiday. A truck from the hatchery was to head up Santa Paula canyon this afternoon with more than 400 pounds of trout to be planted in Santa Paula creek. The second planting of the current season, additional plantings will be made, Clanton said, if the temperature of the water and other conditions continue favorable to stocking the local streams. (The body of the article was about safety tips during the holiday weekend.)

June 26, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

3,500 TROUT PUT IN SANTA PAULA CREEK BY HATCHERY – Santa Paula fishermen were in for some good news according to the state fish hatchery at Fillmore. Some 3,500 rainbow trout have been planted in the Santa Paula creek as part of the state's plan to keep streams and lakes well stocked with fish.

C.W. Chansler, foreman at the hatchery, said that the fish averaged seven inches in length and were planted during the early morning hours last Tuesday.

June 28, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

I SAW…That Fred Udall caught a 17-inch trout on an early-morning fishing expedition this week.

June 30, 1947 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TEST IN LOCAL CREEK SHOWS PRESSURE OF ANGLERS IN AREA – A creel census on Santa Paula creek, a tributary of the Santa Clara river, which was conducted during the first two weeks of the trout season reflected the terrific angler pressure to which southern California streams are subjected.

Prior to May 1, 2,000 catchable size trout from the Fillmore hatchery were marked and planted in the stream.

A careful creel check was maintained and on the opening day forty-six per cent of the total plant was taken by anglers. The next fourteen days an additional twenty percent of the marked fish were taken.

Unmarked fish taken during the two weeks period totaled 2,141. These were young steelhead, naturally spawned in the stream.

The bureau of fish conservation planted 2,000 marked fish in Rush creek, below the gorge, and conducted a creel count from May 1 to May 31. Of the 2,000 marked fish, 1,912 were taken.

Unmarked fish taken included 75 rainbow trout, 15 eastern brook, and 159 Loch Leven. A test on this stream will continue throughout the summer.

July 3, 1947 – Santa Paula Review

C.W. Chansler, foreman of the state fish hatchery at Fillmore has announced that 3,500 rainbow trout has been planted in the Santa Paula creek. The fish averages seven inches in length and were placed in the stream Tuesday morning.

1 9 4 8

Rainfall – 8.70 Inches

January 31, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MAY 1 SCHEDULE FOR TROUT SEASON – Los Angeles (UP) – Trout season will open on a statewide basis May 1 and remain open until October 31, the state fish and game commission announced today.

Possible exceptions will be discussed later today when the commission continues its two-day meeting in the state building.

Limits imposed yesterday on warm-water fishermen are five fish or 25 pounds and one fish, stripped bass; 10 fish but not more than 15 pounds, spotted black bass and large or small mouth bass; daily catch and possession of 25 fish of all species of sunfishes, and six fish a day for mullet taken in the Salton Sea.

February 8, 1948 – Los Angeles Times

HUNTING, FISHING GOSSIP – by Jim March -- …We had almost dropped steelhead fishing as a lost sport in Southern California, but then we got our rain and the interest became red-hot overnight. At present it is going to take a lot more rain to open the sandbars at the Ventura and Santa Ynez rivers; however, there are plenty of fish in the surf and they are being taken.

This surf angling for steelhead trout is one of the toughest rackets a fisherman can tackle. First of all the fish are so close to the shore that the use of a boat is out of the question, but on the other hand, they are beyond the average fisherman's casting ability. When heavy surf tackle is employed the heavy sinkers scare the fish. How can you beat this? Well, it's plenty tough but the old-timers use bait casting rods or heavy fly rods and fish the surf at the river mouths on low tide.

Ventura River probably has done the best on this fishing but this can probably be attributed to the fact that it attracts the most fishermen. The tidewaters to the fact that it attracts the open and your guess is probably as good as the next guy's.

At present the waters open to steelhead fishing are the tidewaters of any coastal stream plus the Ventura River to the Foster Park bridge and the Santa Ynez River to the Buellton bridge. Next season the waters will consist of all southern streams from the Mexican border to San Luis Obispo County's northern border. Just where the stopping point on these streams will be hasn't been determined as yet, but we will at least have the area and the rest is up to the weatherman.

February 12, 1948 – Santa Paula Review

FILLMORE FISH HATCHERY PLANTS OVER 54,000 FISH – Nearly 50,000 adult fish were planted during the past year by the Fillmore State Fish Hatchery, according to figures released by D.A. Clanton, chief of the Southern California hatcheries of the Bureau of Fish Conservation. At the same time, 4,620 fingerlings, or young fish, were planted in various streams in Ventura county.

The plantings by streams in this county, he said, included:

Reyes creek, 1,500; Piru creek, 1,250; San Antonio creek 18,700; Sespe river, 9.500; Matilija creek, 2,000 and the north fork of the Matilija, 500—making a total of 46,500 adult fish planted by the local hatchery between March 26 and October 16 of last year.

April 6, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Our "middle" name is Sporting Goods. When you think of sporting goods we want you to think of us! We specialize in all the equipment and supplies that make your sport more fun…and, of course, QUALITY is our watchword!

This week's feature……..Casting Rod. 2-piece tapered steel shaft 5 ½ ft. rod. Springy and tough. Cork handle. $4.65 to $9.50. Level wind casting reel $2.65 to $11.25. Assorted dry flies 20c up. Trout season opens May 1st—Watch for our contest announcement. Watkins Hardware Company.

April 21, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – LOOK! A Fishing Contest. Trout season opens May 1st. Here are the rules of the Watkins Trout Fishing Contest. Contest for fresh water trout only. Contest opens on May 1st…closes May 15, 6:00 p.m. Participants must be residents of Santa Paula. Fish to be weighed in at Cole's Market. Prizes: First Prize—Coleman G.I. Camp Stove, Second Prize—Delta Camping Power Light, Third Prize—Willow Fish Creel. check over your fishing gear and fill in your needs at Watkins Hardware Company.

April 27, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING IN COUNTY TO BE GOOD THIS YEAR, SAYS GAME WARDEN – Come Saturday and the 1948 fishing season opens and County Game Warden Jack White, in a report to the California division of fish and game, says fishing in Ventura county will be "good" this year.

White said Santa Paula and the Sespe rivers will furnish the best trout fishing and there will be good bass fishing in Lake Sherwood. Ocean fishing with bait is expected to about average.

State-wide, rains have generally improved fishing prospects for May 1, starting date of year-round black bass and sunfish angling, and opening of California's six-month summer trout seasons, according to reports of wardens of the division of fish and game.

Opening day predictions ranging from "worst in history" to "excellent" apply to lakes and streams in 44 counties. Wardens reported the earlier drought may have done permanent damage to fish populations and habitats some sections.

Although 21,301,131 trout were planted by the bureau of fish, conservation during the last year, unprecedented numbers of fishermen will tend to reduce individual catches.

The bureau of patrol reminded the state's 800,000 sport fishermen that a 1948 angling license is required for taking all types of fish, mollusks and crustaceans. Resident citizens will pay $3, while the alien license fee is $25.

April 28, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ATTEMPT TO BE MADE TO PLANT FISH IN MATILIJA DAM WATERS – An effort is going to be made to plant fish Matilija dam. County Game Warden Jack White told flood control supervisors yesterday he would contact the Fillmore fish hatchery to see if fish could be introduced into dam waters.

White said California trout could be planted in the dam. But he emphasized that bass or blue gill could not be planted with the trout because they mature faster and would kill the trout.

On a motion of Supervisor Robert Lefever of Somis, the flood control board again asked Surveyor Robert L. Ryan to seek the state's permission to raise the level at Matilija 1050 feet.

At the same time, flood control members heard a report from Charles P Berkey, Thomas L. Bailey, consultants on the dam, and A.W. Simonds, consulting engineer. The report stated grouting and core work had progressed satisfactorily on the dam.

The state had asked for the Simonds report before they would grant permission to raise the water to the new level.

Flood control supervisors emphasized the water level in Matilija during the summer months was very low and the county needs additional water storage.

Simonds reported that grouting in the dam structure was satisfactory but that core drilling should be continued on the dam apron.

ADVERTISEMENT – The Sportsman's Fishing Contest. First Prize a 9-ft. telescope casting rod with reversible handle for the first limit brought to the Sportsman on opening day; Second Prize a 9-ft. telescope casting rod with reversible handle for largest limit

brought to the Sportsman on opening day (measured by weight only); Third Prize A Shakespeare Automatic Reel for the largest trout caught during the season. Rules: All fish must be fresh water trout (not steelhead) and caught in Ventura county by Santa Paula residents only. Bring all catches to The Sportsman. Fish are measured be weight only. The first two prizes are for opening day only. The third prize runs from May 1st to the end of trout season. The Sportsman. 120 South 8th, Santa Paula.

PLENTY FISH HERE FOR LOCAL ANGLING ADDICTS – Local anglers will be provided with plenty of opportunity to show off their prowess Saturday when the fishing season opens. Officials of the fish hatchery at Fillmore disclosed yesterday that 252,000 fish weighing some 43,000 pounds have been dumped into county streams, including the Sespe, Piru and Santa Paula creeks as well as Matilija and Hopper's creek.

A recent ruling by the fish and game commission sanctions year round black bass fishing in all state bass waters, effective May 1. The trout season opens May 1 and remains open until October 31.

April 30, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GOT THAT FISHING ROD READY? SEASON OPENS HERE TOMORROW – Many familiar faces will be absent from Main Street tomorrow morning as Santa Paula businessmen join the rush to the county streams. Fishing season opens tomorrow, and prospects in Ventura county have been listed under "good" by the state division fish and game wardens.

Added zest will be provided by two fish contests being sponsored by Watkins hardware store and the Sportsman shop. The Watkins contest runs from tomorrow until May 15 at 6 p.m. Participants must be residents of Santa Paula. Fish will be weighed at Cole's market. First prize for the biggest fish will be a Coleman GI camp stove. Second prize is a Delta camping power light, and third prize is a Willow fish creel.

The Sportsman shop is offering a nine-foot telescope casting rod with a reversible handle first limit brought to the Sportsman on opening day. Second prize is the same casting rod for the largest limit brought to the Sportsman tomorrow, measured by weight only. Third prize is a Shakespeare automatic reel for the largest trout caught during the season.

The rules for the Sportsman contest are that all fish must be fresh water trout, not steelhead, and caught in Ventura county by Santa Paula residents only. All catches should be taken to the Sportsman.

County Game Warden Jack White says prospects for fishing are "fairly good." Some murkiness was occasioned by the recent rains, he said, which may have scattered the fish. Santa Paula and Sespe creeks, he says, are probably the best places.

The Fillmore fish hatchery has planted 252,000 fish weighing some 42,000 pounds into Sespe, Piru and Santa Paula creeks, as well as Matilija and Hopper's creek.

The trout season runs for six months, to October 31. Tomorrow is also the first day for the new year-round season on black bass, crappie, sunfish and perch.

The state division of fish and game warns that anybody who has reached the age of 1 needs an angling license. The permits cost $3 if you are a Californian and $25 if you are not.

Other counties listed as "good" by the division are Fresno (fair to good), Glenn, Imperial, Los Angeles, Lassen (very good), Mono (southern part), Monterey (coastal) (very good), Nevada (fair to good), Orange, Plumas, San Bernardino, Sonoma, Sutter, Trinity and Yolo Shasta.

May 1, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ABBIATTI TAKES ANGLER HONOR – The early bird catches the fish and "Dutch" Abbiatti was back in Santa Paula with his limit catch at 7:20 this morning to lead the parade of local anglers that started fast on the first day of fishing.

Abbiatti brought his catch to The Sportsman shop this morning to claim the prize of a nine-foot telescope casting rod for the first recorded limit. According to The Sportsman, Abbiatti's catch ranged between eight and eleven inches in length.

Watkins Hardware store reported at 10 o'clock that anglers must be still after the elusive trout as no one had returned to the store to claim the prize for the biggest fish.

Store officials said one man ran in to buy more salmon eggs and then hurried back to his favorite stream for another cast at the trout.

The "biggest fish" contest at the hardware store, however, lasts until May 15 at 6 p.m. and a Watkins spokesman said there was plenty of time to bring in entries to claim the first prize of a Coleman GI camp stove. Watkins also offers a second prize of a Delta camping power light and a third prize of a willow fish creel.

Some anglers have returned to Santa Paula with a few fish and claimed that fishing ranged from "fair" to "perfect."

Rain hampered the fishing efforts in some spots. One angler, who fished at Ferndale, said the water was "muddy" but that several limits were taken out.

Fishing on Sespe and Santa Paula creeks has been marked as "fair" but as yet no anglers had returned to the Glen City to give a first-hand report of the situation.

The Fillmore fish hatchery has planted 252,000 fish weighing 42,000 pounds in the Sespe, Piru and Santa Paula creeks, as well as Matilija and Hopper's creek.

The trout season runs for six months to October 31. Today is also the first day for the new year-round season on black bass, crappie, sunfish and perch.

May 3, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BAKER WINNER IN CONTEST FOR MOST FISH SATURDAY – "Dutch" Abbiatti might have got back "fustest" with his fish limit Saturday, but E.H. Baker snagged the "mostest." Both men won nine-foot telescope casting rods from The Sportsman shop. Abbiatti brought in the first limit catch at 7:20 Saturday morning. Baker weighed in the heaviest catch limit of three pounds four ounces.

Baker, who lives at 138 South Mill Street, Santa Paula, brought in his haul between one and two o'clock Saturday, a Sportsman spokesman said. He caught his prize limit at about the same spot where Abbiatti scored, The Sportsman said. They were fishing back of Ferndale ranch.

Another prize, a Shakespeare automatic reel, is being offered by The Sportsman for the largest fish brought in during the trout season. So far, Abbiatti is high man with a seven-ounce trout.

In the Watkins' hardware contest for the biggest fish caught during the season, E.F. Hackworth is leading with a 6-pound 6-ounce trout. F. A. Atmore, 221 Santa Paula street, has also weighed in his 1-pound, 12-ounce trout. Cole's Meat Market is the official recorder for this contest. Atmore and Hackworth are the only two contestants to date.

Watkins is offering three prizes, a Coleman GI camp stove, a Delta camping power light, and a Willow fish creel for the biggest trout between May 1 and May 15, 6 p.m.

May 5, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Hook, line and sinker. It's Sears for all your fishing needs. Now available in the Big Catalog. Proof that good quality costs less at Sears!

May 11, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Fishermen Attention. Our fishing contest is in full swing until May 15th. Only two fish have been weighed in! First Prize—GI Camp Stove, Second Prize—Powerlite Lantern, Third Prize—Willow Creel. Bring in your catch to Cole's Market. Watkins Hardware Co.

June 11, 1948 – Los Angeles Times

DROUTH PERILS FISH HATCHERY AT FILLMORE – Fillmore, June 10. Unless additional water available soon, the State fish hatchery here will be closed, possibly as early as August.

According to D.A. Clanton assistant hatchery supervisor for the State Department of Natural Resources, the Santa Clara River flow is lower than at any time since the hatchery was opened in 1942. There are now three wells producing water at the hatchery, but their combined flow is not enough to keep the 21 pools of planted trout in operation.

One chain of 10 pools already has been closed, Clanton said, and a second chain of 11 pools was being closed today. A single chain of 10 pools is to remain in operation and hatchery workmen are cleaning out the other portions of La Cienega Creek as well as a neighboring ranch reservoir to provide clean water for the 400,000 trout at the hatchery.

If the water supply continues to dwindle, Clanton said, it will be necessary to plant as many of the hatchery's fish as possible in Ventura County streams. However, because only a few of these streams have sufficient water to support additional planting, the bulk of the small fish will be transferred to the lake behind Matilija Dam when the hatchery closes.

Usually by this time of year, the hatchery has planted 400,000 fish in Southern California streams, Clanton said, but because of the water situation fewer than 50% of that number have been planted thus far.

July 15, 1948 – Santa Paula Review

NEW WELL IN FILLMORE FOR FISH HATCHERY – Drilling on a new well for the State fish hatchery in Fillmore commenced Monday.

Due to lack of water, officials feared that it might be necessary to close the fish-growing ponds in August. As it is, only 10 of 32 ponds are being used to accommodate the small trout being grown for Southland streams.

C.W. Chansler, foreman of the hatchery, pointed out that the ponds are dependent on the flow of the Santa Clara River for most of their water. At present, the river has dwindled to a trickle. Thus the only water available is from two shallow wells.

The State Fish and Game Commission now has authorized drilling of another well, this one to be from 250 to 400 feet deep. If it proves successful, the hatchery will be able to continue its operation but if more water is not available by Aug. 1 fish will be transferred to Kernville hatchery near Bakersfield, planted in Southland streams or planted in the growing lake behind Matilija Dam.

September 2, 1948 – Santa Paula Review

SIMI VALLEY SEEKS RELIEF IN WATER SHORTAGE – Plans that Simi Valley residents have for obtaining relief from the critical water shortage from the watershed of the Santa Clara River near here will have to wait until the latter part of this year, according to C.C. Teague, president of the Santa Clara Water Conservation District.

At that time, it was learned, the outcome of a survey of local water resources will be completed for the district by Harola Conkling, water engineer.

FILLMORE FISH HATCHERY HAS NEW WELL – The State fish hatchery in Fillmore has a newly completed water well giving 2,000 gallons per minute.

