

Fishing

By



"The Crappie Catcher"

More about Red (Continued from last week)

WE GAVE THE THREE small mackerel to Red, and we made arrangements with him to take us to the far, far place where the cudas lived.

I told our native skipper that we would get the speedboat from the American embassy. I knew that my brother had enough juice up on diplomatic hill to get the boat for us the next day. A phone call proved me to be right. We got the OK from the embassy.

The fishing grounds that Red spoke about turned out to be 40 miles up the Atlantic near the Sierra Leone border, in the mouth of the Lofa river. The river itself had been closed to public navigation by the Liberian government because the bed of the river a few miles upstream was said to be paved with diamonds. Fantastic as it may seem, the Lofa river had given up several king's ransoms in precious stones. Frequently native fishermen would offer uncut diamonds for sale. It was many years before the news got out that the natives were finding these stones in the stomachs of the fish they caught in the river. My brother had a rock the size of a nickel which was smuggled out of the Lofa in the belly of a barracuda. I have often wondered what ever became of that gem.

THE WIFE WAS MORE EXCITED than little sister on wedding day with the dream of finding diamonds in the bellies of the fish. Neither hell nor high water could have changed her plans for the trip up the coast to the far, far place where the cudas with diamonds lived. The speedboat we borrowed from the embassy turned out to be a tin tub with an egg beater tied on its stern for its power. The thought of risking our lives out in the ocean in a thimble didn't dim the little woman's enthusiasm one tiny little bit.

At daybreak on the appointed morning the three of us put to sea in a ten-foot tub. With the grace of the man upstairs, Red navigated three fools in a thimble across the treacherous breakers that roar across the sand bar which guards the entrance of the Meserada river at Monrovia. We had 40 miles of ocean ahead of us. Our egg beater outboard could push us along at a top speed of 12 knots.

With more than a three-hour trip ahead of us, I decided to pass the time by trolling a ten-inch-jointed Heddon lure. I got a strike after about an hour of trolling. I set the hook and started winding in the fish which felt like it was a pretty good one that would go around 5 pounds. Suddenly there was a tremendous shocking jerk on my line, and immediately after this, my line went limp. I continued to wind my line in to inspect the lure, thinking that it had struck some submerged object and become damaged. When I brought the lure aboard, to my astonishment there was no damage to the lure, but there was a fish head hooked to it. The quivering fish head told me that there was something out there that was damned damaging.

Red laughed and seemed to get a big kick out of our amazement. He said, "You can't catch small fish here. You catch only half, and big cuda get the other half."

AFTER CLEANING THE LURE of the piece fish, I cast it over again and let about 300 feet of line run off before setting the brake on my reel. Within a minute, maybe more, maybe less, something smashed into my Heddon lure and nearly pulled both the pole and yours truly right out of the boat. After collecting myself and getting braced, I set the hook with a mighty sweep over the shoulder with my pole. I started pumping the pole, picking up the slack in the line as I lowered it rapidly. A five-foot barracuda broke water about 200 feet astern, and danced an authentic Watusi on its tail as it tried to throw the hook. We brought the monster to gaff after about 15 minutes of pumping, cranking, and sweating. Before Red lifted the cuda aboard he struck it several sharp blows across its head with a piece of pipe which he had brought along just for put-

(See CRAPPIE, page 7)

VERNONCREST & TEE-MASTERS TOURNAMENT WINNERS



BUDWEISER GOLF CHAMPIONS... winners of the Men's A flight in the recent Vernoncrest & Tee-Masters 19th annual golf tournament receive their trophies from Anheuser-Busch executives. (l. to r.) First Place--Reginald Bedney, William Porter, assistant to the VP of Marketing of Budweiser, Second Place--J. B. Jones, David Holt, Budweiser West Region Sales Representative and Third Place--Jess Martin. Presentation ceremonies at Whispering Lakes Golf Course, marked 10th annual participation in tournament by brewers of Budweiser, Michelob and Busch beers.

ABC Delayed Telecast Of Griffith-Benvenuti Bout

NEW YORK - (NPI)--There will be no "live home telecast" of the scheduled Sept. 28 Emile Griffith-Nino Benvenuti middleweight title rematch, but the bout will be telecast to the nation two days later, on "Wide World of Sports" over the ABC network. A heavy favorite to retain his title, Griffith was upset by the fast-moving Italian in their first encounter.

ALCORN A&M SCORES 101-0 GRIDIRON WIN

WACO, Texas - (NPI)--What certainly has to be a record score in College gridiron confrontations occurred recently when Alcorn A&M College's Braves scored 15 touchdowns to scalp the Paul Quinn College Tigers by a score of 101-0. The debacle occurred in Baylor University stadium, before a sparse crowd watching the Tigers play host to the Braves.

It turned out that the Braves could do no wrong as they scored six touchdowns on pass plays, and one on an 85 yard kick-off return.

Stars of the onslaught, halfback Dock Mosley, and end Walter Coburn, led all scorers with three touchdowns each. Mosley scampered 8, 22, and 85 yards for scores, while Coburn collected passes from Marvin Weeks, 34 yards, Clarence Tollivor for 30 and 17 yards.

THE MASSACRE began early in the first quarter as the Braves unleashed their mighty offense. Paul Quinn's fans watched helplessly, hoping for a belated rally, but the tenacious defense refused to give in as the defensive team intercepted eight passes and limited Paul Quinn's offensive team to 157 yards.

The Braves exploded with a powerful passing attack highlighted by dazzling breakaway runs of 34 yards by Willie Ray, 58 yards by Dock Mosley and 34 yards, by Lawrence Watkins, along with a 50 yard run by Oscar Martin.

Alcorn used four quarterbacks; Marvin Weeks (sophomore), Robert Martin (senior), Arthur Jones (sophomore), and Clarence Tollivor (freshman).

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