

Thursday, April 15, 1954

Letters to the Editor:

(Communications published in this department are strictly the statements and opinions of our correspondents, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Record-Searchlight. Letters should not be more than 300 words in length; the editor reserves the right to edit any communications to that length. All letters must be signed.—Editor's Note.)

WHO PLANTED LAKES

To the Editor: Following is a copy of a letter I have sent to Robert E. Jones, supervisor of Shasta national forest:

Dear Sir: I read in the April 2 issue of the Redding Record-Searchlight an article by you entitled "Alps Lakes to be named for Trinity Leaders" and no doubt it will go down in the annals of the forest service records and will become history.

As I am familiar with all the lakes in that area, and with few exceptions, know when and by whom they were first stocked with trout, I feel it is only fair to you and the public to inform you who they were that stocked them.

The first lake to be stocked in the Coffee Creek water shed was Holland or Stoddard lake on the head of East fork of Coffee. This lake was stocked by John R. Stoddard in the early 1900's. The fish were hauled from the nearest railroad station by team and wagon and then packed to the lake on animals.

The next lakes in this area were Sugar Pine lake, Big Boulder and Little Boulder lakes. These lakes were stocked in 1913 by Will and Fred Hildreth.

About that same time the lakes on the head of Tangleblue on the Trinity side and the lakes on the Siskiyou side were stocked by District Forest Ranger Fred Williams and others at Callahan.

In 1922 most of the lakes in the Trinity-Salmon Alps, as it is now called, were unstocked and no one seemed to have an appetite to tackle it. A person had to make application to the hatchery at Sisson, now Mt. Shasta, for the fry, a year in advance, stating the waters to be stocked. Since they would only be delivered to the nearest railroad station transportation had to be provided to the waters to be stocked. At that time what roads there were, were not much and there were very few trails in the mountains and lake areas. Many of the lakes could

In this year 1922 I took it up with my brother Jesse W. Carter, then a resident of Redding, and he made application to the hatchery for fish to stock Rush Creek lake on the Salmon side of the divide, Adams lake on Adams creek, a tributary of Coffee creek, Doe Flat lake on East fork of Coffee creek, Trail Gulch, now called Long Gulch lake on the East fork of Salmon, also Ward and Log lakes on Swift creek.

We were notified ahead that a shipment of 36,000, approximately 18 cans of fry, would be in Delta depot Aug. 26, 1923. Jesse had a truck there and the truck delivered them to the Pinkham place on Coffee creek, now known as Coffee Creek ranch.

Part of them were left at Trinity Center with Alvin Noren, district forest ranger, who delivered them to Ward and Log lakes on Aug. 27, 1923. John and Myron Stoddard were on hand to take part of them to Doe Flat lake on East fork of Coffee creek. Will Hildreth took another lot to Trail or Long Gulch lake, and Fred Fowler and myself packed another lot to Rush Creek and Adams lakes.

We all made successful deliveries of our treasured fry and these lakes were stocked with trout for the first time and they all did well.

We then got together and decided that next year we would try to stock the following lakes: Carribou lakes on the head of Little South fork of Salmon river, Bear Creek lake on the head of Bear creek about 6 miles above Stoddard ranch, now known as Eagle Creek ranch, Granite Creek lake on the head of Granite creek, a tributary of the north fork of Coffee creek, and four unstocked lakes on the divide between the east fork of Trinity river and the Sacramento river.

On Aug. 22, 1924, I was mining on Canyon mountain about 6 miles from Cecilville on the Salmon river when I received a letter from my brother Jesse stating that our allotment of fish would be at Delta depot on Sept. 10. I at once gathered up my pack outfit and went into Little South fork of Salmon to prepare and look for a way to get to the Carribou lakes, as they were, at that time, considered inaccessible so far as pack animals were con-

By Sept. 3 I had found a way to get in by brushing out and building a lot of trail through very rough country. On Sept. 4 I arrived at Coffee creek, the Pinkham place, to arrange for the transportation of these fish. On Sept. 11 at 3 a. m. our truck arrived at Coffee with the fish. Some of them were left at Trinity Center with Alvin Noren, which I believe were packed by Ed Scott of Scott's Ranch and Alvin Noren to the lakes on the Sacramento divide.

John and Myron Stoddard were on hand again with Clarence Carr to take some of them to Bear Creek lake. The fish had to be carried on foot the last mile.

Will Hildreth took another lot to Granite lake on the North fork of Coffee and Nolan Hildreth stocked Boulder creek at its head, as no fish could get up only a short distance because of the falls.

Clair Fowler and Mr. Fox took a can of fish to North Star lake, which is about one mile southwest of Stoddard lake, and these fish had to be carried on foot the last half mile.

Fred Fowler, his brother-in-law Frank Crews and myself left for the Carribou lakes with eight cans of fish and a can of small fry we had taken from an irrigation ditch, to stock the middle fork of the South fork of Salmon.

We had four packs for the lakes, two packs with camp and extra can of fish and three saddle horses. The first day we made Big Flat and parked our fish in the Salmon river for the night. The next day we made it to a camping place I had prepared on the middle fork where we liberated our can of fry and which in a few years stocked the stream where no fish had ever been before.

The next day, Sept. 13, we made it into the lakes. Since there are three lakes we had to park some of the fish in the lower lake while we hand packed some of them to the upper lake and then go back and hand pack them to the middle or easterly lake. This was a hard trip to make as we had four cans of eastern brook, two cans of Loch Leven and 2 cans of rainbow trout. We wanted to be sure we had fish adapted to these waters, but in a few years the eastern brook took everything over.