D.A. Clanton, hatchery supervisor, announced that thousands of small trout are safe from a threatened water shortage that has nearly dried up the Santa Clara River, the hatchery's mail source of supply.

Clanton also said that a $54,000 project of employees' quarters will start soon, funds having been approved by the State Department of Public Works.

September 14, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FILLMORE FISH HATCHERY HAS NEW WATER WELL – Production of 2,000 gallons of new water per minute is foreseen through use of the Fillmore state fish hatchery's third water well, just put into operation. Foreman C.W. Chansler disclosed today that by means of a borrowed pump, enough water is being brought in to keep the hatchery supplied.

A new electric pump has been ordered, but not until the new pump and a "stand-by" gasoline pump can be installed will production of the 2,000 gallons every 60 seconds be realized.

The hatchery was faced with a complete shutdown the first part of August, and in desperation a third water well was sunk in the old channel of the Santa Clara river. The well is expected to produce enough to allow the hatchery not only to remain open, but to restore service in two tiers of pools which have been abandoned due to the shortage.

Only 10 pools are in operation now, he stated, and all are stocked with small fish. No fish are being transplanted at this time, he said.

September 29, 1948 – Los Angeles Times

THE PRICE WE'EVE PAID FOR A GREAT CENTURY – by Tom Cameron. When Herbert Hoover complained mildly, awhile back, that "time between bites becomes longer and longer, and the fish wiser and wiser," he indicated something of what has happened to California's natural resources in the century since she became a state.

One hundred years ago, when Los Angeles boasted less than 1600 population and there were only 3500 residents in the whole county, antelopes were so numerous on the plains and deserts that their meat sold here in San Francisco for less than the (then) price of beef. Bears, too, were to be encountered everywhere in this region, and often an ursine sirloin steak was discussed over pioneer campfires. Many settlers were mauled or killed

by bears in the Southland foothills. Peter Lebec(k), founder of the Tehachapi community bearing his name, was killed by a bear near Ft. Tejon.

California condors, which share with their Andean cousins the distinction of being the largest flying land birds in the world, with spreads of more than nine feet, wheeled overhead, so numerous they provoked little comment. Now, there are few than 100 of these majestic birds, mostly in the Ventura County mountains—if they escaped the recent Ojai forest fire.

Beavers were numerous in the marshes, otters carpeted the shores of the Channel Islands, mountain sheep patrolled the snowy flanks of the Sierra, deer were everywhere in the Sierra Madres, the San Bernardinos and the Malibu. Now, the hunters far outnumber the deer.

Fish were so numerous when the gringos came that active boys could pitchfork a barrelful of steelhead trout out of the Santa Ines, or as it is known today, Santa Ynez. In the Owens Valley and along the precipitous east wall of the Sierra Nevada, native rainbow, golden and other fighting trout chased through the cold, aerated, tumbling brooks in unbelievable numbers. Quail and duck hunters bagged so many birds so easily there was no point at that time in lying about one's prowess with the fowling piece.

The advent of civilization on the heels of adventurous pioneers accustomed to living off the country until they could establish their herds and field crops need not have spelled the extinction of many species of California's abundant fauna. Yet in only four human generations that is what has occurred. A Peter Lebec(k) could roam the hills today, safe from attack by bears. He would be fortunate to glimpse a deer, quail or rabbit. He would look in vain for antelopes or mountain sheep, beavers, or otters. An the sight of a condor, identified by its characteristic band of white beneath the immense black wing, would well be worth reporting to the Audubon Society.

But it is in fishing that present-day Californians are at the greatest disadvantage as contrasted with the heavenly status of our predecessors. This was impressed upon me forcibly during a recent sojourn in the high Sierra with two teen-aged sons.

Our expedition, so far as fish in the creel was concerned, was hardly worthwhile. There are so many people, so many of whom hanker for a visit to the high country, that there aren't fish enough to go around—not by a long way—even with the State's fish hatcheries operating at peak production throughout their season, and the special trucks making frequent planting trips to the mount streams and lakes.

Some anglers pocket their pride and may be seen driving self-consciously (most of them) along in a purposeful motorcade behind fish trucks, ready to whip the water the minute the fish are released. We three fishermen decided not to join the somehow shameful and shame-faced procession.

However, the depletion of fish and game does not mean that all is lost to present-day lovers of the wild. The mountains still rear their snow peaks, with alpine meadows forming flowery lawns in the sky, thunderstorms furnishing a cannonade to remind man of his relative insignificance, and (on the western slope of the Sierra) the majestic sequoias, which were already thrusting their green spires heavenward when Cheops was building his pyramid, and had attained robust growth when Christ trod the trails of Palestine.

These remaining resources are precious to us for a number of cultural, esthetic and moral reasons. Our only living ex-President, a lifelong lover of the outdoors, well expressed what they can mean to us when he said:

"The moral and spiritual forces of our country do not lose ground in the hours we are on the job. Their battle time is the time of leisure…The joyous onrush of the brook, the stretch of forest and mountain all reduce our egotism, soothe our troubles and shame our wickedness."

We have lost much, but we still possess much in the way of natural resources. And if we discourage the tin-can tourist and educate the careless smoker in the mountains we should make a better record in the second century of Statehood.

<u>October 25, 1948 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

STATE PLANNING EXPANSION OF FISH PROGRAM – San Francisco – An important phase of the postwar plans of the California division of fish and game, conceived in 1937 and approved by the fish and game commission before the war, has been put into effect with the development of a long term expansion program for the bureau of fish conservation.

Bureau Chief Alan C. Taft believes the coordinated program, with well-defined objectives, will better protect and conserve fish life in inland waters, offsetting ever-increasing angling pressure.

The bureau's intensified efforts will lead to three general objectives:

1. Protection and improvement of fish environment and habitat.
2. Study and research in relation to fish.
3. Fish planting.

Problems for consideration under the first objective include studies to determine effects on fish life caused by California's more than 600 dams; protection of existing fishing waters from adverse effects of waters appropriated for other purposes; construction of fish ladders and screens; stream flow maintenance; rough fish control; pollution control, and kindred items.

Fact finding under objective number two will include a physical inventory to determine size, type, location and general suitability for fish life of the thousands of rivers, creeks, ditches, lakes, reservoirs and ponds. Studies of trout, salmon, striped bass, and spiny-rayed fishes, management practices, and hatchery problems will be reviewed thoroughly investigated and reviewed.

Fish planting, the third objective, will include a study of existing facilities and techniques.

In order to facilitate the new program on the local level, the state has been divided into eight districts, Taft said.

1 9 4 9

Rainfall – 9.79 Inches

January 19, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

OXNARD MAYOR NOMINATED FOR GAME BOARD – Sacramento (Special) – Edwin L. Carty, mayor of Oxnard, was nominated for a new six-year term on the state fish and game commission by Governor Earl Warren Monday. His name will be submitted to the state senate and he is expected to receive confirmation.

Carty, a Democrat, was on the commission from 1938 to 1943, under Governor Culbert Olson. In the spring of 1949 he was appointed to the board again by Governor Warren, Republican, to fill the unexpired term of General Hap Arnold, who retired due to ill health. Carty served out that term, ending last Saturday, and now has received a new, six-year appointment.

The Ventura county commissioner has preached a program of the state planting "catchable" fish, those seven and eight inches long, ever since he first went on the board in 1939. He said today he feels his campaign has brought results and that many more catchable fish are planted now than ever before.

Carty cited three state rearing ponds as outstanding in this respect: Fillmore in Ventura county, Hot Creek in Mono county, and Black Creek in Inyo county. He said experts have proved that there is an 87 per cent survival of these fish, and that the fear of disease hitting them has been disproved.

He told the *Santa Paula Chronicle*:

"I intend to continue my program for an expansion of rearing ponds in this state to try to bring out trout supply up to the level of any in the nation.

I think the state fish and game commission, and the division staff and legislators interested in the subject should work with the Central Valley Project to establish rearing ponds below the many dams of that project.

"The permanent clear water afforded by such below-dam ponds will shorten the hatching period and speed up the growth of young fish."

Carty said it looks as though the fish and game commission will recommend a uniform trout opening for the state of either April 30 or May 7 when it meets in San Francisco January 29 to set the 1949 fishing season.

The commission met with the Associated Sportsmen of California in Sacramento Sunday and with the chiefs of fish and game division patrol here Tuesday.

March 18, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SERIOUS WATER SHORTAGE EXISTS AT FISH HATCHERY – There is no indication of stream flow as yet at the Fillmore fish hatchery, according to Foreman C.W. Chansler, who pointed out that this is the first time in many years the natural flow of water into the hatchery ponds has been dry this time of year. Water coming in from the new well at the rate of 2,400 gallons per minute is keeping only one tier of ponds in constant use, he said.

About 50,000 fingerlings were set out in the second chain of ponds yesterday, Chansler disclosed, opening the second tier for the first time since last fall. At that time two tiers were shut down because of the drastic shortage of water, which nearly forced closing the hatchery altogether in August. Only the striking of water in the well suck at that time forestalled the closing.

Four thousand small fry, six to a pound, were planted yesterday in Santa Barbara county by the local hatchery. These were considerably smaller than 3,000 six- to 10-inch trout planted at Matilija dam at March 10, and 2,000 of the same size planted Tuesday along the upper Sespe, averaging 4.5 fish to the pound.

Plantings are contemplated sometime next week, Chansler revealed, with Santa Paula creek named as a likely spot, but nothing is definite so far. The hatchery is crowded, and plantings are taking place as rapidly as possible.

Five large or six smaller ponds are being constructed near the well site, Chansler said, to hold bass, catfish, bluegills and other varieties of fish in case of emergency.

Regarding the source of water being pumped up through the new well, Chansler has no definite ideas. He disclosed, however, that the water brought up is much softer than that in the upper strata or in the streambed during the usual spring flow, and may come from some distance away.

“It’s not a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul,” he admitted. “I think the water is coming from an altogether new source, and not just out of one reservoir into another.”

The meat house and feed room at the west end of the hatchery grounds are being enlarged at the present time, Chansler added. This is the first new construction undertaken since the $40,000 housing project several months ago, adding four new homes for hatchery employees on the south bank of the intake.

March 24, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FILLMORE HATCHERY TO BE FEATURED IN TELEVISION – Casting a real expert was demonstrated yesterday morning at Fillmore as radio station KFI prepared for a forthcoming television broadcast. The shots, taken at the Fillmore fish hatchery, may be used this Saturday afternoon over a sports broadcast at 4:45.

Demonstrating his technique by hooking a 16-inch rainbow trout was Ivan Arnold, noted fly fishing expert. Taking the films was Ted Myers, news editor for KFI and director of its television shows. After taking films of the entire hatchery and the demonstration, the pair went up Sespe creek for additional shots.

Last year Arnold visited Fillmore and Sespe to get shots for his film "Fly Tying," which subsequently was shown to service clubs.

March 26, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

THREE THOUSAND RAINBOW TROUT POURED INTO SANTA PAULA CREEK NEAR FERNDALE RANCH – by Wally Smith – Several hundred dollars and eight months' work were poured into Santa Paula creek a few days ago, looking for all the world life five- to 10-inch rainbow trout. Three thousand of the little fellows made the trip from the Fillmore hatchery to a spot about three miles above Ferndale ranch in Santa Paula canyon, where they were introduced without fanfare to their new home.

Chances are 10 to 1 that very few of them will live to see the second week in May roll around. For just a few years ago it was discovered, by checking catches at the Ferndale gate as anglers left the creek, that more than 65 per cent of the rainbow trout planted just eight days before had been caught!

A good many of them, planted several miles upstream from the former Doheny showplace, showed up in short order at Steckel park, where they were promptly hooked by those too lazy to tackle the creek farther up.

Netting and weighing in the trout at the hatchery Tuesday morning were Bob Hale, Dayton Hoffelmeier, Bud Holsapple and Les Edgerton. The fish scaled at six to the pound. In buckets they were transferred quickly to one of the hatchery's wooden planting tanks atop a truck, where they darted frantically about for a little more than two hours in reaching their new home.

The water in the planting trucks is kept at a constant temperature by adding several hundred pounds of ice, depending upon the water temperature at the receiving end of the load. In this case, the 60-degree hatchery water had to be cooled down to 52 degrees, the mean temperature of Santa Paula creek.

Picking up several more crewmen at the Glen City fire station, the truck reached Ferndale ranch about 9:30. Now in the party were state wardens Carlos Getman and John Spicer of Ojai, county warden Jack White, Sgt. Fred Evans and two of his patrolmen, Lyman Wright and Frank McConnell of Ventura, Pat Carsner and Floyd Dowell, Jr.

The first planting was accomplished not far above Ferndale's breeding corrals, where registered Angus bulls and newborn colts caught our attention.

Three hundred fish were planted in buckets about one and one-half mile upstream, while two deer scrambled up the hillside about 200 feet away. A second plant was made of 500 fish about seven-tenths of a mile farther on, after the planting truck had slopped a good deal of its water over the disagreeable road.

A third planting was made via bucket brigade less than a mile from the 35-foot falls which few fishermen ever reach in their haste to bait their hooks. Pools 30 and 40 feet long and sometimes 30 feet deep sport remnants of trout plantings made years ago, defying all but the most expert fishermen. In all but these more inaccessible places, however, Santa Paula creek is like most southern California creeks. Within a week or 10 days after "fish day," it's nearly fished out.

A few hundred feet farther on where the road fords the creek, the truck was backed up to the water's edge and the sluice gate opened on the planting tube. More than 1,000 rainbows glittered as they cascaded into the stream and shot madly in all directions at the feel of the fresh creek water.

Before the war, it was estimated that between 80 and 90 percent of all California fish caught were native to their streams. In southern California today, almost 100 percent of those caught are transplanted from hatcheries at Fillmore and Whittier. In this area, only in the middle Sespe are fish thought to propagate themselves, because all other fishing spots are so accessible that planted trout seldom outlast the season. Wardens estimate that from three and one-half to five pounds of horse meat, liver, anchovies and abalone trimmings go into every pound of trout caught in southern California. And this in addition to the tremendous cost involved in operating the state's hatcheries.

Got your license for this year? At present costs, chances are the hard-earned cash you plunked down for that license will pay for only one limit of trout. Every fish you catch above that figure will be, so to speak, "on the house"—with the state paying the bills.

That's why the hatchery planting programs, now under way, are so important to addicts of the Sespe, Santa Paula creek and every other southern California stream. Wardens, who sometime "back pack" their fingerling trout for miles into the more inaccessible pools, often wonder just how much their efforts are appreciated by the fisherman who may not have caught his daily limit.

<u>March 28, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

'ROUND ABOUT FILLMORE – by Wally Smith -- …Things we didn't know before about the Fillmore fish hatchery include the role those hundreds of willow trees play in keeping the hatchery so short of water.

Seems each tree guzzles more than 200 gallons of the precious liquid each and every day! It's no wonder the poor *ittie fitties* are so desperate for a place to wag their tails.

March 31, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GRAND JURY CITES SCHOOL LIGHTING AND WATER IN FILLMORE-PIRU AREA – Major improvements in school lighting and water conservation measures are among the county grand jury recommendations for Fillmore and Piru made public this morning.

…Water now used by the Fillmore state fish hatchery, the report states "is not essential." The natural resources committee, headed by Ed Perkins of Fillmore, surveyed the pumped water now run through the hatchery and reported the water is being pumped out of a natural Piru basin on the one hand and over a barrier into settling sands to the west, most of it being lost to agriculture.

Among its recommendations in this area, the grand jury reported a belief in the principle of storing up water in wet years for use in dry seasons, by means of dams located in the Piru and Sespe watersheds.

The jury report indicated that in case of an extended shortage of water in the future, it would favor giving priority to citrus lands rather than to the hatchery, which would then have to transplant its fish elsewhere. At the present time it is running at only one-third capacity, using exclusively pumped water.

March 31, 1949 – Santa Paula Review

PERSONAL MENTION – The Fillmore State Fish Hatchery last week planted upwards of 3,000 fish up Santa Paula Creek.

April 19, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Season Opens Soon! Better check over your gear and fill in the items you're short. Our tackle department is well-stocked with all things dear to a fisherman's hear! Here are some things you'll want: Black Nylon Leader Material, Gold, Eagle-Claw, Salmon Egg Hooks, Loose Stock or Snelled, Reels – Fly or Casting 50c to $10.00. Good selection of fly rods – bait – casting – salt water rods. Wide choice bass lures and baits. Season opens here May 1st. In the northern and Sierra counties – May 31st. Get your license here. Watkins Hardware.

April 26, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

WHAT'S THIS? NO WATER IN CREEK SUNDAY – Those 1,000 fishermen who in years gone by have invaded the Santa Clara riverbed near the Fillmore hatchery on Fish Day are in for a rather rude awakening on Sunday next.

In blunt language, there ain't no creek!

Due to the expansion of the hatchery some 50 yards farther up the creekbed, there will be absolutely no water available for the lowly fisherman come Sunday. As soon as the water leaves the hatchery ponds, it is snapped up for irrigation of the McNab ranch.

State wardens today warned fishermen to seek a likely spot elsewhere for their yearly worm-dangling, to avoid disappointment.

