

HUNTERS' CORNER

Who Will Land A 9-Pound Trout With Light Tackle?

The question is frequently asked: What did the record trout caught in this province weigh? This refers to speckled or brook trout and not Rainbow trout. I have weighed trout for some other lucky angler that weighed six pounds six and a quarter was the biggest I ever got my hands on. One trout I heard about weighed seven and a half pounds. This particular trout was lifted from under a bridge at Head of St. Peter's Bay via the wire necklace route and little publicity was given at the time over this feat.

and section of his shoulder—all same large codfish. Mr. Ross told me they were there the year before—at least it was the first time he saw them. Conditions had to be right to see them. Late that season they disappeared. Years later I learned via the 'grapevine' the big fellow had been drawn to the surface by a noose slipped over his head. It was weighed on ordinary potato scales and went eight pounds strong. A trout of that poundage would be a tough customer to handle on rod and line. He'd either high tail it downstream or sulk under the slabs till the line was cuffed through.

RECENTLY I was told by a man now living in the city that he saw a trout removed from a net that weighed nine pounds. This trout had not gilled but in some way or another had gotten itself wrapped up in the net proper. As I have mentioned before in this column J. Frank Sterns, well known Souris sportsman, weighed one long years ago at their lobster factory on the north side that tipped the scales at nine pounds with head and entrails removed.

FROM NORTH LAKE This trout had been towed from a pool at the head of North Lake with a length of fence wire looped behind its gills. It gave two fishermen employed at the factory quite a tug of war before it was beached. Frank saw the trout in the cook house wash tub early Monday morning when he returned from the weekend spent in Souris.

Trout landed in that manner do not count — its the battlers who lose in a fair fight against sporting tackle. I am very doubtful whether or not an angler, be he ever so adept, could win a battle with a nine pound trout in a restricted pool or reedy tidal river head on Morrisons' Beach, Cardigan River, or on the clean, open stretch at the mouth of Fortune he might have a fighting chance if he had at least 300 feet of line on his reel.

I have been told by anglers they hooked into trout they never saw — the reel screamed till the line ran out and that was it. George Hooper, City, stalked a trout he used up with felt like his line was fast to the rear of a runaway freight train. The late James 'Jim' Skinner, Georgetown, told me in the days when I rode Prince the black bob-tailed Percheron, that they used to angle for trout, in the days when game law enforcement was non-existent, in January and February from motor boats in Georgetown Harbour.

TACKLE BUSTERS 'Jim' was a very interesting character. I used to put up there for the night and when the bitter late March winds whistled in the even we'd sit in front of a cosy wood fire and chat. They used ordinary bamboo poles in those days with bait on cod hooks. It was the usual thing to land four and five pounders but on many occasions they latched onto trout that kept on going till the line broke or the top of the pole snapped off clean. These are trout in some of our mill ponds that are real tackle busters unless one catches them napping. The late Sam Donovan pulled one out of MacPherson's Pond, Belfast, that weighed several ounces over six pounds. I know — I weighed it. Sam was out on a raft. He threw a hook, baited with all the worms it would hold over the side, and sat down to wait. During the waiting process he fell asleep. When he awoke he gave a pull on the line and thought at first it was fast in a log. I guess the big trout didn't know what was happening till he found himself high and dry on a raft with Sam sitting on him. He awoke from his doze too late.

Some years ago the late Gordon Ross pointed out two trout to me lying in the hole beneath the slabs. The water was clear and the light just right. Both were large but one was a monster. All I could see was his head

Back Stretch

(Continued from Page 6) Lewis) 1-1, Loretta Lee (M. Chasson) 2-2, Rajah Hanover (G. MacDonald) 3-3. Time, 1:06 4-5, 1:06 2-5. Inkus Truax is owned by William Young, Bras d'Or. Races 3 and 7—Shining Hour (W. Lewis) 1-5, Bonnyville (M. Chasson) 2-1, Becky Counsel (D. Cody) 4-2. Time 1:04 1-5, 1:05. Shining Hour is owned by Dan MacSween, Sydney, and Bonnyville by McKinnon and Roach, New Waterford.

Races 5 and 8—Carrier Pigeon (M. Chasson) 1-1, Blue Prince (J. Sutherland) 2-2, Lady Reamer (D. Cody) 3-3. Time, 1:06 4-5, 1:06 3-5. Carrier Pigeon is owned by James Collins, Glace Bay.

TRIPLE DEAD HEAT We are grateful to our friend Dr. Edward G. MacQuaid, Baltimore, Md., for a copy of The Evening Sun, published in that city. On the front page is a photo of the finish of the Class A Pace held at Buffalo Raceway on Saturday night, May 18. It was a triple dead-heat, the second three-way tie in harness racing history. It was between Crescendo with Driver Robert Shuttleworth, Adios Queen with Driver Jimmy Arthur, and Clever Counsel with Driver Bud Gilmour. The time was 2:06 4-5. The only other triple dead-heat occurred in 1954 at Freehold, N.J.

Another great friend of this column sends us the news that Earle Semple, noted Kensington, P.E.I. horseman, set the travelling record for the opening race meeting at Lewiston, Maine, which inaugurates the Pine Tree State circuit, oldest of all the half mile tracks circuits in the U.S.A. Racing will continue there through June 8. Earle brought ten trotters and sagers with him and they are described as being in splendid condition.

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