

Fishing

By



"The Crappie Catcher"

The news about fishing in Lake Mead is not good news at all. There is talk about closing the season on bass and talk about putting a creel limit on crappie, and catfish.

Perhaps the most depressing talk for the night fisherman is talk of putting a ban on the use of lights, or lanterns.

All of the above talk, and much more, was discussed recently among a gathering of business people whose living is affected by the decline in the bass population of Lake Mead. The gathering, at Temple Bar, was composed of Marina operators, boat dealers, fishing guides and bait dealers.

The opinions of these people, although not official as far as new regulations are concerned, will carry tremendous impact upon the authorities who control fishing rules for Lake Mead.

Lake Mead is a federal water and the Federal Government must approve any State legislation which would amend the fishing regulations. Any action changing the present laws will take time before it becomes a fact.

There is no immediate reason to become concerned about new regulations controlling fishing on Lake Mead, but there is serious reason to be concerned about the future of our favorite fishing hole. There is no question that Lake Mead fishing is not what it used to be. All of us who have enjoyed the wonderful fishing that once was a part of Lake Mead's identity, should be highly concerned that the entire image is changing for the worse.

SOMETHING must be done to salvage the great fishing thrills that Lake Mead is capable of providing. The immediate action to improve the bass population would be stocking of bass fingerlings, exactly like the trout are stocked below Hoover Dam in Lake Mohave every year.

The ultimate solution to the return of the fish population is at least two years away, at which time Lake Powell will be filled so that more water can be let through the Glen Canyon Dam to provide Lake Mead with a better water level for spawning.

Lake Mead fishermen should immediately start talking and acting to get bass fingerlings stocked in Lake Mead every year until the lake's water level is raised enough to reform good spawning grounds.

Lake Mead is about 6 feet below adequate level to provide protective spawning grounds for newly hatched fish. The fresh hatch does not have enough protective brush to hide in, and therefore becomes easy prey for feeding fish.

WHEN THE water level of Lake Mead is returned to its normal operating elevation of 1170 feet, the lake will have plenty of adequate spawning areas with protective brush. It will be at least 7 or 8 years before the 1170 foot level is returned. When it is returned to that level, there will be no further problem with our fish population.

The present answer to the problem is to stock enough fish to raise the population. The answer is certainly not to cut off the fishing pleasures of the hundreds of thousands who fish Lake Mead each year.

We, the fishermen who fish for the sport and the relaxation of it are not to be deprived of this pleasure by any meaningless, restrictive laws. We want more fish and not more laws.

If the fish are not there, then, let us see that they are put there. This is the only sensible solution to the problem. The Marinas, boat dealers, and bait sellers will continue to survive, and the sport fishermen will continue to have fun.

* "HARAMBEE" *
* EVERYBODY *

Champion Rhythm & Blues Group



THE DELLS, who have been breaking attendance records across the country as a result of their latest smash recording, "Ooo, I Love You," added another gem to their diamond-studded career. They were voted "Champion Rhythm and Blues Group in America" at a "battle" held in the Apollo Theatre in New York. The singers (from left): Verne Allison, Chuck Barksdale, Michael McGill, Marvin Junior and Johnny Carter, won out over such groups as Patti and the Blue Belles, the Five Stairsteps and Cubie, the Gries, the Webs, the Jive Five and the Mad Lads.

Charles Sifford To Play **Klan Rewards Cop Member** Tournament Of Champions

Charles Sifford, golfdom's top Negro player, is one of 22 professional golfers who have qualified, thus far, for the 16th annual Tournament of Champions to be contested April 18-21 over the Stardust Country Club course.

Only winners of major PGA tournaments in 12 months preceding the T of C are eligible to compete in the annual 72-hole event. Sifford, winner of the Hartford Open, is one of six first-time victors to qualify for the golf classic.

Shooting for the Tournament of Champion prize money of \$150,000 (an increase of \$50,000 from last year) will be such notables as defending champion Frank Beard, Arnold Palmer, seeking his fourth T of C title; Jack Nicklaus, a two-time winner; Billy Casper, Julius Boros, and PGA champ Don January.

KING URGES MASSIVE FEB. ANTI-WAR RALLY

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--A massive anti-war rally, set for Feb. 5-6 in the nation's capital, has been urged by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner, concentrating on the peace issue rather than the civil rights cause, said it was "imperative" that clergy and laymen of all faiths come to Washington to make a "real witness" against "a social evil of our times"--the Vietnam war.

"The choice for America is now clear: Either we will end the war in Vietnam or many of our most sensitive citizens must be sent to jail," he declared.

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