April 27, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT PLANTED IN UPPER SESPE, MATILIJA AREAS – Four thousand trout were planted yesterday by the Fillmore fish hatchery, all of them along the Upper Sespe and behind Matilija dam, it was disclosed by D.A. Clanton of the hatchery.

Sometime today or tomorrow, the hatchery expects to plant 1,000 additional trout in the Santa Clara river above the intake, and 500 in Lost creek. While the planting figures have not yet been broken down for the local hatchery, it was revealed that total plantings this spring from the three southern California hatcheries have reached 130,000 fish.

The water situation at the Fillmore hatchery is still about the same, Clanton said, with the new well producing steadily since last September. He would not forecast the situation during the summer months, however, when there will be a tremendous demand on all water supplies in the valley.

April 30, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FILLMORE ALL SET FOR INVASION OF TROUT FISHERMEN – With Fish Day due to strike bright and early tomorrow, Fillmore is preparing to welcome between 1,000 and 2,000 out-of-town fishermen into the area as has been the custom in past years—despite warnings, published in all newspapers, including those in Los Angeles, that the water level is at a new low. Fillmore high school will be closed Monday for its annual Fish Day holiday.

Water below the Fillmore hatchery will be closed to fishermen by state wardens, who explained several days ago that it all will be used to irrigate the McNab ranch holdings adjoining the hatchery. Fishing will be permitted, however, between the hatchery and the eastern county line, where fish were planted this week. Fishermen also are expected to storm the heights of the Big and Little Sespe creeks north of the city. Water here is at a high level for this time of year, with much speculation about its source.

Horsemen and hikers who have attempted to trace this source have failed to discover whether the creek is flowing from a newly opened spring or whether a large body of water higher up in the range is seeping underground and thence into the creekbed. A huge landslide had blocked off the trail several miles up the Big Sespe, but experienced climbers and fishermen will have a little trouble reaching a good spot.

According to state wardens, the middle Sespe is the only Ventura county watershed now reproducing its fish population, mainly because of its comparative inaccessibility to anglers.

Last year between 750 and 1,000 cars were parked in the immediate vicinity of the hatchery on Fish Day, wardens estimated.

May 3, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CAPACITY CROWDS GREET TROUT SEASON OPENING – County streams were whipped to a lather Sunday by hordes of rabid anglers who rose early or hiked in the days in advance to pay tribute to the wily trout.

Standing room only was reported on most of the creeks, particularly over the holes where freshly planted fish were rumored to be dwelling.

Real and artificial flies buzzed overhead along with bits of horse meat and other trout fare during the morning and afternoon but the end result of all the activity was from mediocre to poor for the great majority of those present.

A few limits were reported Monday but for the most part everything from the weather to the crowds was blamed for the lack of success. An estimated two to three thousand people jammed the Sespe-Matilija sector alone.

May 5, 1949 – Santa Paula Review

OJAI JUDGE FINES FISHERMAN ON FRIDAY – Trout season opened three days too soon for W. L Essex, 23, who was fined $100 by Judge Boyd Balbert of Ojai last Friday. Essex was arrested by game wardens for fishing in Sespe Creek before the opening of the fishing season.

His fishing pole was confiscated. “Fishing was good,” he said.

May 12, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

THREE FINED FOR TROUT VIOLATIONS – Three fines have been meted out this week by Fillmore and Piru judges on violation of the fish and game code, it was disclosed today by state wardens. At the same time it was learned that of approximately 900 licenses checked opening day in the Fillmore area, only two fishermen were picked up for failure to display a license.

June 13, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

THE VANTAGE POINT – by Neal Van Sooy – This is the fourth and final installment of the booklet, “Santa Paula the Glen City of Southern California,” published in 1907 by the Board of Trade and written by J.D. Culbertson, its secretary.

…"Ask the angler who has cast his fly upon the waters of the Sisar (See-Saw), or hooked his trout in the ripples of Santa Paula creek, or who has scrambled over the rugged boulders of the Sespe to throw out his line—ask him for his story. The businessman of Santa Paula, if the longing comes, may take his fishing tackle, start off on foot and within an hour be lost in the pleasures of trout fishing. Every year the streams are well stocked with young fish by the citizens of the town, and because of their convenient location they furnish Santa Paula with facilities for the sportsman with his rod and reel such as not other city of Southern California can board.

"These several streams have their sources far back in the hills and emerge from their canyons and shaded gorges but three miles away. At a distance of only six miles from their homes many Santa Paula families take the regular summer outings, pitching their tents in the fastness of the mountains and along streams as refreshing and secluded as those in the foothills of the Sierras themselves.

"Sulphur Mountain Springs, a family summer resort that is rapidly growing in popularity as one of Santa Paula's special attractions, lies six miles to the northwest at the juncture of Santa Paula and Sisar creeks. Hidden in a grove of great live oaks and sycamores, and girt round with mountains and canyon walls, it certainly offers every advantage of fresh mountain air, mineral baths hot and cold, trout fishing, riding and driving, and mountain climbing. It is both—or either—a place for rest and a place for sport."

July 21, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TWO NEW WATER WELLS ADDED IN FILLMORE AREA – Two new water wells have been added to those in the Fillmore area, with one of them just going into production at the state fish hatchery. Both wells were forced to draw water from the 500-foot level.

The new hatchery well, which brings water production at the state site to a new high since the drastic shortage developed a year or so ago, is the fourth drilled on the hatchery property. One is a shallow well, but three are good producers from the 400 to 500-foot level where most of the Fillmore area water seems to lie. Fillmore's new city well, sunk last year, went down to 490 feet.

Two tiers of hatching ponds are all that are in use at the hatchery at this time, according to C.W. Chansler. After installation of a pump at the new well, it may be possible to reopen another tier of ponds.

Fish planting during the past few weeks has been limited to a few thousand, mostly at Matilija and Lost creek, he said. No plantings are planned for Ventura county streams in the near future.

The second well, now being drilled by Leonard A. Anderson, is located directly across the Santa Clara riverbed from the hatchery intake. It will provide additional water for ranching purposes through a privately owned and operated water company.

October 23, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH TO BE HATCHED IN NEW BUILDING AT FILLMORE SOON – by Wally Smith – Three hundred and fifty-thousand eggs are expected in Fillmore within the next few days, but not one of them will grace a breakfast table.

For the eggs will hatch into fish, and a good many of them will be used to stock Ventura county rivers and streams for next season's fishing. The eggs, 100,000 of which are expected at the Fillmore state fish hatchery tomorrow, are coming from the Hot Creek hatchery. And they will be the first fish hatched in the new 2,880-square-foot aluminum building nearing completion under the watchful eye of Foreman C.W. Chansler.

Using the $20,000 granted the Fillmore hatchery from the state funds last year, the hatchery crew has been busily engaged for some time in raising the new building. Twenty-four 16-foot troughs and eight 14-foot circular tanks will be housed in the new structure, and the first eggs will be started on their life cycle within a week.

The new building culminates a program which has seen four aluminum garages, an aluminum truck garage and two pump houses take shape at the hatchery. The structure is half completed, but part of it will be occupied by next week, Chansler disclosed.

Otherwise, he said, it will be necessary to rig up a temporary hookup to the old hatching structure nearby in order to save the eggs which are coming in tomorrow.

No wood is to be used in the new building. The floor is solid concrete, and all plumbing is above floor level so that replacement will be accomplished with a minimum of expense. Labor is being furnished solely by the hatchery crew, with the exception of Currier Brothers, a Fillmore hauling and construction crew, whose equipment has been used to lift and move the huge steel girders.

Air, need to keep the fish alive, will be pumped into 5,000 gallons of incoming water per minute at the main pump, while smaller equipment for the purpose is to be installed at each of the new building's tank's. When the river is full—which the crew hopes will be soon—gravity will provide all the water the structure needs, and it will flow out into the three chains of ponds where the fish mature to planting size.

No ponds are in operation this week, as the last of the fish were planted last Monday. The fish hatched from the 350,000 new eggs will be raised in three hatcheries to provide fish for planting next winter—at Victorville, Whittier and Fillmore.

The new building doubles the capacity of the Fillmore hatchery, Chansler revealed, and will also double the output at the other two hatcheries because of increased shipments to

them. The old wooden structure formerly used to hatch the local fish may be torn down, or it may be turned into a storehouse, Chansler said.

To the sportsman, the rapidly-rising aluminum walls are a promise that next season's streams will be plentifully stocked—providing, of course, there is any water in which to fish. Chansler disclosed he is betting on the word of old-timers in the area that the Santa Clara valley is due to enter an 11-year "wet cycle" this winter.

All fishermen who don't hope he's right will please form a line in the nearest telephone booth.

November 8, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MORE THAN 350,000 EGGS IN FILLMORE FISH HATCHERY – More than 350,000 fish eggs are well on their way to becoming Ventura and Los Angeles county trout at the Fillmore hatchery, it was learned today from Foreman C.W. Chansler. The eggs arrived as anticipated on October 26 and November 2, but found the new hatching ponds still awaiting completion of a building.

A temporary hookup was effected to the old hatching tanks, Chansler said, and the eggs will be transferred into the new building in about two or three weeks. Sections of roof are being installed at this time, he disclosed, and the tanks will follow in short order.

A large number of the 350,000 eggs will go as fingerlings to the Whittier hatchery, Chansler revealed, and the rest will be raised and planted by the Fillmore crew. The all-metal, 24 by 120-foot structure when completed will house 24 rectangular tanks and eight circular tanks, expected to double the hatchery's capacity.

December 7, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH HATCHERIES BUSY – While most California anglers rested in the midst of their winter hibernation, crews in 27 state fish hatcheries began their careful watch over the recurring fish egg cycle which results in more trout for the creel. Most fish planting activities were completed in October, reports the division of fish and game, to be succeeded by egg taking operations.

WATER THREATENS WILDLIFE – Water—and the lack of it—presents serious problems to California fish-life and fish and game commissioners as well. The conservation body spent most of its December meeting time looking into fish losses in the Klamath and San Joaquin rivers.

December 9, 1949 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TEAGUE NAMES 30-MAN COMMITTEE TO STUDY FORMATION OF DISTRICT – C.C. Teague, president of the Santa Clara Water Conservation District named three

Santa Paulans on a committee which will meet to discuss the formation of a new county water district proposed by the SCWCD.

…Robert Le Fever, member of the county board of supervisors, raised the questions as to the feasibility of building a dam on the Piru creek, taking the whole county into the new water district and building a reservoir, which would catch enough water in the wet years to tide the county through the dry ones.

In answer to Le Fever's first question, the directors pointed out that the water crop on the Piru creek is about half of the available water on the Sespe and that Piru creek water from the fish hatchery to the natural mouth of the creek goes into natural ground storage. All the water the dam would stop would be that water that did not sink into the ground before it got to the fish hatchery, according to the board. Le Fever was particularly interested in the Piru site which he felt could provide an additional 7,000 acre feet of water with less cost than enlarging one of the proposed dams on the Sespe…

1 9 5 0

Rainfall – 13.57 Inches

January 11, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DREDGING OF RIVERBED AT FILLMORE IS APPROVED – Approval of a contemplated dredging of the Santa Clara riverbed at Fillmore and Bardsdale by the county flood control district was voted last night by the Fillmore city council. The district had requested authorization to proceed with the work, which will entail dredging of portions of city property.

The dredging will continue the widening of the channel begun last year above the state fish hatchery for a distance of about two miles. Flood waters will be permitted easier access to the ocean and the danger of citrus and structural damage by flood waters will be lessened.

City Manager Clarence Arrasmith disclosed that Fillmore will receive about $30,000 in state funds for the improvement and extension of the city's water system, with the city putting up a matching sum. The action was taken by the state department of health, which removed a former requirement that the funds must be used for sewage disposal. A deep well pump and booster pump at the Central avenue water plant will be included in the improvement, Arrasmith stated.

…Resolutions of intention to vacate portions of "C" street and Ventura street were adopted, to provide clear access to the sewage disposal plant site at the riverbed.

January 19, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

STATE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES TENTATIVE GAME REGULATIONS FOR 1950 SEASON – San Francisco (UP) – Tentative regulations for the 1950 hunting and fishing season in California were announced yesterday by the state fish and game commission.

The commission will hold a final meeting in the state office building January 27 at which interested groups will have an opportunity to protest the before the new regulations become final.

The fish and game commission said the major changes from the 1949 regulations were:

1. Angling – A double trout season opening, starting May 30 in 10 central Sierra counties, and on the Saturday nearest May 1 in the rest of the state, including Tahoe, Boca and Donner lakes. (The rest of the article dealt with hunting laws.)

April 25, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Streigle of Westwood paused in Piru long enough to say that "the prospects for trout fishing look pretty good this year." They are faithful anglers in this territory.

April 26, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

COUNTY STREAMS STOCKED FOR FISHING SEASON – Lots of water is in the offing when the annual "fish day" draws thousands of anglers along the Santa Clara river and its tributaries Saturday—and the water is well stocked with 13,000 trout.

Standing room only will be the word as fishermen and would-be fishermen keep one eye on their watches and one on an inviting patch of water awaiting the moment which sets off the 1950 trout fishing season. Parking space will be at a premium at such spot as the fish hatchery just east of Fillmore, where last year more than 700 anglers descended like locusts on the unsuspecting fish.

Santa Paula creek, Sespe creek and other fish-harboring streams in this area will swarm pleasure seekers, including many three and four-year olds baiting their hooks for the first time.

The Fillmore fish hatchery has planted its 13,000 trout in just about every tract of water larger than a bath tub. The fish are now at home as follows:

Santa Paula creek, 500 between Steckel park and Sisar creek; Lost creek between here and Fillmore, 800; Santa Paula creek above Steckel park, 1,500; Sespe creek near Fillmore, 500; at Tar creek, 500; Piru creek downstream from Agua Blanca, 500.

Lockwood creek, 500; Matilija creek above the dam, 750; at Soper's 250; at the reservoir 3,000. Reyes creek at Wheatley's, 500; Sespe beaver dams at Cold Springs, 1,000 and between Lion camp and Bear creek, 2,500.

All of the 13,000 planted are of catchable size, with many tipping the angler's scale (if they're caught) about four to the pound.

Few mature fish will be caught opening day, wardens feel. But in the Sespe between Tar creek and the old Sespe dam, where the area is so inaccessible fishermen have to hike several miles to a good spot, fish manage to survive the opening day onslaught and propagate themselves the year around.

This is felt to be the one remaining spot in Ventura county where this is true.

April 27, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle
ADVERTISEMENT – Well Fellows! Trout Season Opens Sat. Morning. We are ready – are you? You need good tackle to catch good fish! Check over your kit then come

down and select your needs. You can get your license right here. We are ready to help you have a good season of fishing and camping. Come on in! Watkins Hardware Company.

April 28, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING SEASON OPENS SATURDAY – Tomorrow morning bright and early—in fact tonight, in an effort to beat other fishermen to the best spots—the southland's anglers will descend like a plague on Santa Paula, Fillmore and other Santa Clara river communities to pull their limits of wiggling trout from opening day waters.

Even the most remote recesses of the famed Sespe creek fishing grounds are expected to resound to the whirl of reels and swish of rods as sportsmen from all over California's southern counties settle themselves from a week-end of fishing.

Last year some 700 anglers invaded the quiet pools and crannies of the Fillmore fish hatchery area, and some were even caught trying to lure the finny friends out of the hatching ponds!

More than 13,000 fish have been planted by the hatchery in Ventura county streams for the big to tomorrow—and all reports point to a riproaring time by all.

June 9, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

PIRU RANCHERS FEAR WATER SHORTAGE IN NEAR FUTURE – by Wally Smith – Dry wells and a water table down as much as 100 feet in five years—these have combine to produce fear underlying many of the current talks on the disposal of Santa Clara river water, sought by the salt-invaded Oxnard plain.

Piru ranchers taking part in watershed boundary sessions are worried for fear that community face a severe water shortage in the next few years. One water well has been abandoned, and others are on the verge of going dry.

Harold Conkling, consulting engineer who in September, 1949 handed down detailed recommendations for water conservation dams to the board of supervisors, believes no danger of a Piru water shortage exists.

"There is thought to be no danger of a water shortage in the (Santa Clara river) valley within Ventura county above Saticoy," he flatly stated in a report to official of the flood control district. His conviction that the Oxnard plain and Pleasant valley areas are the only ones facing a critical water problem can be read between the lines on nearly every page.

He concedes that the water table in times of drought will drop to a frightening level. But he holds in his report that what goes down must come up—before much damage is done.

Much time and effort are being spent to set up the new watershed district to provide badly-needed fresh water to the Oxnard plain. Here 65 percent of the cultivated land in the Santa Clara watershed faces invasion by salt water—with a resultant lowering of property values and destruction of crops.

If values fall in the Oxnard area, proponents argue, taxes will be raised elsewhere in Ventura county to make up for the loss.

Wells as far inland as two miles are beginning to bring up the dreaded sea water, which has gradually elbowed its way into the fresh water supply. The situation is urgent if the county's major agricultural district is to continue unscathed, it is pointed out.

What plagues Piru ranchers must is the fear that open conduits will drain off their precious water supply to Oxnard, turning that fertile citrus belt into a second Owens valley. They remember the tragic full-page ads inserted in the metropolitan press by the embattled Owens valley farmers, headed descriptively "We Who Are About to Die."

