

Fishing

Crappie Catcher

Not A Mermaid Or A Sea Monster

It was neither a mermaid nor a sea monster, but it did cause quite a bit of comment at Warren Maxey's Overton Bait and Tackle Shop several weeks ago. Finally identified by Dale Lockard, Department of Fish and Game biologist, the creature turned out to be the first recorded American eel from this part of the Colorado River system.

According to Lockard, American eels are native to the United States east coast and are unusual in that one sex lives in salt water its entire life while the other lives in fresh water, but returns to the ocean to spawn.

Since the first eel was identified, four additional verified catches have been reported from Overton Arm and Las Vegas Bay of Lake Mead. Specimens have ranged in size from 18 to 30 inches and have the capability of reaching 15 pounds in weight.

Eels are extremely long-lived, up to 50 years, and although they may be in Lake Mead for a long time, possibility of permanent establishment is remote because of their need to reproduce in ocean or estuary.

Known to bite, eels should be regarded with caution when brought into a boat. Lockard recommends the line be cut, the eel kept in an ice chest and turned over to Department of Fish and Game for examination. "Any new species from another area that shows up in Nevada waters," said Lockard, "carries with it the possibility of exotic diseases or parasites that could be detrimental to resident game fish."

Eels are considered a delicacy by eastern anglers and sought after in streams and estuaries in that area as well as offered for sale in commercial fish markets. Eels resemble a snake, are dark brown in color but have a continuous fin along the back, tail and underside.

Other unusual occurrences of fish in Lake Mead include the walleye, a member of the perch family, common to eastern and mid-western United States. It is established in Lake Powell where it is now abundant, with the two authenticated Lake Mead reports, probably a result of downstream movement from Lake Powell.

Although not yet found in Lake Mead, the Utah chub probably will be shortly. Highly undesirable in smaller bodies of water because of its high reproductive potential and competition with game fish, its possible effect on Lake Mead is uncertain. It now occurs in limited numbers in Lake Powell.

Nevada Department of Fish and Game reminds all anglers that except in Lake Mead, Lake Mohave and the Colorado River, use of live bait in most Nevada waters is prohibited. In this area, only live bait purchased from licensed dealers or baitfish seined under DFG permit may be used for angling to help prevent accidental introduction of undesirable fish. All fish sold for bait purposes by licensed Nevada dealers are inspected by the Department of Fish and Game.

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SUGAR HILL CELEBRATES ITS 8TH ANNIVERSARY

Sugar Hill is celebrating its 8th Anniversary in Vegas Heights. In 1964, Bob & Anna Bailey took an empty lot and a few dollars and built what today has become a legend in Vegas Heights. During the time, 1964 and 1965, there was hardly any activity in this area, as the community was changing over from white to black. The (2) other bars were not particularly friendly to the "brothers and sisters," which created the need for Sugar Hill. Bailey often remarks, "we use to have to barbecue pigs and give it away, along with free beer, to even get anyone to come out this far." However, Bob & Anna feel it was all worthwhile.

In 1966 Bob initiated GO-Go Girls for the first time in West Las Vegas, also Sugar Hill Gardens with movies and free popcorn. But this was not enough, in order to keep the kind of excitement present on the Black area, Sugar Hill went into a live musical format which brought every name star that played in Las Vegas all the way out to Miller Street. To name a few of the personalities that have visited Sugar Hill: Sammy Davis, Jr., Harry Belafonte, Flip Wilson, Johnny Carson, Frank Sinatra, Rowan & Martin, Barbara McNair, Don Rickles, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Redd Foxx, Bill Cosby along with an endless list of theatrical stars, Sugar Hill was also the site for parties for all new teachers in town and end of semester parties for schoolteachers, along with hosting former governors of this state, Governor Grant Sawyer and Paul Laxalt, Mayor Oran Gragson and many others too numerous to mention. With the advent of the riot in West Las Vegas, Sugar Hill was effected as all other businesses in the area. Many of the people who had formerly visited the club, both black and white felt a fear, and stopped coming to the Westside but this did not stop the "Hill's" progress nor discourage its regular customers that lived in the neighborhood and had supported this establishment since its inception.

Sugar Hill, today, is run strictly for the convenience of the customers in the "home" area. It carries one of the most complete lines of wine, liquor, & beer in the city and employs some 14 people. Bailey stated, "this week of the 8th Anniversary is to thank the people with free food, free drinks, & live music for the manner in which they have supported Sugar Hill for the past eight (8) years."

Sugar Hill is the largest single black employer in the West Las Vegas area and has paid over \$800,000.00 in salaries to this community since its inception.

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