

**50-YEAR HISTORY**  
*of the*  
**STEELHEAD TROUT CLUB OF WASHINGTON**  
**SEATTLE CHAPTER**  
**1928 - 1978**



*Dedicated to a  
Loyal Gang of Steelhead Club Members  
and Their Friends  
Past, Present and Future*

## 2011 Preface

So that you might learn a bit more about the Club's history, we offer this excerpt from the 50-Year History of the Steelhead Trout Club of Washington publication. There are chronologies of issues and accomplishments, profiles of some of the members, some interesting thoughts on the future of steelhead and steelheading, and a fair number of anecdotes.

Please bear in mind that this was written 32 years ago, shortly after the Boldt Decision and during the pendency of related cases and appeals. Accordingly, some of the rhetoric is a bit heated -please take it with a grain of salt, and view it as an interesting window into the history of our Club and the era in which this document was penned.

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## FOREWORD

The format for this booklet was laid out by Tom Weston. Chairman of a special Kickoff Meeting called by President Al Blankenship in midterm to lay plans for its preparation and the 50th Anniversary Fete to be held jointly with the annual Past Presidents Dinner on May 23, 1978. The meeting was held at Frederick's Value Center in Redmond.

Although minor changes have been made in its original outline, the major subjects selected in that first draft have been well covered by competent and qualified contributors, all selected for their intimate and comprehensive knowledge of the subjects on which they wrote. This compilation has only hit the high spots of the Club's achievements over this 50-year span. To go into greater detail would have required prohibitive time, effort and expense.

Lest anyone who reads this accounting takes umbrage at the successes claimed herein, let it be emphasized that had it not been for the persistence of the dedicated sportsmen who have annually made up the membership of the Steelhead Trout Club over the years, this state's outdoor resources would have been in a sorrier mess than they are today.

Make no mistake about it. The political clout shown by this relatively small club in its early years lent tremendous encouragement to other segments of the outdoor fraternity to join hands in a common cause — the preservation of this state's fishing and hunting endowment. It's a classic example of the adage "Together we stand - Divided we fall".

Invaluable assistance by outdoor writers and commentators of the metropolitan news media to the programs of the organized sportsmen was afforded in the first two decades of this era, but since 1970 such help has rarely surfaced except in the Everett Herald. Whether this lack of friendly coverage to the concerns of a million outdoor fans in this state is dictated by each publisher's policy, or by the lethargy of the commentator should be brought out in the open.

Whatever the reason, it's sad commentary to a frequently asserted claim about the "free press" in this country. But let it be perfectly clear — the members of the Steelhead Trout Club are eternally grateful to all their friends who have helped them in their crusade the first 50 years.

**CAPSULE HISTORY OF THE STEELHEAD TROUT CLUB  
OF WASHINGTON — SEATTLE CHAPTER  
1928 - 1978**

*By  
Ken McLeod*

The Steelhead Trout Club of Washington, Seattle Chapter, the oldest and continuously active sportsmen's club in the state formally celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the Shilshole Bay Windjammer Restaurant Tuesday evening, May 23, 1978.

The catalyst that launched this dedicated organization more than 50 years ago occurred on Green River the opening day of the winter steelhead season January 1, 1928 when a party of fishermen, including A. A. Paysse, Ran Crawford, Charley Wright, B. L. Delong, J. W. Lothrop and Ralph Lyttaker met around a warming fire on the banks of Green River to thaw out their hands, eat their lunches and compare catches. They had caught several badly net-scarred fish, which brought angry protests from the congregated anglers over the lack of enforcement of the then inadequate laws. It was agreed that something should be done, so tentative plans were made to form a club to protect this great game fish.

Although January 1st was the opening day to anglers for this wonderful sport fish, it had already been legally open in a number of lower rivers to drift gillnetting since the first runs made their appearance with the late fall rains. And the use of unlawful set nets by poachers was rampant in all rivers. Steelheaders had been grumbling for several years about the extensive netting of streams and the lack of relief they could get from local authorities, or support for their complaints from the big Seattle Sportsmen's Association, which numbered some 2500 members at that time. There was just too much other business to conduct to give a small vociferous minority of steelheaders the attention needed to solve their problems.

But that day on the Green did it. The group got busy phoning the next few days and called the known active steelheaders in the association and others who might be interested. They revealed a plan to form a new club that would be concerned primarily with removing steelhead trout from its commercial foodfish listing in the state statutes.

Several preliminary meetings were held under the name "Goofers Club". That name however, had an unflattering connotation to those winter fishermen who used mostly gooey salmon egg clusters for bait and it seemed disrespectful for a group with such lofty aims.