Friction has arisen over the use by the Fillmore state fish hatchery of Piru basin water, which then drains off into the adjoining Fillmore basin. Much talk is heard of forcing the hatchery to do an about face, even of legal action.

It seems clear that the drainage contours of the valley vitally affect the whole series of discussions.

The Santa Clara river valley is divided into four basins—(1) ending at the Newhall ranch bridge, (2) at the fish hatchery, (3) at Santa Paula creek and (4) at Saticoy.

Conkling reported in November, 1947 that hardly any Piru creek water goes to waste. In his report he pointed out that the Piru and Montalvo water basins were heavily depleted during periods of drought, but that hardly any water was drained out of the Fillmore and Santa Paula basins.

Of 22,700 acre feet of water each year between 1923 and 1936, only 2,900 acre feet went to waste—a negligible amount, Conkling said.

Reservoirs up Piru creek would raise the Piru basin water level as much as 30 feet, he reported, and half of it would remain within the basin. The rest would drain into the Fillmore basin at the hatchery.

But dams up Piru creek would cost much more than dams up the Sespe—and his number one plan called for two dams on the Sespe, at Topa Topa and Cold Spring. The Sespe and Piru between them provide 60 percent of the Santa Clara river's water.

With dams in the Sespe but no in Piru canyon, Piru ranchers naturally feel that they might derive little or no benefit from the storage, and hence are averse to paying part of the taxes.

It has been pointed out that only one of the five or seven districts directors would represent the Piru basin.

Present hopes, voiced at current watershed meetings, are that normal rainfall will restore the lost water level of the Piru basin, and forestall any serious shortage. Thus much of the area's water could be diverted to the Oxnard plain to help in the battle with the sea.

Regardless of one's point of view, the problem stands as the number one issue confronting Ventura county's ranchers. One need only sit in on one of the sessions to feel it.

June 14, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

EDITORIAL – THEY FISH AND HUNT – Before we accept the pattern of judging popularity of sports by the size of the crowds in the stadium, we may consider all that is meant by a report of the California fish and game commission that 1,470,000 Californians hold fishing or hunting licenses.

The long state, with its streams, beaches and forests, is the field in which they perform to victory and defeat. Approximately one and one-half million of them! That is more than the entire population of some states and enough to convince us they cannot all be at the same fishing hole at once, or, on a mountain slope, banging at the same deer.

In pride we can have much to say for a state which offers so much in recreation and sport, and at a desk, with a pencil in hand, we can do some figuring. These sportsmen pay us big sums in licenses. They buy equipment and spend millions in transportation, and maybe for arnica and sunburn and poison oak remedies. Football, you say, is a big business, and organized baseball keeps the turnstiles clicking when the home team is winning? Fish and game experts estimate that the fishermen and hunters, the amateur sportsmen of the wilds, represent a California "industry" approximating $1,000,000,000. *–Oakland Tribune*

June 30, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH PLANTED IN 373 MOUNTAIN LAKES FROM AIR – The California division of fish and game recently took off on the nation's most ambitious aerial fish-planting mission.

In the next two months, the state agency's twin-engined airplane will drop a total of 1,639,000 rainbow and brook trout in 373 mountain lakes.

Flying a tough 48-day schedule over some of the trickiest terrain in the west, Warden-Pilots Al Reese and Carrol Faist will release the fingerlings in waters ranking from the Siskiyou to Tulare and Inyo counties. The plane is capable of carrying up to 25,000 fish each trip.

Although the bureau of fish conservation began its aerial planting experiments in 1946, full-scale operations were delayed until special equipment and flying procedures were developed for the difficult high Sierra country. Several other states are also using aircraft in their fish planting programs.

Warden-Pilot Reese asserts the airplane is here to stay, but will supplement—not replace—the continuing of horse, truck, and human transport of trout.

Tests made recently prove that fish can be safely dropped from elevations up to 800 feet. Other findings reveal that the cost of planting comparable areas by man or horse-back is considerably higher.

Before the serial planting program ends August 18, the crew ill have stocked 165 lakes in the Mount Shasta area; five in the Fall River Mills area; 33 lakes in the Almanor-Feather River area; 64 lakes in the Donner Summit area; 23 lakes in the Yosemite-central Sierra area; 24 lakes in the western lower Sierra area; and 83 lakes in the eastern Sierra area.

December 6, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FILLMORE HATCHERY TO BE MOVED OR ABANDONED – Los Angeles (UP) – The California Fish and Game Commission has taken steps to move or abandon a state fish hatchery at Fillmore, California, it was learned today.

The commission, at a recent meeting here, instructed A.C. Taft, chief of the Division of Fish and Game Bureau of Fish Conservation, to either move the fishery from Fillmore to a site outside of Ventura County if such action is practical, or to abandon the hatchery, a commission spokesman revealed.

The Piru water district has favored elimination of the Fillmore hatchery and its representatives at a commission meeting here in October, severed legal notice on the fish and game department to stop using water at the hatchery.

December 7, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FOREMAN SURPRISED AT PLAN TO MOVE FILLMORE HATCHERY – With 340,000 new fish eggs just arrived, and 150,000 more of them expected sometime next week, the disclosure that the Fillmore State Fish Hatchery might be abandoned or moved to another site came as a distinct shock yesterday to Foreman C.W. Chansler.

When informed by the *Chronicle* that such a move is contemplated, Chansler could throw no light on the development whatsoever.

“It’s all news to me,” he said. “I’ve been on vacation and have just returned. If there’s been any move afoot either to move or do away with the Fillmore hatchery, I haven’t known anything about it.”

Asked what the move would do to current plans for stocking Ventura County's streams and reservoirs, Chansler declined to comment until he has received official notification of the move from the bureau of fish conservation.

The hatchery is full of eggs and small fish, Chansler disclosed. Work is now under way to improve and enlarge the ponds, so that the hatchery can handle more fish than it has at present. A crew has been busy getting things shipshape for the spring planting of trout, which keeps the Ventura County streams supplied with the finny fellows.

Not long ago a new hatchery building was constructed at the site, which is a little under a mile east of Fillmore. The building was constructed entirely by the crew of the hatchery, and has been in operation only a short time.

From information available here, it seems likely that efforts of Piru ranchers and the Piru Water District to forestall the pumping of Piru basin water into the hatchery's pond are responsible for the decision to move the hatchery.

A year ago last summer, the hatchery was faced with impending water shortage—so much so, in fact, that there was talk of shutting the hatchery down completely by September if more water could not be found. Just in the nick of time a third water well was brought in east of the two already in use, and the hatchery was able to run at about one-third capacity instead of shutting down.

The hatchery still is operating at this level.

As soon as water began to flow from the new well, Piru agriculturalists filed a complaint. The water, they said, was being pumped out of the Piru basin and dumped into the Fillmore basin, after which it ran away toward the ocean and was lost to Piru and its surrounding citrus lands.

They sought an injunction against the hatchery's use of the water, pending the outcome of litigation in the courts.

The United Press story carried yesterday cited this opposition, and indicated Piru representatives were present at a Los Angeles meeting of the Fish and Game Commission, when the decision was made to move or abandon the hatchery.

<u>December 8, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

AROUND THE VALLEY – by Wally Smith – Since the *Chronicle's* story on the Fillmore fish hatchery appeared the other day, interest has been running high among sportsmen of Ventura County. Some of them, it is reported, plant to protests any move by the Fish and Game Commission to abandon it or move it somewhere else.

Copies of the story have been relayed by interested parties to San Francisco, where Fish and Game has its headquarters, to Los Angeles and to sportsmen at several points.

The Ventura County Rod and Gun Club meets tonight, and it's reported that some action is contemplated over the hatchery issue. It will be interesting to see just what develops, and whether the sportsmen are enough in earnest to present their side of the issue before the commission when it next meets on January 26.

So far, those "agin" the hatchery seem to have the upper hand.

December 11, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

AROUND THE VALLEY – by Wally Smith – Folks have been wondering just how many people will be affected if the Fillmore State Fish Hatchery is moved or abandoned, as it looks now. There are seven families there at present, making a total population of 2 persons.

The hatchery has eight five-room homes, a three-room bachelor's quarters, a smaller storage building, an office and several pump houses and miscellaneous structures. When the state built it, the cost was $125,000 for building alone. Since then another $48,000 worth of buildings have been added.

There are three fingerling tanks in operation handling 47,000 fish each. In addition the hatchery has on hand 240,000 eggs and expects 150,000 more any day now.

These will be planted in Ventura County streams in April. And this may be the last planting from the Fillmore site.

December 12, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DECISION TO MOVE FILLMORE HATCHERY NOT FINAL, GAME COMMISSION SPOKESMAN SAYS – The decision to abandon or move the Fillmore fish hatchery is not necessarily final, according to State Fish and Game Commissioner Lee Payne. He also disclosed that a threat to pull political strings to force the closing of the hatchery was what influenced the Commission's decision.

A Piru delegation, he said, told the Commission at its Los Angeles meeting that opposition to maintenance of the state hatchery is "just about 100 percent" in Ventura County. On the basis of this claim, the commissioners voted unanimously to direct Allen C. Taft, chief of the bureau of fisheries, to investigate the situation.

Taft will report his findings to the Commission on either January 26, the next meeting of the group, or shortly thereafter. No final decision to close or move the hatchery can be made until his report is received, Payne added.

It was a similar situation in San Bernardino which led to the establishment of the Fillmore hatchery in the firs place, he said. The hatchery was to have been established on

Lytle Creek just west of San Bernardino, but opposition formed in that city and caused a change of plans. That was in 1940.

Five years later, after the state had invested $125,000 at the Fillmore site, San Bernardino County asked for a hatchery and a series of rearing ponds was established at Victorville. Residents had a complete change of heart, Payne said, and then favored locating a hatchery near San Bernardino.

The state's investment in the Fillmore hatchery, Payne said, would run upwards of $300,000 if the hatchery were to be replaced on the basis of current costs.

Fifty thousand pounds of fish per year have been raised at the Fillmore site. Payne said that Deputy District Attorney Ralph Schuyler of Los Angeles represented the Fish and Game Commission last Friday, when the Piru delegation presented its demands.

Legal means of forcing abandonment of the hatchery have been under way for many months, he told the *Chronicle*. If this fails, he said the Commission was told, political pressure will be brought to bear.

Meanwhile, neither D.A. Clanton nor C.W. Chansler, who operate the Fillmore hatchery for the state, has received official notice that the hatchery will be abandoned. They will receive no notice, the *Chronicle* learned, until after the January meeting, and then only if the decision stands.

At present the hatchery is drawing 1,700 gallons of water per minute, 24 hours a day, through one of its three pumps. The other two wells are shut down because of the water shortage.

The shaft of this well is not perforated above 140 feet, which means that all water is drawn from below the stratum of clay which underlies the area. Most of the water comes from the 520-foot level, and comes out of the ground at 60 degrees.

According to Chansler, this indicates a glacial source for the water, probably somewhere in the Sierras.

Piru ranchers and the Piru Water District dispute this however. They claim the water is being pumped out of the Piru basin and into the Fillmore basin, after running the length of the rearing ponds.

A dispute has arisen also over whether there is a cross-fault at the site of the hatchery, cutting across the valley at that point. Hatchery spokesmen say there is no evidence that such a cross-fault exists, and that water and oil drillers have honeycombed the entire area for many years without finding evidence of one. If this is true, water from the Piru basin could flow unimpeded into the Fillmore basin, whether or not it is being pumped to the surface.

Piru Water District spokesmen also dispute this claim, and contend that the hatchery is draining their dwindling water supply, water which otherwise would be used to irrigate Piru citrus lands.

It is this dispute which has been dumped into the lap of the Fish and Game Commission, Payne said yesterday.

There will be ample notice in advance of the time and place of the meeting at which Taft will present his findings, Payne said. At that time, both the opponents and the proponents of the hatchery are urged to present their arguments and facts in person.

So far, he said, no one at all has appeared before the Commission in favor of leaving the hatchery at its Fillmore site.

December 19, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

GUN CLUB WANTS FILLMORE HATCHERY TO STAY – The Ventura County Rod and Gun club last night went on record as opposing the removal of the Fillmore State Fish Hatchery.

A resolution was drafted, which will be forwarded by the club's board of directors to Allen C. Taft, who was recently authorized by the Fish and Game Commission to investigate the advisability of doing away with the hatchery because of Piru opposition.

Letters will also go to all chambers of commerce in Ventura County, to other organizations which might be interested in getting behind the fight to save the hatchery, and to State Senator J.J. McBride and Assemblyman J.B. Cooke of this area. A letter also is being forwarded to Lee Payne of Los Angeles, the Fish and Game commissioner in charge of the Santa Paula-Fillmore section. The club will also have a delegate at the Fish and Game meeting in San Francisco January 26.

Last night's action by the Rod and Gun Club marks the third time a Ventura County organization has entered the dispute on the side of the hatchery, according to S.V. Costa, retiring president of the club. He cited the Fillmore Chamber of Commerce as having adopted resolutions opposing the removal of the hatchery, at their meeting this week.

Three Santa Paulans were elected to head the Rod and Gun Club last night. They are Jack Cline, president, John Moon, secretary and Tom Harrison, treasurer for the coming year. Alexander Brown of Ventura will be vice-president.

December 20, 1950 – Santa Paula Chronicle

THOUSANDS OF FISH EGGS DELIVERED TO FILLMORE HATCHERY – Another 317,000 eggs have arrived in Fillmore since Saturday.

But the hens aren't worried, because they're fish eggs delivered to the state hatchery for rearing as young trout destined for Ventura County streams. Two hundred thousand of the eggs arrived Saturday from the hatchery at Mount Shasta, and the other 117,000 arrived yesterday from the hatchery at Hot Creek.

The eggs are shipped by railway express in a specially-constructed wooden container about three feet square, containing a number of wire mesh shelves. The eggs are poured onto the mesh and then covered with wet moss, which in turn is kept wet with ice packed around the outer edge of the box. The eggs are kept at about 40 degrees temperature, according to Foreman C.W. Chansler. They remain dormant until dumped into warm water.

Four hundred and 30 thousand eggs are on their way to becoming Ventura County trout at the hatchery at the present time.

1 9 5 1

January 20, 1951 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SETTLEMENT OF HATCHEY FIGHT SEEN BY CLINE – There is no reason why the current dispute over the Fillmore State Fish Hatchery should force the abandonment of the site.

That's the opinion of Jack Cline, Santa Paulan who now heads the Ventura County Rod and Gun Club. Cline told the *Chronicle* today that he believes things will be worked out to everyone's satisfaction, and that the hatchery will not be moved.

The Rod and Gun Club recently took an active interest in the dispute, brought on by Piru ranchers and water interest who claimed that Piru basin water is being pumped through the hatchery and then released in the Fillmore basin, forever lost to Piru ranchers. Cline sad today that the southern section of the Rod and Gun Clubs, with headquarters in Los Angeles, is expected to act on a resolution passed a few weeks ago and have delegates at the next Fish and Game Commission meeting.

They will press for peaceful settlement of the controversy, rather than a lawsuit and its consequent expenses.

The Fish and Game Commission is scheduled to meet in San Francisco January 26, and is expected to hear a report on the hatchery problem by A.C. Scott, recently instructed to investigate.

Cline has proposed a pump at the west end of the hatchery ponds, to pump the water back again to the east end, at the site of the present water wells. This would put the water back at the source, over the Piru basin, and it could be used again and again by aerating it between trips.

In this way, Cline says, the hatchery could cut its consumption of water to a bare minimum, a fraction of what is used now, and dispose of the basis for the Piru ranchers' claims that their water is being "stolen" by the hatchery's pumps.

His suggestion has been passed on to Floyd S. Warring, who heads the Piru Water Company.

The Rod and Gun Club discussed the hatchery problem at length last night, meeting in Eagles Hall here in Santa Paula.

Cline said about 75 members and guests interested in the hatchery and game conservation problems were present at the meeting. New officers were installed—Cline as president, John Moon as secretary, Tom Harrison as treasurer. The next meeting of the club will be held in Oxnard at the Odd Fellows' Hall, on February 23, Cline said.

January 25, 1951 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DISEASE ANGLE CITED IN FISH HATCHERY ROW – Efforts to wipe out disease among young trout at the Fillmore State Fish Hatchery might be hampered if water is run through the rearing ponds more than once, it was learned today.

A proposal to settle the hatchery dispute out of court, put forth by the Ventura Rod and Gun Club. has been based on the assumption that water could be pumped back to its source after running its course through the tiers of rearing ponds. This would put the water back into what is sometimes called the Piru basin, and apparently satisfy critics of the hatchery who claim Piru water is being taken without being replaced, then dumped into another settling basin.

The water would then be run through the hatchery a second time, thus cutting down on the plant's consumption of pumped water.

But hatchery employees have raised the question of disease. If the fish are afflicted, they contend, the quickest way to get rid of the disease is to have them in fresh, running water. If the same contaminated water is re-used, tit will be harder to fight the affliction.

