

(FISHING, from page 6)

Here's a parallel. Toss a rubber ball to someone who is not looking but turns when you suddenly call his name. He sees the ball in midair and has to react instantaneously.

If he's a ballplayer, his conditioned reflexes will prompt him to reach out and catch the ball. If not a ballplayer, he'll duck, in most cases, as a defensive measure. As with the bass, it's a case of impulse triggered by a memory-created reflex.

Protective Instinct

A bass is guarding a nest and you drop a sinking lure near it. The bass picks up the lure to carry it away, dropping it—not trying to eat it. Yet most fishermen would swear this bass struck the lure to kill or eat it.

So there you have six reasons why bass "hit" lures. Maybe you know of others; but knowing these should make you a wiser bass fisherman as you use them to outsmart Mr. Big.

Now let's talk a bit about when big bass feed more often, realizing that if you know this it stacks the odds more in your favor.

Carefully kept statistics, and honest answers from guides and dock owners, leave no doubt that the biggest bass being taken from the most productive lakes in the nation are caught—at night.

No doubt about it. I'd place the figure at 80 to 90 percent. I'm speaking of bass of four pounds and up, which I classify as big bass.

The next question in your mind probably is, where do you find these big fish after dark? And a wise guy would tell you, "where it's dampest." But those who want to add to your fishing fun will be more explicit.

The simplest answer is—around cover. Said cover can be weed beds, logs,

bushes, gravel bars, submerged trees and so forth. And this is logical, because cover is where the bass's food is found.

Around the aforementioned types of cover will be found worms, frogs, leeches, crawfish, insects, hellgrammites and other larvae and many smaller species of fish.

How do you locate this cover? The best way is to fish during the day and become familiar with a number of spots that have desirable underwater cover. I say underwater because, contrary to a fairly popular opinion, comparatively few big bass are taken on the surface. Nearly all are taken from a few feet down to 60 feet deep.

Of course, the very best way is to go with an experienced night fisherman who knows where and how deep and let him teach you the ways of night fishing. Hiring a good guide could be one of the smartest fishing tactics you've ever employed.

If you forget all else about night fishing, remember this one all-important point: most really big bass, those in the eight-to-ten-pound class, are caught at one most propitious moment—just as the lure drops off a root, limb, weed, rock or other underwater protuberance.

This will come as a surprise to the many, too many, fishermen who think underwater cover like this is a snag to be avoided because it might cost them a lure.

As one veteran fisherman put it, "I know people who spend from \$10 to \$100 to catch a fish, then do all their fishing where fish ain't—just to keep from losing a \$1.25 lure!"

Remember: to catch big bass, you've got to fish where they are, around cover. So expect to lose some lures, but use lures that are designed to come through snaggy cover most of the time.

DON'T FIGHT TRAFFIC
Take Lake Mead Blvd. Direct To Lake
Make Your First & Only Stop
at
SANDY COVE
5225 Lake Mead Blvd.
(1 Block East of Nellis Blvd.)

"EVERYTHING
FOR YOUR FISHING NEEDS"
Nevada's Largest & Friendliest Live Bait Center
LIBERAL COUNT

WEEKLY CONTEST
Largest Bass \$15⁰⁰
Largest Catfish \$5⁰⁰
Largest Crappie \$5⁰⁰
No Registration necessary -- Just come in and weigh your fish.

Choice Waterdogs **\$1 Doz.** *One 16-1/2 ft.
Crappie Minnows... **50¢ Doz.** Aluminum LARSEN
Bass Minnows.... **80¢ Doz.** Boat & Trailer... **\$225**
4:30 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
OPEN ALL NIGHT FRI. & SAT. PHONE: 642-9882
CAL LICHTENWALTER Owner

SUPPORT YOUR HOME TEAM



BURY BARING

OPEN 6 AM to Midnight

Louis CHEVRON

1500 W. Bonanza

385-9627

Baldwin Homes Is Featuring CRASH RENTAL PROGRAM 85 Homes For Rent

All Locations Available

- 2 Bedrooms & Bath 108 per month
- 3 Bedrooms & Bath 115 per month
- 3 Bedrooms & 2 Baths 126 per month
- 4 Bedrooms & 2 Baths 136 per month
- 5 Bedrooms & 2 Baths 141 per month

These Homes Include The Following Features:

- Block-Fenced Yard In Rear
- Houses Brought Up To Tract Requirements

Models Open Until 8:30 p.m.

Models at Carey & West

Call 642-7477 or 642-5462