Then on Friday evening January 20, 1928 at a meeting in the Wilsonian Hotel in the University District, the Steelhead Trout Club was formally organized with charter

members A. A. Paysse, Roger Cummings, V. J. Nichols, Dick Dunn, Andy Braun, Bill Annis, Floyd Ritchie, Louis Ashby, AJ Kurth, Al Bloss, Fred and Gordon Hoyt, Tom Myers, S. P. Paysse, Ralph Lyttaker and Ken McLeod. Lyttaker was named president and S. P. "Buzz" Paysee secretary-treasurer.

They set up goals to encourage, advocate and assist in the conservation and propagation of all sports fish and game life with emphasis on making steelhead a full fledged game fish; to protect and improve its habitat and environment; to disseminate knowledge and encourage outdoor life, recreation and good sportsmanship; and to cooperate with other organizations having similar purposes. For several years the club limited its membership to not more than 100 and has never exceeded 200. At first its qualification for membership was for an applicant to have caught at least six steelheads. Then it was reduced to three and finally only a keen interest in steelheading was required. A \*2.00 fine was imposed on each unexcused absence — three in succession without valid excuse meant expulsion. It was evident this gang was going to have dedicated workers and no drones. Membership grew rapidly.

Near the end of the first year, A. A. Paysse, being a member of the legislature, arranged for a small committee to appear before a caucus of the King County legislators to tell the club's story before the general session convened in January. As a direct result of the presentation and subsequent work in Olympia, the 1929 legislature made the steelhead a game fish in all fresh waters of the state above the established river mouths, except in a few lower rivers where it was lawful to fish for salmon. Steelheads taken from these open salmon areas could be sold for processing, but it was unlawful to sell them as fresh fish. Obviously the measure was not satisfactory, but it was a start and a challenge to the Club.

They never relaxed from their ultimate goal of decommercializing the taking and sale of Steelheads. Within three years they succeeded in closing all winter commercial salmon seasons in Puget Sound and several coastal areas. But it took two major conservation upheavals in the state's political history to gain a substantial victory — the adoption of State Game Control in 1932 and abolition of fish traps and set gear in 1934, both by initiative measures taken directly to the people, in which the Club members played leading roles. What was thought to be the clincher was a routine act of the 1935 legislature which added steelhead to the already existing list of other game fish by a simple act of making all permanent regulations of the new game commission state statutes.

However, a few unscrupulous lawyers and perjury-prone federal bureaucrats and judges, (despite them being bound by oath to support this constitution") aided by some timid state officials have scuttled all the earlier gains in the fast decade. But the steelheaders vow to continue the war until permanent victory is won.

While much of the Club's history, of necessity has been devoted to positive but non-partisan political activity to perpetuate the steelhead trout for past, present and future

generations, much attention has been directed toward social and public relation affairs. Included in these latter activities have been the following:

Forty-five successive annual Charity Winter Fishing Parties during which an estimated total of 4,500 pounds of freshly caught steelheads have been donated to such organizations as Ryther Child Center, Washington Children's Society and the Children's Orthopedic Hospital ;

Sponsored or participated in 20 annual (open to public) steelhead fishing clinics with a combined estimated attendance of 50,000 people, mostly at Seattle Center;

Innumerable work parties involving thousands of man-hours on streambank access areas, building and repairing trails, farm fences and stiles, gathering litter and providing barrels for same, all for better sportsman-landowner relations;

For several years conducted Big Brother steelhead fishing parties with scores of youths from various city high schools; Sponsored and paid for some 50 different boys and girls week-long stay at the Sports Council's Conservation Camps on Orcas island.

Many other successes were achieved either by Club sponsorship or indispensable support of the Club on issues in which individual club members played leading roles in vigorously advocating or directing, or in close cooperation with other clubs. Included among these listed chronologically were the following:

1930 — Activation of first impoundment on upper Newaukum Creek for rearing of steelheads to migratory size and first two circular rearing ponds by County Game Commission at Tokul Creek Hatchery.

1931 — Twelve of its members served on a 31-member statewide committee to sponsor an initiative for state game control, which culminated in passage of Initiative 62 and abolition of the old antiquated county-control system in the November 1932 election.

1933 — Joined forces with the same group and a coalition of commercial fishing organizations to abolish fish traps by Initiative 77 in 1934 election.

1934 — Took lead in organizing Washington State Sportsmen's Council in a statewide group in May of same year.

1935 — Secured over \$1 million in federal funds for salmon rehabilitation program culminating in construction of Issaquah and Minter Creek hatcheries and biological station, plus screening of irrigation ditches and power diversions in Western and Eastern Washington for protection of downstream migrant salmon and steelheads.

1936 — Three club members served on 6-man U.S. Senate appointed committee which negotiated final agreement between U.S. and Canadian fishermen, and ratification of Fraser River Sockeye Treaty by U.S. Senate in five months from date of appointment after 40 years of fruitless effort by others. This

created the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission; and two members served on its advisory committee for a combined total of 32 years.