Whether this will prove a stumbling block to the proposal is not yet clear. The Fish and Game Commission meets tomorrow in San Francisco, and one item on the agenda is expected to be a report by A.C. Scott of the bureau of hatcheries. On hand will be representatives of the Southern California Rod and Gun Club from Los Angeles, to protest any move abandoning or moving the hatchery.

The current efforts to effect a settlement with the Piru interests by reverting the hatchery water into the Piru basin will be cited by the sportsmen as a basis for withholding condemnation proceedings against the hatchery.

February 22, 1951 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MORE HUNTING, LESS FISHING IN STATE DURING 1950 – Sacramento (UP) – California sportsmen apparently did more hunting, but less fishing in 1950

The state division of fish and game's monthly report showed today $1,297,890 worth of hunting licenses were purchased last years, an increase of $7,412.

But the total sales of fishing licenses dropped $27,086 to $2,956,681.

March 17, 1951 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FILLMORE WILL PROBABLY KEEP FISH HATCHERY – Chances are good that the Fillmore Fish Hatchery will remain where it is.

That's the unofficial word dropped last night by Superintendent of Hatcheries D.A. Clanton of Whittier, principal speaker at the Fillmore meeting of the Ventura County Rod and Gun Club.

Clanton brought with him an official conformational of his views, but said he believes the current furor over the water being used by hatchery will blow over in time, and the hatchery will remain in Fillmore. It might have to close down at times, of severe drought, he indicated, but will always open up again when water is more plentiful.

The matter of the removal of the hatchery, advocated before the State Fish and Game Commission not long ago by Piru ranchers and others was to have come up at San Francisco in January. But the matter was postponed indefinitely. Jack Cline, president of the Rod and Gun Club, said when it finally is placed on the Fish and Game agenda, the Southern Council of Sportsmen will have delegates there to oppose the closing of the hatchery.

April 26, 1951 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Opens – Saturday April 28. See us first for all your fishing needs! Get your fishing licenses here! Complete line of Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods. The Sportsman Shop. 120 S. Eighth St. Santa Paula Phone 653M.

April 27, 1951 – Los Angeles Times

ANGLERS DELCARE WAR ON TROUT TOMORROW – by Jack Curnow. Trout season opens tomorrow morning in most of the State.

Thousands of anglers will take off today to reach favorite spots. Heaviest concentration will be at Los Angeles city's Lake Crowley, with June Lake loop running a close second.

Nearer home, Big Bear Lake and Lake Arrowhead will host big crowds, ditto for Gregory Lake, Crystal Lake and the San Gabriel Canyon area streams.

The Division of Fish and Game has made heavy plants of trout in most streams and lakes. And wardens will be on hand to see that you don't take more than the legal limit of 15, or 10 pounds and one fish.

Opening time is 4:08 tomorrow morning, an hour before sunrise, and continues until an hour after sunset.

The weather may foul up everything. Storms this mid-week could make roily streams which have been clear. And there was snow Wednesday in the Sierra from an unexpected cold snap.

There'll be some pretty fair fishing in the Southland in the early season, but many streams will dry out. So as the season progresses anglers will have to travel further north.

The Times, during the past week, has carried a directory of streams and lakes in the Southland, also Fish & Game warden reports from various outlying areas on trout prospects.

Here are warden reports from nearby areas:

…John Spicer at Ojai; Conditions for Ventura County fair to poor, with beaver dams in Sespe affording better fishing. Matilija Dam about same level as last year, should be fair. Water very low in county, fishing will not hold up through season.

Leslie Edgerton reports on southern half of Ventura County: Santa Paula Creek, fair; Piru Creek, fair; River of Doubt, good; Sespe Creek, good. Piru planted at Frenchman's Flat and in Buck Creek area fist time in recent years. Santa Paula allotment cut in half because of low water.

April 27, 1951 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET—GO! IT'S HERE AGAIN! - At quarter after four tomorrow morning, practically every fisherman worth the name in Ventura County will be seen poised with an anticipatory smile on his face, chin up, right foot forward, and worm dangling within an inch of the placid water.

For the 1951 trout season will be about to start.

The above picture would be more natural, however, if we could be sure of just one thing—where's the water? According to our secret operatives in the field, there's very little to be found. And where there's no water, there can't be very many fish.

Just to be on the safe side, here's a list of spots where there just might be a fish or two, if the angler will look real hard:

Bear creek, runs into the Sespe four miles downstream from Lion Canyon camp.

Beartrap creek, runs into Cuyama River near Ozena Road.

Howard creek, runs into Sespe near Lion Canyon camp road.

Lockwood creek, runs into Piru creek near Lockwood Valley Road.

Matilija creek, above and below Matilija reservoir near Wheeler Springs.

Piedra Blanca creek, runs into Upper Sespe near Lion Canyon camp.

Piru creek, scattered water only north of Piru and at headwaters.

Reyes creek, runs into Cuyama River via Wheatley's camp.

Santa Clara River, you know where.

Santa Paula creek, ditto.

Sespe creek, accessible from Fillmore or Ojai.

Wheatley's lake, on ranch near Reyes creek.

May 22, 1951 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LIMONEIRA – Mr. and Mrs. Huber Hurt and children, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Houser and daughter, Tommy, and Mr. Houser's mother, Mrs. Viola Houser, spent Sunday fishing and picnicking at Lake Sherwood in Hidden valley.

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The mouth of the Santa Clara River seems to be a very popular fishing place for the residents of the ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Young arrived there Sunday to find Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Schwarting and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Griggs already there.

June 22, 1951 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT ARE TROUT – Lansing, Michigan (UP) – The state conservation department has found out that trout fishermen don't necessarily know what they are fishing for. Questioners asked a cross section of anglers to identify three kinds of trout and only 40 per cent answered correctly.

June 25, 1951 – Santa Paula Chronicle

OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA BY THE DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME – Better fishing through tagging. Plastic and metal tags have been placed on jaw, tail or back of many fresh and salt-water fish found in state waters, like kelp bass, black bass, salmon, trout and steelhead. By returning tags fishermen can help the State in its continuous efforts to learn about fish migration life cycles, growth and habits. (Picture of a certificate card.) This card with the tags and fish life history goes to cooperating angler.

July 19, 1951 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HUNTING ARRESTS IN SHARP JUMP – (Most of the article is about hunting arrests, fines and the quail guzzler crew.) …Nearly 100,000 trout were planted in the county between March 23rd and the first day of July, the report reveals. Despite dry creeks and rivers, the state fish hatchery at Fillmore planted 95,440 fingerlings and small trout, much more than was anticipated earlier in the year.

August 14, 1951 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ROTARY SEES COLOR FILM ON FISHING – "Fishing for Fun," a color motion picture depicting the art of fly-casting, was the feature of yesterday's meeting of the Rotary Club at Masonic temple. The film was provided through the courtesy of Jim Healy, local Pontiac dealer.

Featured in the film was Ben Hardesty, national fly-casting champion. He displayed the technique of casting in Michigan streams for trout and bass, depicting all phases of casting, hooking and landing the fish. He was also seen in later scenes casting off the Florida coast.

1952

January 22, 1952 – Santa Paula Chronicle

NO STEELHEAD CATCHES YET, BUT HOPEFUL – by Ben Smith (Taken from Forecast) – Now the Ventura and Santa Clara rivers are running, a lot of us will be looking for the return of the "Steelies"—it seems to be the opinion of some of the better informed that it will take several years for the steelhead to make any kind of comeback in numbers…still with water in the rivers…hopes are soaring. No catches have been reported as yet, but that doesn't keep the fellows from looking. Del Cyrus, Nick Peirano and Joe Proctor have been prowling in the vicinity of the fishing grounds.

Surf fishing has been very good lately. Several fine catches have been reported from favorite spots up and down the coast.

Dalt Munger, Billy Munger, Merrill Allyn and Ben Smith took a cruise down to the Serena kelp beds recently and were rewarded with a good catch of bass and a variety of other fish. Don't know where the big ones were that day, maybe it was too cold for them? The weather seemed next to freezing on the trip back to port. Space around the motor box was at a premium.

Blasting by the oil companies is getting off to a flying start with the loading of Myrna Lynn with a cargo of explosives recently delivered by the Hercules Powder Company.

Santa Monica sport fishermen report that catches have dropped off since blasting along their coast line. They feel that fishing has been handed another setback like the one suffered three years ago. Some of the fishermen in that locality are furious.

The people of Santa Barbara feel pretty bitter about return of the blasting boats but have been unable to prevent it. Oh well, there'll come a day and I hope it is not too late to save the rest of our fish.

An eastern fish and game department released a lot of interesting figures on fishing. It seems that 10 percent of the fishermen catch 46 per cent of the fish—53 per cent of the fishermen catch 54 per cent of the fish—and 37 per cent of the anglers don't catch any thing. How about that? Which category are you in? And, why?

And, don't forget to buy yourself a brand new fishing license for 1952.

February 12, 1952 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – The Sportsman Shop. Complete lines of Sporting Goods Hunting and Fish Equipment. S&H Green Stamps, Too!

March 13, 1952 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FILLMORE FESTIVAL SET FOR MAY 17 -- …May 17 was selected this year to avoid conflicts with Mother's Day and with one of Fillmore's biggest annual events – Fish Day. On this day half the men in town evacuate to the streams and rivers nearby for a go at the hungry trout planted by the state fish hatchery here.

March 28, 1952 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MORE HATCHERIES, MORE TROUT AND LESS RED TAPE IN OFFING – by Ben Smith (Reported from Forecast) – Due to weather conditions there has been very little boat, pier or surf fishing during the past months. With the surf quite muddy from the run-off of the ocean rains a few surf perch are being caught, but really not enough to get excited about.

Steelhead fishing season ended this year without a single catch being made. However, in the early part of march a few were definitely spotted in the Ventura River so it is somewhat encouraging to know that there are a few late spawners in our streams again.

A new plan in Sacramento calls for the decentralizing of the Dept. of Fish and Game into five regional officers. This was presented to the legislators by Seth Gordon, director of the division and it was approved in principle, and a budget to finance the program will be presented to the Senate Finance Committee.

Director Gordon claims that under the proposed system they will be able to increase the number of hatcheries, cut red tape and most important triple the plant of the trout.

April 24, 1952 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING WILL BE GOOD ON OPENING DAY – Fishing will be good. That's the flat prediction for the season which opens here May 3—the Santa Clara valley's traditional Fish Day. Fishing won't be as good on opening day as usual, but better later in the season. Read the details on today's sports page.

PREDICT GOOD FISHING – FOOT-LONG TROUT WILL BE PLANTED IN NEXT FEW DAYS – by Wally Smith – Fish up to 12 inches in length are being planted by the state fish hatchery at Fillmore, and the season promises to be big one for those who really like to work at their fishing.

That's the outlook today as Manager C.W. Chansler of the hatchery announces the planting of trout in all Ventura County streams except Howard Creek and upper Santa Paula Creek.

Opening day, May 3, won't be as good as it has been in the past, Chansler said. But the balance of the season should be better than usual because the fish now being planted are

expected to outlast the first couple of weeks of the season. There is too much water and the fish are too big to "fish out" the streams in the usual two weeks.

Fish are not planted average from seven to a pound to three to a pound. The latter are 11 to 12 inches long and area really like lake sized trout, but planting could not be undertaken soon enough to get the smaller trout out. Only the Upper Sespe is thought to have some native fish right now.

The water should last nearly all season this year, Chansler said. Last year and the year before small fish were planted in pools of water so widely separated even at the start of the season that the fish couldn't get from one place to another and were caught almost as fast as they were put in. This year fishing will be what it's supposed to be anyway—sport.

The fish will have more than even chance of eluding the angler.

Howard Creek and the upper Santa Paul Creek will not be planted because of heavy slides due to the recent rains, which bar the hatchery's truck. The hatchery itself plans to get another chain of pools in operation soon, after several years of limping along with only one chain of pools in use because of the water shortage.

In addition to its native fish, the Upper Sespe will receive a planting of foot-long trout within the next few days, Chansler said. Santa Paula Creek will be planted from Steckel Park north, as far as the trucks can travel.

April 28, 1952 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FIREMEN STAND BY AS OIL LINE REPAIRED – Santa Paula county firemen stood by in case of fire last night as Union Oil Company crews busied themselves repairing a broken oil line along Sisar Creek just below Camp Bartlett.

A great deal of oil bubbled up from the buried pipeline and ran down into the waters of the creek, and this may impair fishing at that spot, it was learned. But crews are cleaning up the mess today.

May 1, 1952 – Los Angeles Times

FISH 'N' GAME – by Jack Curnow. Today we'll give you a summary of Southland conditions for the trout season opening Saturday.

…Prospects for Southland anglers are generally good in the mountains, generally poor for streams in Orange County. Popular Arrowhead and Big Bear Lakes will be jammed with anglers; both are ice-free and well-stocked.

Getting back to the trout opening Saturday:

…Ventura County – Fish planting allotments small and water high indicate angler success will be low. Good fishermen get fish, poor fishermen get only an outing. Planted streams include Santa Paula Creek, Sespe Creek, Piru Creek and Lockwood Creek. All will be only fair fishing.

May 2, 1952 – Santa Paula Chronicle

NO TROUT PLANTED IN VENTURA COUNTY YET, HATCHERY SAYS – No trout have been planted in Ventura County streams so far this spring, C.W. Chansler of the state fish hatchery at Fillmore said yesterday. Conditions in the streams and rivers are not favorable right now.

All are too high and muddy for successful planting of fish, he said. But the hatchery is awaiting word from district biologist at Whittier as to quotas, and as soon as these come through it is hoped the planting operations may get under way.

Fish Day comes up in a month or so, and Chansler said he hopes the fish may be planted before long so they'll be distributed widely enough to do the anglers some good when the season opens.

May 5, 1952 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOTS OF LIMITS OPENING DAY – Who said the fishing ain't no good?

That was the well founded sarcasm directed at one and all Saturday morning as early birds began trekking back into civilization from their stints up the Sespe and Santa Paula creeks. Opening day catches were good, and many had their limits before 9 o'clock.

Ray Reese and a companion parked no far from the highway at Sespe creek just this side of Fillmore and hiked a little way upstream before casting in their hooks. Two hours later they had 38 trout. Would have had more, they lamented, but the darned fish broke their leaders.

May 19, 1952 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RECORD TROUT REPORTED – by Wally Smith – Before you fishermen read this article, better sit down.

Because A.R. Bowman of Los Angeles has come out of Santa Paula Creek with a trout big enough to mount and hang over the fireplace in the den—believe it or not! It may be the largest fish caught in these parts.

Bowman, a good friend of G.N. Sackett of Upper Ojai, went fishing four miles above the Ferndale bridge on Santa Paula Creek Saturday morning. When he came out he had with him a trout weighing six and one-quarter pounds, and just a half-inch short of 28 inches long.

If any of your *Chronicle* readers have beaten this record, or know of anyone who has in Santa Paula Creek, let's have the details.

June 10, 1952 – Los Angeles Times

FISH'N' GAME – by Jack Curnow. Recent Plants. These waters have been recently planted with trout by the F&G …Howard and Reyes Creeks and Wheatley's Lake in Ventura County.

September 9, 1952 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SESPE CREEK NOW BOASTS NEW FISH AFTER PLANTING – The waters of Sespe Creek, which one of these days will support a lake not far from Sespe Hot Springs behind a UWCD dam, were planted with new trout late last week.

That's the word today from the Automobile Club of Southern California, which told the United Press that the Sespe was one of several Ventura County streams planted with additional fish for the eager fishermen of Southern California. The other county streams recently planted include Howard Creek, Matilija reservoir and the north fork of the Matilija Creek.

December 8, 1952 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CALLING JOE FAN – by Knothole Ned – …The controversy over the proposed Sespe and Piru creek dams has waxed hot over just about everything but sports, and this angle has been slighted. But word from Domingo Hardison, of the UWCD board of directors, has it that sports definitely figure in the picture.

For instance, if the bond issue carries and the dams are built, there will be fishing on both of the reservoirs. In addition, there will be boating on the Piru reservoir, and probably cabins and other concessions. This one will be easily accessible, while the Sespe location will not.

The Sespe reservoir will be under Los Padres National Forest regulations, which forbid fishing charges, but a charge will be made at the Piru reservoir. Concessions at Piru will be in private hands.

The water district will own 200 feet of land above the high water mark at both sites, and will do the negotiating for concession rights.

1 9 5 3

January 25, 1953 – Los Angeles

FISH 'N' GAME – by Jack Curnow. …Talked to Johnny Spicer and Les Edgerton, the very efficient F&G wardens of Ventura County. They both said still no signs of steelhead in the Ventura River, verifying what we found out for ourselves on a recent trip to Ventura River. It's funny how a rumor will start a flock of eager anglers off on a wild goose chase. If, and when, the steelhead run in the Ventura River, Spicer and Edgerton will be the first to know about it. And they'll tell everybody. They don't have any reason to keep a run secret.

January 27, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HUNTERS REMINDED OF CURRENT REGULATIONS – …Steelhead Trout and Salmon – Ends January 31 or February 28 in specified streams. Bag limits: 2 trout or salmon or combination in streams south of San Francisco; 3 fish in other streams.

April 29, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle

DISTRICT ATTORNEY OKAYS FISHING IN MATILIJA LAKE – The state has the right to regulate fishing on all public waters, whether on public or private land, the Ventura County Flood Control Board was told yesterday in a letter from the district attorney's office.

Writing the opinion was Don Benton, deputy district attorney, who pointed out that the waters at Matilija Dam are considered by the state to be public waters because the Matilija Creek was there before the land was privately owned. The waters of Lake Sherwood, on the other hand, are considered private waters because no historical creek or river empties into the lake—only what are considered floodwaters during the rainy season.

The Flood District owns the land around the Matilija Dam, the board was informed, but does not have the power to bar anyone from fishing in its waters. Any licensed fisherman has the right to do so.

April 30, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING STARTS AT LAKE MATILIJA – Matilija Lake will be ready for fishing Saturday, it was announced by County Supervisor C.H. (Bob) Andrews of Ojai yesterday. Saturday is the first day of fishing season.

The road to the lake has been improved, and there will be picnic facilities. No open fires will be permitted in the area, however. Fires in completely enclosed stoves are permissible.

Later in the season boating will be included in the facilities at the lake. The area is to be patrolled by the U.S. Forest Service and the State Fish and Game Service.

May 11, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SESPE, PIRU AND LOCKWOOD CREEKS HAVE NEW TROUT – Santa Paula fishermen, prepared today to tangle with Mr. Trout again this week-end, now that the crowds have thinned out somewhat under those of the opening weekend—we hope.

State wardens revealed today that the Sespe, Piru and Lockwood creeks have been planted with trout during the first week of the season. These are the only Ventura County streams planted since the first of May.

But a number of streams were planted prior to the opening of the season, including Santa Paula and Sisar creeks. The Matilija Lake area is reported to be the best spot in the county for fishing, but fishermen are numerous because it is easy to reach. Both Howard and Reyes creek in the Maricopa highway district were planted just prior to opening day, and they will not be so crowded.

May 15, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle

NINE COUNTY CREEKS RECEIVE PLANTINGS OF NEW RAINBOWS – Nine Ventura County creeks have been planted with trout during the past week, it was revealed today by the State Department of Fish and Game. Seven Los Angeles County streams, and three in Riverside also were planted with additional fish.

Catchable rainbow trout were planted in these Ventura County streams:

Howard Creek, Lockwood Creek, Matilija Creek north fork, Upper Piru Creek, Lower Piru Creek, Reyes Creek, Upper Sespe Creek, Lower Sespe Creek and Wheatley's Lake.

May 22, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SANTA PAULA CREEK, SISAR CREEK PLANTED WITH FINNY FELLOWS – Santa Paula and Sisar creeks have been planted with trout during the past week, it was announced by the State Department of Fish and Game.

The planting was carried out by the Fillmore State Fish Hatchery. These two creeks were the only streams n Ventura County planted during the week ending today.

In Santa Barbara County the following streams were planted—Davy Brown Creek, Salsipuedes Creek and the Lower Santa Ynez River.

May 29, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle
LOWER SESPE CREEK WELCOMES TROUT DURING PAST WEEK – Lower Sespe Creek was planted with trout during the past week, the Department of Fish and Game

announced today. It is the only stream in Ventura County planted with fish since more than a week ago, when Santa Paula and Sisar creeks were planted with trout.

No Santa Barbara County streams were planted this week.

June 5, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TEN COUNTY CREEKS PLANTED WITH NEW TROUT THIS WEEK – Ten Ventura County streams and reservoirs were planted with trout during the week just ending, the Fish and Game Commission reported today. The rainbows are expected to lure Santa Paula fishermen out by the hundreds.

Sisar and Santa Paula creeks have been planted.

In addition, state game wardens and hatchery employees have planted Lower Piru creek, Upper and Lower Sespe creeks, Wheatley's Lake, Howard creek, Reyes creek and Matilija Lake.

June 26, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SEVEN BODIES OF WATER STOCKED – Rainbow trout are still being placed in waters throughout Ventura County, along with five other Southern California counties.

The catchable fish, planted from June 22 to June 27, have been deposited in five creeks, a reservoir, and a lake in this county, according to an announcement by the California Department of Fish and Game.

The trout were planted in the North Fork of the Matilija Creek, Matilija Reservoir, Piru Creek, Reyes Creek, Santa Paula Creek, Sisar Creek, and Wheatley's Lake.

July 16, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CAMP VISITORS AMAZED AT ACTIVITIES – Visitors at Santa Paula's day camp are continually amazed at the varied activities of the boys and girls and their leaders.

Yesterday found a group of "Cardinals," fifth and sixth grade girls, with Mrs. Mamie Berger, Mrs. Bobby Miller and Mrs. Fred Hall, up Sisar Canyon on a fishing trip. They came back with six trout. Katherine Imhoff was the first girl to catch a fish and on Tuesday Bobby Johnson was the first boy. Bobby learned to clean his fish under the supervision of Art Phelan, who accompanied Tuesday's trip and helped all the campers to make their willow pole fishing tackle.

DRUGGED TROUT BEING PLANTED IN STATE WATERS, SAYS GORDON – Sacramento – Sodium amytal, a hypnotic-type barbiturate drug, may be used more widely on fish than on humans, if a recent discovery of the California Department of Fish and Game is put into wide-scale use.

Twenty per cent of the 18,000,000 trout planted in California waters this year will be under the harmless influence of the drug when they are planted from tank trucks or airplanes.

With a half grain of the drug to the gallon, only one-third to one-quarter the amount of water is needed in transporting fish. Fish planting costs may be cut in almost the same proportion.

While planting crews formerly carried 200 fingerlings to the gallon of water, the new system allows the transport on an average of 500 or more. Six to ten-inch catchable-sized fish, once "canned" at eight to the gallon, may now be safely carried at 20 to the gallon or more.

The barbiturate clams the fish down to a point where they use less oxygen, and therefore need less water in transit. After many months of observation in captivity, once drugged fish show no visible effects of their treatment.

Fish drugged and planted present no danger to the fisherman who catches and later eats them, Department announcement asserts.

California becomes the first state to use drugs in fish planting. Other states, as well as California, have used anaesthetic type drugs successfully in live tagging operations.

Department Director Seth Gordon claims that the procedure is out of the experimental stage and will be widely used by the state next year.

Fishery workers have hailed the drug as an innovation as important to fish conservation as the development of the airplane planting procedure. And, the state's senior warden-pilot, Al Reese, is credited with the major role in both programs.

A veteran of 15 years of service with the fish and game agency, Reese deplored his summer task of carrying tons of useless water over the Sierra on the annual aerial fish planting mission. For the two-and-a-half million trout planted by air in 1952, Reese and his pilots carried a total load of 25,000 gallons of water.

With the aid of a pharmacist friend, Reese experimented with the use of various types of drugs on the fish. After a dozen tries during months of experiments, the field was narrowed down to sodium amytal and seconal sodium.

Doses between one-quarter and 17 grains to the gallon were used in the experiments. The latter proved fatal to the fish. Fish planting crews have since decided that the half-grain-to-gallon mixture is ideal.

When the fish hit the water after their ride by tank truck or airplane, the small amount of drug in their systems becomes diluted by fresh water and they immediately swim away.

August 31, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH FARM PROJECT TO OPEN OCT. 15 – The "Lost Creek Fish Farm" will be open for business by October 15 in the Santa Clara river bottom area near the old Storke ranch property, it was announced today by John Gallio, owner and operator of the project.

Approximately 600 feet of fishing stream will be available, he revealed, and the area will be stocked with rainbow trout, bass and bluegill. Both fly-casting and bait fishing will be possible. To be added later to the project will be frogs and a duck club.

No fishing license and no time limit will be required, he said. Patrons will catch their own fish, after which they will pay a nominal fee. They may cook it in the area and eat it there if they wish, Gallio pointed out.

Arrangements have been under way for some time now to develop the seven-acre plot, he said.

Old-timers are familiar with the exact location of the Lost Creek, it was learned. It may be reached via South Mountain road. A road has been cut to the fishing area from the road just north of Lyall Webster's property.

The new enterprise is the first of its kind to be opened here and is expected to draw fishermen from throughout Ventura County.

September 21, 1953 – Santa Paula Chronicle

MATILIJA WATERS PLANTED TO RAINBOWS DURING PAST WEEK – The waters behind Matilija dam have been planted with catchable rainbow trout during the week just ended, the State Department of Fish and Game announced today. It is the only body of water in Ventura County recently planted.

1954

February 23, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TRAWLERS WORKING CLOSE IN SHORE NEAR VENTURA – by Ben Smith, from "Forecast" Ventura County Boat Club – The California Fish and Game Commission, on Feb. 26th will release new laws which will be effective for the coming trout season along with some new regulations for the salt water fisherman.

One of the new rules will impose closed seasons on lakes that are trout waters. This will stop fishing for trout under the pretext of fishing for warm water species. This type of poor sportsmanship has been occurring regularly in the waters impounded by our Matilija Dam. It is also proposed to limit salt water sportsmen to the use of only one line.

…With the recent rains the steelhead fishermen will get one last fling at the Steelies before the season closes March 1st. Both the Ventura and the Santa Clara rivers are running through to the ocean. A few steelhead were rumored seen in the Ventura after the last rains but no catches were reported. Fair catches have been made around Avila and Morro Bay.

April 22, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SCOUTS PLANT FISH IN LOCKWOOD CREEK – Fishing will be better on Lockwood Creek because of the Conservation Good Turn performed Saturday by 26 Ventura County Explorer Scouts working under the direction of State Game Warden Guy Noel. The Explorers from Troops 111 and 120, Saticoy, and Post 2501, Ojai and 2503, Oak View, met at Sneddens Ranch on Lockwood Creek at 9 a.m. to place a number of small rock dams, preparatory to planting and to provide improved stream conditions for the fish plantings to be made by the Fish and Game Department. Warden Noel states that the Scouts built approximately 125 small check dams to improve a couple of miles of the stream.

April 23, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Trout Fishing Season Opens May 1. The Streams have lots of waters. The plant of trout has been good and we have the right tackle for you to use! We issue Fishing Licenses! Come in – make us your fishing headquarters! See you on the stream May 1st! Watkins Hardware Co.

April 26, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing is the Ideal Outdoor Sport. Gives you full measure of enjoyment! Trout Season Opens May 1. Are you ready! Check your gear, then visit Watkins' Sports Department and then you'll be ready! Licenses Issued! Watkins Hardware Company.

April 27, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISHING GROUNDS WILL OPEN SOON NEAR SANTA PAULA – Santa Paula will soon boast the only private fishing facilities in Ventura or Santa Barbara counties.

The grand opening of Rainbow Meadows, four miles north of town on Sisar Creek, will be held this coming Saturday – the first day of the season. But there is no season at Rainbow Meadows, and no license will be required. There will be no limit to the number of fish which may fall prey to the angler's hook.

Poles and bait will be furnished by the owners. Rainbow Meadows will be located just north of Camp Comfort, and the pool will be stocked with trout ranging from eight to 16 inches. Plenty of parking facilities are promised.

ADVERTISEMENT – Let's Go Fishing! Beautiful outdoor setting, easy to get to location, lots of fish! Grand Opening – Saturday, May 1st: Rainbow Meadows. 4 miles north of Santa Paula on Highway 150 above Sulphur Mtn. Springs. Where you can catch rainbow trout measuring 7 to 14 inches. No licenses necessary, no limit. All equipment and bait furnished! Bring the whole family!

April 28, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

BANNER – Let's Go Fishing! Trout Season Opens Saturday May 1. A Feature Page of information and ideas for Santa Paula Fishermen. Wednesday, April 28, 1954. (This was a special full page devoted to angling articles and advertisements, as follows.)

AREA TROUT LOCATIONS ARE LISTED –Santa Paula area trout fishermen who will take to the lakes and streams Saturday, May 1, with the opening of the season will do well to heed the below listed spots as the most likely locations to succeed in catching trout:

Santa Paula Creek – north of Santa Paula with headwaters reached via trail from Ferndale Ranch. Accessible from Highway 150.

Sisar Creek – lower Sisar upward from confluence of Sisar and Santa Paula creeks at Ferndale Ranch on Highway 150, north of Santa Paula. Upper Sisar: upward from trail half-mile back of Summit School on Highway 150, 7 miles north of Santa Paula.

Wheatley's Lake – on Wheatley's Ranch near Reyes Creek.

Matilija Reservoir – northwest of Ojai in Matilija Canyon.

Matilija Creek – northwest of Ojai. Area above and below the Matilija Reservoir.

Matilija Creek – upper north fork accessible via trail from Matilija Creek road above the reservoir.

Piru Creek – north of Piru with headwaters below Lockwood Valley, Frenchman's Flats and Goldhill guard station.

Lockwood Creek – accessible via Lockwood Valley road. This is a tributary to Piru Creek.

Sespe Creek – extensive area access from Fillmore and Highway 399.

Bear Creek – this is a tributary to Sespe Creek, located four miles downstream from Lion Canyon public camp.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing is Fun! But—don't let Car Trouble spoil your trip to those out-of-way places! Make sure of your tires, lights, battery, gas, oil. See us before your leave! Bill's Associated Service 701 Main Street, Santa Paula.

ADVERTISEMENT – Santa Paula's Complete Men's Store. Fishing Togs! Fishing Hats, Jackets, Shirts (Complete Selections in Sportswear), Levis, Denims, Featherweight Hip Waders, Socks, Underwear. 30-60-90 day charge accounts available. The Toggery.

ADVERTISEMENT – Don't Gamble with your Fishing Catch! Get your easy-to-carry Handy Cooler. Now! Only $16.95, and be sure you have a supply of crushed ice so the first catch of the season will not spoil before you get home! Union Ice. Open all days Sundays. 215 N Mill.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fisherman's Luck begins with good tackle. Don't miss the big opening day! Saturday, May 1st. This year—as always—The Sportsman Shop is your headquarters for fishing needs. We can start you on your way to good fishing with a complete outfit for as little as $7.50. Here's what you get – 8-ft. collapsible telescopic pole, Pfleuger single action reel, line, hooks, leader and shot. Everything you need to land the big ones! Complete line of camping gear, knives, snake bite kits. Get your licenses here. The Sportsman Shop. S&H Green Stamps. 120 So. Eighth St.

FISH, GAME COMMISSION TELL COUNTY-BY-COUNTY TROUT SPOTS – Sacramento – One of the best opening week-ends in recent years is in store for most California trout anglers when the inaugurate the six-month-long early trout angling season Saturday morning.

Wardens of the Department of Fish and Game make the prediction, but qualify it with reminders that late April weather can, and often does, upset even the best-informed guesses. Storms or continued warm weather will contribute to high, unclear waters in most of the state.

Generally, the wardens' advance predictions paint a rosy picture. Southern California trout waters have been flowing at their post-war best, allowing heavy plants of catchable-sized trout.

Central and northern state streams are in better than normal conditions.

The department's trout hatcheries are adding to the glowing opening week-end prospects by producing an all-time high record of six to 10-inch fish. If full production is allowed, some seven million pounds will go into California trout waters this year.

A new restriction on the use of fish for bait will be in effect in waters of 20 mountain counties. The use of any fish, or parts of any fish, for bait is outlawed.

The trout angling season opens May 29 in Alpine, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Sierra, Plumas, and Del Norte counties, and in waters tributary to the ocean on the coast of Humboldt County. Tahoe, Donner, Boca, Butt, Bucks, Earl, Talawa, and Pillsbury lakes in the late season counties will open May 1.

The wardens advance outlook for the May 1 opening locally, county by county:

…Ventura – very good to excellent. Plenty of water. Roads in good condition except where crossing streams. Most streams planted. Best bets: Sespe, Piru, Matilija, and Santa Paula Creeks.

PROMISE BOATS ON LAKE MATILIJA – Steps were taken by the Board of Supervisors yesterday to put boats on Lake Matilija.

At the suggestion of Bob Andrews, the board referred the matter of allowing boating and fishing on the lake to Public Works Director Neil B. Faunce. He will come up with a plan calling for one of three things:

1. A contract with Ed Irwin, who runs the fishing pier at Ventura, to put canoes and rowboats on the lake.

2. Call for bids from private individuals and firms.

3. Operation of boating concession by the county itself. Andrews revealed the city of San Diego does this at a handsome profit.

Behind the Cachuma Dam in Santa Barbara County the boat concession is leased to a private firm, Andrews said. Whatever is done, one thing seems certain—no power boats will be allowed.

Water has been flowing over the dam since Feb. 18, and during each of the recent storms there has been considerable water coming into the lake from the adjacent watershed. Water conditions in the Ventura River valley are reported better now than at this time a year ago, but in the Ojai Valley the elevation of ground water averages 23 feet lower than it was a year ago—with tables reported 18 to 28 feet lower by Richard H. Jamison, county hydraulic engineer.

The inflow of water into the lake on March 31 this year was 46 second feet. Last year it was 10 second feet.

REGULATIONS ISSUED BY STATE TO GOVERN 1954 FISH SEASON – The state of California has established the following regulations for the summer trout season, exclusive of the Colorado River area—

Seasons: May 29 to October 31 in the following counties: Alpine, El Dorado (except Lake Tahoe), Placer (except Lake Tahoe), Nevada (except Donner Lake and Boca Reservoir), Sierra, Plumas (except Bucks and Butt Lake), Del Norte (except Earl and Talawa lakes); and in waters tributary to the Pacific Ocean on the coast of Humboldt County.

May 1 to October 31 in remainder of the state, including Lake Tahoe, Donner Lake, Boca Reservoir, Butt Lake, Bucks Lake, and Lake Pillsbury; Stone, Big, Freshwater and Clam Beach lagoons in Humboldt County, Earl and Talawa lakes in Del Norte County; north fork Yuba River and Canyon Creek where they form the common boundary with Yuba County.

Bag and possession limits: 15 trout; salmon, or mountain whitefish, or any combination thereof. No more than 10 pounds and one fish in the aggregate in the round may be possessed, provided that, irrespective of weight, at least three trout, salmon or whitefish, or nay combination thereof, may be taken between May 1 and October 31, in Lake Merced, San Francisco County, and in Lake Tahoe, Placer and El Dorado counties, bag and possession limit is five trout. In Shasta Lake, Shasta County, bag and possession limit is five Kokanee salmon.

Angling hours: From one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, except Bucks Lake, Plumas County, where trout may be taken at any hour during the open season.

License Provisions: An angling license is required by any person 16 years of age, or over, for the taking of any kind of fish, mollusk, or crustacean, in the waters of the state, except as follows:

Members of the armed forces of the United States on active duty, bearing suitable identification; persons fishing from a public pier in waters of the Pacific Ocean (all of the open sea adjacent to the coast and islands of California and the waters of those enclosed bays and open roadsteads which are contiguous to or lie next to the ocean).

Angling license year: January 1 to December 31.

Fish caught under authority of an angling license may not be sold.

“Resident” means a citizen of the United States who has resided continuously in the state of California for six months or more prior to the date of application for license.

ADVERTISEMENT – Everything for the Fisherman. Head for the Streams Saturday with a Complete Outfit from Chapek's! Don't risk getting caught short of any of your fishing gear. A complete spinning outfit, the famous Airex Spinster Kit for only $29.45 complete. Includes: Airex Spinning Reel and Kit, Fiberglass Rod, Line, Lures. Creels, baits, poles, lures, hooks, knives, camping needs. Get your fishing license here! See our window display of fishing gear! Chapek's Hardware, Housewares, Paints. 819 Main St.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Opens Saturday, May 1. If you're goin' fishing See Prindle's. Complete Supplies for the Fisherman. Super Duper Spinners, hold the record for catching largest and most trout in California! Bethel Spinners, Fibre Glass Fishing Poles. Prindle's Fishing Pole Shop. Open Evenings and Sunday. 8th and Harvard.

ADVERTISEMENT – Let's Go Fishin' on May 1st. Trout Season will open with a Big Bang! Come on in, we can tell you the likely spot and there are a lot of 'em this year! Good Fishing Gear makes a good trip! Buy your license and outdoor equipment at Watkins Hardware Company.

April 30, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ALONG THE MUPU TRAIL – They can have their birds and their bees, we'll take the trout. Fishing season starts tomorrow!

The great day is finally at hand—the day when all things in life seem less important than being on lake and stream, with an appetite for trout, a fishing rod in hand, and a heart filled with faith in yourself as a fisherman. Our friend Blackie, who's going to cast his lot with the Matilija Reservoir set, has commented to this extent about the crowd he expects to find there. "When that gun goes off tomorrow morning, with all the sinkers that's going to be tossed in at once on that lake, be tossed in at once on that lake, they'll set up a doggone tidal wave!"

We'll see you at one or another of the fishing spots throughout the county.

COUNTY LISTED ANGLING PROSPECTS AS SEASON OPENS – Ventura County is one of the nine top California counties when it comes to finding the finny fellows in the streams and lakes opening week-end, according to the United Press today. Other counties listed as "tops" on opening days are Kern, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Mono, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego and Sonoma.

Some counties were listed as "poor" fishing prospects this week-end: Alameda, Colusa, Fresno, Lassen, Marin, Modoc, San Benito, Santa Clara, Siskiyou and Trinity.

Santa Paula and Sisar creeks are expected to be literally crawling with eager fishermen come sunrise tomorrow morning—many of who will be seen camping overnight beside

the streams or in their cars. The Sespe near Fillmore, too, will be a favored spot over the week-end.

Fishermen in 20 mountain counties will be operating under a new regulation prohibiting the use of many fish or parts of fish but salmon or trout eggs for bait.

The May 1 opening is effective in all counties but Alpine, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Sierra, Plumas and Del Norte counties, and in waters tributary to the ocean o0n the coast of Humboldt County. The season opening in these counties comes May 29.

Eight lakes in the late season counties open on May 1, however. They are Tahoe, Donner, Boca, Butt, Bucks, Earl, Talawa and Pillsbury lakes.

The new restriction on bait in the 20 mountain counties fits in the Department of Fish and Game program for rehabilitating lakes that become overpopulated with non-game, rough fish. The entire fish population of such a lake is killed with a chemical which does not harm plant life or other non-fish organisms in the water.

When the chemical has cleared, the department restocks the lakes with catchable-sized fish or fingerlings. The ratio of catchable to fingerling depends on the popularity and accessibility of the lake.

If a catch of 50 per cent or more of a lake's population is anticipated, the department will plant mostly catchable fish.

Under previous regulations, the only restriction to bait was that it had to be native of the waters in which it was used. This was designed to prevent the introduction of rough fish into a lake.

But the regulation was nearly impossible to enforce, as the game warden had little chance to prove whether minnows a given fisherman were using for bait had come from the lake on which he was fishing. The new regulation, prohibiting the use of all fish or parts of fish but salmon or trout eggs, will remove this obstacle and should prevent rough fish from taking over lakes as they have done in the past.

In southern California, the situation is different because more fishermen use live bait. The regulation in the southern counties—as well as all the counties other than the 20 in the mountains—has only two restrictions on use of live bait. It cannot be goldfish or carp.

Actually, the problem of rough fish in southern lakes does not appear to be much less acute than in the mountainous areas, as the department has found it practical to eradicate fish populations in several lakes there too. But the restriction of bait to salmon or trout eggs in southern California would cause a hardship on fishermen.

May 12, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CHARGE FISHERMEN, SUPERVISORS ASKED – The Board of Supervisors yesterday was asked to tie a $1 per car fee to fishing privileges at Lake Matilija, as Santa Barbara County does at Cachuma Dam. Making the request was Ray Bennick, a fisherman of land standing in the Ojai area.

State wardens, he said, have checked cars parked at the lake and have found the fishermen come from Los Angeles County to the tune of nine to one. He advocated charging one dollar per car for fishermen, but not picnickers, on Saturdays and Sundays and allowing fishing free of charge on week-days.

Supervisor Bob Andrews agreed, saying fishermen might appreciate the privilege a little more if they had to pay. As it is now, he said, they throw too much trash in the lake.

June 2, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HOO'S NOO? – by Grace Wilvert, Greeting Service Hostess – This is the beautiful month of June. It bespeaks of brides, school graduations, out-of-door living, lazy days at the beach, camping and all kinds of things to do with leisure time. Our family enjoyed an especially interesting outing recently. I'll tell you the high spots and recommend this outing experience to any family.

We provided ourselves with coffee makings, charcoal, diced, boiled, seasoned potatoes wrapped in aluminum foil, French bread and butter, and hied ourselves up Ojai road to Rainbow Meadows to catch a mess of trout. Such fun we had! The trout pool is located in a beautiful meadow adjoining Santa Paula Creek about four miles from town. It was an exciting time we had catching our fish for breakfast. We found that charcoal braziers were available at the fishing site so, on the spot, we had barbecued trout, potatoes browned in the foil and toasted French bread, and of course, the wonderfully aromatic coffee brewed in the woods. Altogether good fun!

June 30, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – Opening Thursday July 1st El Rancho Cola Guest Ranch. Box Office opens at 5 a.m. Admission: $1.25 and 75c. El Rancho Cola's Deepcat Lake opens to the public for the first time! Trout fishing at its best. Native trout plus thousands of fishable size trout recently planted by the state fish and game department. For the entertainment bargain of the year see about the El Rancho Cola Anglers Pass. The Anglers Pass and car sticker admits you, your family and friends without the usual admission charge. The Anglers Pass will give you a place to go 365 days a year. Enjoy Fishing, Picnicing, Parking, Roping Arena contests, Putting Green, Driving Range, and Barn Dancing with the Anglers Pass. It will include them all. You may obtain one of the limited number of Anglers Passes at the following places of business: Matt's Key and Gun Shop, Rocky Tallman's Side Car, El Rancho Cola, The Sportsman, Oxnard Sporting Goods.

June 30, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LAKE MATILIJA LEASED BY COUNTY FROM FLOOD BOARD – Lake Matilija was leased for one dollar a year by the Board of Supervisors yesterday, from the Flood Control District, and the public works director was directed to draw up a schedule of fees and regulations for the use of the lake by boat owners and fishermen.

Neil B. Faunce, public works director, said this will take two weeks. Then he will make his final recommendations to the board concerning public use of the lake. He previously recommended that no concessions of any nature be allowed at the lake.

It is a terminal water supply, he said, and the county should keep the right to close it to public use on 24 hours' notice at any time the water supply is considered too low. Concession contracts might delay such procedure, he argued.

The lease was okayed yesterday at the instigation of Supervisor Bob Andrews of Ojai, who reported in writing (he was absent) on a recent survey he made of boating and fishing arrangements at Lake Henshaw in San Diego County. As a result of this survey he recommended that the county lease the lake area and allow boating.

Faunce told the board, Ventura County boat owners could be charged five dollars a year for the privilege of using their boats on the lake. Out-of-county boaters should be charged one dollar each time they use the lake, he said.

Andrews estimated the cost of the project—with a boat landing, sanitary facilities and one or two full-time caretakers—at $10,000 a year. Of this, Faunce said, more than half could be returned to the county through fees charged for parking and boating.

The board also took under consideration a petition bearing 57 names circulated by Gordon C. Pugsley of Oxnard, protesting the use of the lake for motor boats or regattas. "It would be detrimental to trout fishing and would limit its use to the privileged few with boats," the petition stated.

Faunce disagreed with the signers of the petition and said in his opinion Lake Matilija should not be restricted to any one group, either boaters or fishermen, but should be kept open to all as a public service. Boaters are going to have to get along with fishermen at the lake and vice versa, he said, or the lake would have to be closed to public use.

Members of the board voiced agreement with this stand.

August 24, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

HUNTING, FISHING POPULAR SPORTS, ROTARIANS TOLD – Hunting and fishing are the greatest "participation" sports in the United States, members of the Santa Paula Rotary Club were advised yesterday by D.A. Clanton, assistant superintendent of fish

hatcheries for the State Department of Fish and Game. Clanton was the speaker at the club's weekly luncheon session at Masonic Temple. William Fiske, foreman of the state hatchery at Fillmore, was a guest of the club.

Clanton, who was introduced by Program Chairman Tom Harrison, told his listeners that there were 32 million hunting and fishing licenses issued in the United States last year. In California, there were 1,100,000 licenses issued in 1953 and 10 percent increase is anticipated this year, he said. In 1937, only 327,000 licenses were issued.

All of the operating expense of the department of fish and game comes from license revenue, Clanton declared. The only aid to the department is an appropriation from the general fund for capital outlay.

Clanton, who was at one time superintendent of the Fillmore hatchery, told his visitors that he had laid his rifle and shotgun away in 1926 for the simple reason, as he put, that he "didn't want to get shot."

The day of planting the fingerling trout is on the way out, he said, except in the high Sierras. Survival of fingerling trout has diminished greatly. The hatcheries now develop catchable trout to 6 or 7 inches for planting lakes and streams.

Inyo County and Mono County were first and second in trout planting last year, and San Bernardino third. Ventura County was 27th with 109,000 fingerlings and 12th in catchable trout with 33,000. Only 1 per cent of the state's catchable waters lie south of Tehachapis, he noted.

<u>September 2, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

IKE VETOES "UN-AMERICAN TROUT" BILL – Fraser, Colo. (UP) – President Eisenhower today vetoed the so-called "Un-American Trout Bill" (S2033) on grounds it was oppressive against foreign trade and unnecessary to prevent fraud and deception.

In a memorandum of disapproval, the President announced his reasons for killing the bill, which would have required restaurants selling foreign trout to display prominent signs proclaiming the national origin of the fish.

The bill also would have required certain changes in the packaging of imported trout.

Mr. Eisenhower acknowledges claims by the bill's supporters that certain merchants and restaurants in recent years had served imported trout under the guise of Rocky Mountain or Rainbow trout, thus depriving domestic trout producers of some of their market.

But, the President felt that the tariff act and the federal food, drug and cosmetic act now provide sufficient safeguards against fraud and deception.

"Furthermore," Mr. Eisenhower said, "the provisions (of the bill) are discriminatory and oppressive against foreign trade, and to a very substantial extent that would invade a field of regulation and enforcement which I believe should be left to the state and localities."

October 20, 1954 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RECORD RAINBOW CAUGHT AT MATILIJA – A rainbow trout measuring almost 21 inches in length was landed from the waters of Lake Matilija this week by a Silver Strand Beach angler, and a woman at that – Mrs. Gordon Pugsley.

The catch was made from a rowboat on Monday, according to the boat concessionaire, Thomas Boyle. Also taken over the week-end were an 18-inch rainbow, two of 17 inches and one 15 inches long. Boyle said today he is going to award a prize to the fisherman bringing in the largest fish from one of his boats before the season closes the 31st of this month.

December 7, 1954 – Oxnard Courier

HUNTING AND FISHING – by Hal Totten. …Surf fishing is fair along local beaches. But the best season is from February to June when the big spawners arrive.

All is quiet on the steelhead front. Additional rains may bring fish up our streams. Several fish have been reported caught at Morro.

December 30, 1954 – Oxnard Courier

HUNTING AND FISHING – …No figures are available on most species of fresh water fishing, but 1953 was a record year, according to post card surveys made by the Department of Fish and Game. And with an increased plant of catchables in 1954, it appears that the catch will at least equal last years 22,350,000 trout and 22,000,000 other species caught.

1955

January 20, 1955 – Oxnard Courier

HUNTING AND FISHING – …Several steelhead trout have been reported caught at the mouth of Port Hueneme harbor.

One of the fish was hooked by Marshall Moore while trolling just outside the harbor in his outboard motor boat.

The steelhead season ends Feb. 28.

January 22, 1955 – Oxnard Courier

YOUNG OFFERS FISHING PRIZE – A fishing contest for local anglers opened today with Al Young offering a new reel to the fisherman who catches the heaviest steelhead trout before the season ends on Feb. 28.

Young said that anyone who lands a steelhead should bring it to Young Brothers Sporting Goods store at 821 South Oxnard boulevard for official weighing. The contest winner will receive a Penn Monofil No. 25 reel.

February 1, 1955 – Oxnard Courier

ADVERTISEMENT – Free! Free! Penn No. 25 Monofil Reel for Largest Steelhead Caught at Pt. Hueneme or Vicinity. You must register first. Young Bros. Sporting Goods. 821 So. Oxnard Blvd. Your Fishing Headquarters. Mercury Outboard Motors, Glasspar Boats.

February 1, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

RAINBOW MEADOWS REOPENED BY ALASKA COUPLE – by Wally Smith – Prizes await the fisherman who is lucky enough to snag onto one of the 16-inch trout who are the granddaddies at Rainbow Meadows Trout Farm north of Santa Paula, which opened again for business yesterday. A few of the 16-inchers are in the ponds, according to Karl G Wollarth—recently of Alaska—who has bought the fishing spot from John Gallio.

But most of them are eight to 10 inches long.

Eventually a pond will be reserved for fly casters. But Wollarth won't bring this about until most of the easy-to-catch trout have been eliminated from this pond. When the time is ripe he'll reserve it expressly for those who want to brush up on their fly casting methods, and they'll be charged by the hour instead of by the fish.

No trees will lie in wait behind the caster to snag his airborne hook, as happens sometimes, because behind the angler is a smaller pond.

Wollarth's wife, Honey, will help him operate the ponds. During yesterday's grand opening free coffee was held out as bait for the fishermen, and other special inducements were offered. But Wollarth expects business to pick up to the point where "bank night" tactics are not necessary and Rainbow Meadows is a going concern.

Wollarth was a commercial salmon troller in Alaska.

He has installed barbecue pits and picnic tables and picnic parties will be welcome any time. Soft drinks are being sold, but no alcoholic beverages—which should be an inducement to Santa Paulans to spend their Sunday afternoons at his Highway 150 resort.

Bluegill and catfish will be stocked in one of the ponds for the enjoyment of youngsters just learning to fish, Wollarth says. He charges a small fee for each car entering the park and this entitles the driver to his first fish free of additional cost.

Night fishing is another inducement offered by Wollarth. The ponds are closed on Saturdays until sundown as a lure for night fishermen. And he plans to wholesale and retail a commodity useful to those who like to ambush the finny fellows as they swim by—angleworms.

For the fisherman who wants to keep his casting arm in good repair while awaiting the opening day of the trout season, Wollarth's trout farm seems the answer to a prayer.

Our guess is he'll like it better than Alaska.

<u>February 17, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle</u>

FILLMORE HATCHERY NOT AFFECTED BY RARE FISH MALADY – The state fish hatchery at Fillmore has not been hit by the strange malady attacking rainbow fingerlings and steelhead in other hatcheries throughout the state.

Dr. Ross Nigrelle, an outstanding New York pathologist who specializes in fish diseases, has been called to the aid of the Department of Fish and Game in an effort to solve the riddle posed by the mysterious malady. It has attacked fish at Darrah Springs, Mt. Shasta and Crystal Lake hatcheries, the East Side reservoir in Napa County, in Lake Merced, and in Darrah and Battle Creeks in Shasta County.

Only at Darrah Springs has it reached epidemic proportions. So far the disease has wiped out 300,000 steelhead and one-third of the 360,000 British Columbia rainbow trout at the Darrah hatchery.

February 22, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS – Steelhead Run – California anglers from 39 counties caught about one-fourth of the steelhead trout making this season's Sacramento River run, but are not over-harvesting the fish, according to the Department of Fish and Game.

The preliminary figures were determined from studies made to the river from Fremont Weir near Sacramento to Redding, the best steelhead waters of the entire system.

The studies also revealed that hatchery-reared steelhead yearlings planted during the past two years accounted for eight per cent of the adults in the run.

March 8, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

TROUT SEASON HERE WILL BE APRIL 30 – Although local sports groups badgered the Fish & Game Commission to advance the opening of the fishing season here to either the third or 16th of April, the commission has announced an April 30 opening for Ventura County. Sportsmen here were of the opinion an earlier opening would draw hundreds more fishermen to Sespe and Santa Paula creeks because of higher water levels, and the fire hazard would be lessened.

Trout seasons:
April 2 to October 31 – Topaz Lake, Mono County.
April 16 to October 31 – San Diego County.
May 14 to October 31 – Counties of Alpine, Butte, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Sierra, Yuba and Plumas, including Bucks Lake and Butt Lake in Plumas, and Donner Lake in Plumas, and Donner Lake and Boca Reservoir in Nevada County.
May 28 to October 31 – Del Norte County, Eel River drainage except Pillsbury Lake in Lake County and tributaries above the dam, and all of Humboldt County except the lagoons.
April 30 to October 31 – Balance of state, including Pillsbury Lake and lagoons in Humboldt County.

March 22, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SPOLTLIGHT ON SPORTS – Planting Trout Now. First plantings of what the Department of Fish and Game estimates will be a total of nearly 7,000,000 catchable sized trout between now and the end of October are under way in California waters.

San Diego county waters received the first plants in preparation for the new April 16th trout opening, set last month by the Fish and Game Commission. Other Southern California waters and most of the rest of the state open April 30.

April 25, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle
BANNER – Let's Go Fishing! Trout Season Opens Saturday April 30! A Feature Page of Information and Ideas for Santa Paula Fishermen.

STORM WILL EFFECT CENTRAL SIERRAS FOR TROUT OPENER – The outlook for April 30 trout opening remains fair to good with low and clear streams forecast for most areas despite a storm two weeks before opening day, the Department of Fish and Game reported today.

Following is the nearby county-by-county reports from Fish and Game wardens for areas opening April 30:

Santa Barbara – Cachuma Lake best bet, Gibraltar Reservoir next best, Santa Ynez Lagoon stocked, fair. Middle Santa Ynez River best of roadside streams. Santa Cruz Creek fair for hikers or packers. Davey Brown and Manzana Creeks too low. All waters extremely low and water temperatures high.

Ventura – Matilija, Deepcat, and Wheatley's Lakes better than usual. Sespe, Santa Paula and Piru Creeks best streams. North Fork Matilija in Wheeler's Gorge and Reyes Creek best of small streams. Others poor. No fish in Piru and Saticoy spreading grounds.

(Other counties are not listed.)

'VENTURA COUNTY TROUT PROSPECTS GOOD' – SPICER – Next Saturday, April 30, marks the opening day of trout fishing in Ventura County and through various regions of the state.

And, according to the State and Fish and Game Warden John Spicer, Ventura County trout fisherman should have better than average luck in the opening days of the season.

Lake Matilija just above Ojai should be the better spot with some of the other smaller lakes and streams taking a back seat to prospective results.

Matilija has been planted twice and plans call for another stock before April 30 if the weather permits. The department is also trying to plant every available creek where the water is deep and cool enough for tout to survive, thereby spreading out the fishing areas.

An earlier season opening, such as San Diego County is having, would be a help in Ventura County this year, Spicer said, since it would give fishermen more of a chance to try their luck before the streams ran dry.

Spicer said he expects to check about 2,500 anglers in Matilija canyon alone on opening day, as he has in the past. And as usual, there'll be those who try to sneak a line in a little before the deadline, and those who try to get home with more than the limit and those who are still trying to get by on last year's fishing license.

For those fishermen who are conscientiously trying to stay within the law, Spicer pointed out there is one important new regulation this trout season. That is the ban on chumming, or spreading bait on the surface of the water to attract fish.

Chumming has been outlawed mainly because some fishermen were using harmful substances with which to attract the fish to the surface.

Despite the fact it's a dry year, and several county streams have dried up completely, Spicer lists seven main areas in the county where fishing should be good—on opening day, at least. Matilija Lake and Matilija canyon area offer the best opportunities, he said.

But also available to county anglers are Santa Ana and Coyote creeks, Wheeler Gorge, Howard, Lyon canyon and Piedra Blanca creeks and of course, the Sespe and its tributaries.

The idea of a special kids fishing hole, started last year, will be part of the program this season too.

The area from 150 feet below Matilija dam to the Ojala crossing has been set aside for kids 16-years-old and younger and will be well stocked on opening day, Spicer said. The kids need no fishing license.

Spicer does not think that the April 24 motor boat racing on Matilija will effect the fishing.

WINTER SEASON GOOD – Generally speaking the 1954-55 winter salmon and steelhead season was good with steelhead caught up to 20 pounds. Salmon were smaller than average, the department of fish and game noted, but the run was about equal in numbers to the good runs of 1953-54.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing is Fun! But….don't let car trouble spoil your trip to those out-of-way places! Make sure of your….tires, lights, battery, gas, oil. See us before you leave. Bill's Associated Svc. 701 Main Street.

ADVERTISEMENT – Prindle's has complete supplies for the Fishermen! See us now! Fishing Season opens next Saturday, April 30. We have….Super Duper Spinners….these spinners hold the record for catching the most trout in California; Bethel spinners, fibre glass fishing poles, fresh worms. Prindle's Pole Shop. Open Evenings and Sundays.

ADVERTISEMENT – It's Chapek's for….everything for the fishermen. A complete selection Fishing Gear. Tackle for Trout or Ocean Fishing. Rods, lines, reels, lures, spinners, creels, baits. Don't risk getting caught short of any of your fishing gear…See Us First! Full lines of camping gear also…Knives, Lanterns. Get your Fishing License Here. Chapek's Hardware, Houseware, Paints.

ADVERTISEMENT – Fishing Season Opens April Saturday, April 30. Get your gear in shape now! Poles – spinning and casting; reels – spinning & ocean type; creels – canvas styles. We have an excellent stock of small lures, leaders, hooks and accessories. Lures and hooks. Hooks both loose and snelled, spinning lures and bass plugs as well as

trolling gear. Let's go fishing. All you need in camping equipment. Get your fishing license at ….Watkin's Hardware Store.

ADVERTISEMENT – A good sing…Gone Fishing. Well equipped with gear from the Sportsman's shop fisherman's headquarters. Fisherman's luck begins with good tackle. Shop here for the best! Season opens April 30th. We can start you on your way to good fishing with a Complete Outfit for as little as $11.95…includes: glass spinner rod, spinning reel and line. Get your Fishing License here. The Sportsman Shop.

April 26, 1955 – Los Angeles Times

FISH 'N' GAME – by Jack Curnow. …It's open season on trout this Saturday. Following is a list of waters planted by the DFB in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Ventura County. Deep Cat Lake, Howard Creek, Lockwood Creek, Matilija Creek, North Fork, Matilija Reservoir, Piru Creek (Frenchman Flat areas and Gold Hill area), Reyes Creek, Santa Paula Creek, Sespe Creek Lower, Sespe Creek Upper, Ventura Creek, North Fork, Wheatley's Lake.

April 28, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

STREAMS NEVER LOWER, SAYS STATE FISHING EXPERT – Los Angeles (UP) – Trout season opens in southern California Saturday and a state department of fish and game official said today a record number of anglers will find more fish in less water than ever before.

Ward D. Gillilan, supervisor of conservation education for southern California, said three and a half million catchable rainbows and two and a half million fingerlings will be dumped into southern California waters during the season which closes Oct. 31.

More than 650,000 catchable trout products of six hatcheries already are in lakes and streams.

But the "streams in Southern California probably never were lower," Gillilan said. "Even in the Inyo-Mono area the snow pack is only about 55 per cent of normal."

April 29, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ADVERTISEMENT – I will donate a fine prize to Santa Paula Fisherman catching the heaviest trout at Matilija Reservoir this season!! Each entry must be weighed at Ferree's Meat Market, Santa Paula Supermarket. More particulars later.

FISHING SEASON OPENS TOMORROW – Although southern California streams are said by game officials to be the lowest they have been years, Santa Paula fishermen are sorting out their flies, oiling up their reels and dusting out the creels in anticipation of the opening of the fishing season tomorrow morning.

A record number of anglers is expected to hie to the hills in search of fishable waters—and they'll be hard to find.

Hatcheries have planted as many fish as practicable in the low streams and behind the dams, and these are not expected to last long. More than 650,000 catchable trout from six hatchers have been planted.

May 3, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

OPENING DAY STORM OF BENEFIT TO ANGLERS, FISH & GAME SAYS – Department of Fish and Game officials sympathize with those anglers who were washed out on opening day trout fishing or those who favorite streams were high and roily, but recent storms were worth plenty for the state's fish life.

Although it is too early to evaluate the increase in stream runoff which will result, there will be plenty of benefits for trout.

Division of Water Resources estimates that there will be a 10 percent increase in runoff, which on some streams means the difference between thousands of trout and young steelhead dying in dried up pools, or living to be creeled by the angler another day.

In some areas it will mean a postponement of fish rescue operations by the Department and a better chance of survival for thousands of fish.

In other areas the storm will mean that streams which already had dropped to mid-summer levels will be alive for another two or three months.

Reservoirs which had reached ten-year low levels are slowly climbing. More water means better fishing and more fishing opportunities.

Also highly important, in some areas of the state, the storm will mean a postponement of fire closures which every year cut off many miles of streams and scores of lakes from the angling list.

So if opening day turned out to be a disappointment to some anglers are advised to keep in mind that the storm was the best thing that could have happened to California fish, and in turn, to California fishermen.

May 23, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

EACH FISHERMEN PAYS 16 CENTS TO RAISE TROUT – It costs the California license holder 16 cents to hatch, raise and plant a catchable-sized trout. The cost of raising and planting a fingerling trout is one cent. A decrease in these costs can be expected in the future.

These and many other facts highlighted the first complete cost accounting survey of all California hatcheries for the 1953-54 fiscal year, made public today by Seth Gordon, director of the Department of Fish and Game.

During the fiscal year the Department hatcheries planted 5,261,740 catchable trout weighing 796,384 pounds, and 12,512,282 fingerlings weighing 46,747 pounds.

Average cost per pound for raising and stocking all fish was $1.07 and total operating cost for hatcheries and stocking was $997,368.47.

The decrease in costs is expected to come in two ways, the report shows. One is that seven highly inefficient and costly small hatcheries which were in operation during that fiscal year have been abandoned. Secondly, recent experiments show that improved fish foods and feeding methods should result in lower costs.

June 13, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

CALIFORNIA WATERS NOW GETTING NEW TROUT – Sacramento (UP) – Some 9,000,000 rainbow trout, the largest number of fish of catchable size ever to be planted in California lakes and streams, are being distributed now by the State Department of Fish and Game.

During the next six months some 1,500,000 pounds of trout will find their way into California waters and eventually into the creels of anglers all over the state.

The fish and game men will also plant about 13,000,000 fingerlings in the mountain lakes in remote areas by air, and in a few instances, where the country is too dangerous for aerial seeding, the department will pack fish in by mule.

June 29, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

ANESTHESIA ON TROUT INCREASES EGG FERTILITY – Use of anesthetic-type drugs on trout brood stock during the egg taking phase of hatchery work has resulted in higher fertility of the eggs and less injury to the spawners, the Department of Fish and Game reports.

Used this year for the first time as a routine, experimental work on the process began three years ago.

When ready for the egg taking process, the female spawners from hatchery brood stock are placed in tanks to which either ethyl carbomate or cholorobutanol have been added in solution.

Within one to three minutes the fish become unconscious, and the egg taking is completed without the usual struggle on the part of the trout, and possible injury.

Some 7,000 adult females from hatchery brood stock at Mt. Shasta, Hot Creek and Mt. Whitney Hatcheries are anesthetized annually at egg taking time. Stock from which eggs are taken in the field do not get the treatment, although this number is comparatively small.

ADVERTISEMENT – For that special occasion! The whole family will enjoy fishing at Rainbow Meadows Trout Farm. 5 miles north of Santa Paula on highway 150—2 miles above Sulphur Springs. Fun – Fishing – Picnicing (Closed Saturdays).

July 19, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

SUITE SEEKING TO MOVE FILLMORE HATCHERY OPENS – A suit seeking to have the state abandon or move the fish hatchery at Fillmore got under way yesterday before Judge Charles Blackstock in Superior Court at Ventura.

The suit was filed by a group of Piru ranchers on Sept. 11, 1950, naming the State Fish and Game Commission and others as defendants, alleging that the hatchery takes water from the Piru underground storage basin and later dumps it into the Fillmore basin. There are more than 100 defendants and plaintiffs and about a dozen attorneys involved in the suit. The trial is expected to last several months, and is being watched by water agencies and other groups throughout the state as a "test case."

August 19, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

LOCAL CREEKS GET RESTOCKED WITH CATCHABLE TROUT – Los Angeles (UP) – The State Department of Fish and Game announced today it is restocking catchable-size rainbow trout in the following southern California lakes and streams:

Los Angeles County: Big Rock Creek, Crystal Lake, Little Rock Reservoir, east fork of the San Gabriel River and west fork of the San Gabriel River.

San Bernardino County: Middle fork of Lytle Creek and the north fork of Lytle Creek.

Ventura County: Howard Creek, Matilija Reservoir and Santa Paula Creek.

August 21, 1955 – Los Angeles Times

ANGLER'S LUCK REDUCED IF FISH HATCHERY CLOSED – Ventura, Aug. 20. – A one-third reduction in fish planting in Southern California would result from closing the Fillmore Fish Hatchery, according to testimony here in a water rights suit brought by Piru ranchers against the State Fish and Game Commission and a number of water companies.

Testifying was D.A. Clanton, assistant supervisor of hatcheries for the Southern California area of the Department of Fish and Game He was the second witness for the

defense, following Carl Wolf of The Sespe Land & Water Co. on the witness stand in the 12th day of trial.

He reported that the hatchery has produced 1,197,448 fish—or 80,154 pounds of fish—in 1955. Last year the production totaled 579,560 fish, or 62,565 pounds, and in 1953 it was 1,342,287 fish or 87,874 pounds.

Of the yield, Ventura County in 1955 received 93,410 trout, Clanton said. The remainder went to Santa Barbara, 108,130; San Bernardino, 32,720 and Los Angeles, 35,160.

For the 14 years in which the hatchery has been operating a total of 6,732,714 trout have been shipped out to counties, he said. Included were Ventura, 1,272,628; San Bernardino, 2,386,254; Los Angeles 1,422,863, and the smallest amount, Fresno, 25,200.

The ranchers have maintained that fish hatchery use of water along with similar uses by water companies in the area, have taken water that might have been used by the ranchers for expansion of an agricultural activity in the area. They say the water is rightfully theirs and that the water companies and fish hatcheries should be required to find other sources of supply.

October 1, 1955 – Santa Paula Chronicle

FISH HATCHERY LAWSUIT GOES INTO SECOND WEEK AT VENTURA – The five-year-old lawsuit filed by Piru ranchers seeking to force abandonment of the State Fish Hatchery at Fillmore went into its second week of trial before Judge Charles F. Blackstock yesterday in Ventura. The trial is on the court calendar for four weeks, although those "in the know" believe it will drag on for months unless an out-of-court settlement is reached.

Rancher George R. Moisling, testifying as one of the plaintiffs, said under cross-examination yesterday that although the water level at his ranch has dropped seriously during his 18 years there, he has no evidence that the hatchery's wells are responsible for any of the drop.

He testified he had filed no protest with the Fish and Game Commission about the hatchery's wells prior to inauguration of the lawsuit, in which more than 100 litigants are involved.

These admissions were wrung from Moisling under adroit cross-examination by one of three attorneys for the defense. The Moisling land lies on Howe road five miles east of the fish hatchery, and he and a neighbor, Vernon K. Johnson, have a 50-50 shared interest in one well used to irrigate their lands. The well has been deepened once in the past 18 years to a depth 20 feet below the originally tapped.

But Moisling answered yes when asked if this deepening might have been due to the increased use of surrounding lands for citrus orchards, rather than due to the operation of the hatchery since 1941.