1941 — Secured amendment to Federal Black Bass Law to give additional protection against interstate shipment and sale of steelhead.

1942 — Stopped construction of proposed dams on Deer Creek and Stiliaguamish.

1943 — Secured legislation at state level requiring approval of game and fishery departments as to adequacy of all fish protective devices before construction of any projects that would change flow of any river.

1944 — Secured federal legislation requiring participation of state agencies during planning stages of all federal water projects.

1945—Enactment of law that created State Pollution Control Commission with statutory authority.

1946 — Defeated Governor Wallgren's attempt to take over political control of State Game Department and Commission through Referendum 26 by a 7 to 1 margin.

1946 — Defeated efforts to build flood control dam on Green River six miles East of Auburn and prevailed on Corps of Engineers to move site upstream to Eagle Gorge above the migration range of anadromous fish. Also played major part in preventing dam construction on lower Nooksack River and at Faber Ferry site on Skagit.

1949 — Member, with Club support, authored Lower Columbia River Salmon Sanctuary Act designed to prohibit all dams higher than 25 feet on tributaries of Columbia below Bonneville, including Cowlitz. Passed overwhelmingly in Legislature and reaffirmed in 1957, and again by vote of the people in 1960, but Tacoma's dams were later approved by U.S. Supreme Court through preemption of Federal Power Commission. But did get mitigation providing two hatcheries for salmon and steelheads.

1951 — Started successful streambank access program.

1953 — New gains in pollution control by requiring permits for dumping effluents into state waters.

1959 — Initiative 25 to Legislature to prohibit Cowlitz dams, in which 110,000 signatures were obtained. Club led all others in number obtained and in finance raised.

1960 — Vote of people approved Initiative, but U.S. Supreme Court overruled it. (See comments under 1949 above, also details elsewhere in this booklet).

1964 — Club obtained over 14,000 signatures on Initiative 215 for unclaimed marine gas taxes, leading all groups for number obtained, and for passage of \$10 million bond issue for outdoor recreation, and later for a \$40 million issue for the same purposes. Subsequent activity has been eternal vigilance to maintain the progress already made.

1969 — Under urging of Club and State Legislature named the Steelhead Trout the official "State Fish of Washington".

Feb. 12, 1974 — Federal Judge George Boldt showed his contempt for the United States Constitution in his failure to honor his oath of office to defend it when he

exploded his dirty bomb on all that is sacred to Americans - the equal protection of the laws to all citizens of the United States, regardless of race, creed or color.  
1978 — Club members hatch and plant 116,000 winter-run and 60,000 summer-run steelhead fry this spring for planting in Tolt tributaries.

1974-1978 — The Steelhead Trout Club has been fighting and will continue to fight this foreign Boldt philosophy until victory or eternity, whichever comes first.



Arranging Streambank Access Easement —

Left to Right:

Ed Fogh, John Evensen, Landowner and Bill Shea, Game Dept. Man.



# **INITIATIVE 25 AND THE STEELHEAD TROUT CLUB OF WASHINGTON**

**By  
Fred Habenicht**

## **HISTORY OF INITIATIVE 25**

The history of the Cowlitz Dam project had its beginning in 1946 when the City of Tacoma purchased the rights and engineering data from the Backus-Brooks Company. On March 21, 1947, the City of Tacoma informed the Army Engineers of their intentions to build dams on the Cowlitz River. Notices were filed at the same hearing by the Washington State Department of Fisheries, the Washington State Department of Game and the Washington State Sportsmen's Council, that they would oppose any projects which did not adequately provide for the protection of the river's fisheries.

The Steelhead Trout Club, as a member club of the Washington State Sports Council, at that point began to establish itself through the Council's committees and through its own club organization as the leader in the fight that was to continue for another 13 years.

The legislative and legal battles that occurred during those 13 years serve as a litany and tribute to the perseverance of the sportsman's movement and particularly to the dedication of the Steelhead Trout Club.

A short resume is included here to provide the reader with some idea of the involvement that took place during those years. At all times, the manpower and finances of the Steelhead Trout Club were more deeply committed than any other organization — all of which served to strengthen the fiber of the organization to where, at one point, the club was used as the "classic example of a power lobby group and what such a group can accomplish" (This accolade was supposedly issued by the then Democratic Committee Chairman of the State of Washington).

After the filing for dam construction by the City of Tacoma in 1946, the Washington State Sportsmen's Council prepared Senate Bill #4 that came to be known as the Fish Sanctuary Act which established a sanctuary whose boundaries included the Cowlitz River. The Act passed overwhelmingly both in the House and Senate in February 1949. It established a law that would prohibit construction of any dam higher than 25 feet on any tributary stream of the Columbia River below McNary Dam within the range of migratory fish, with the exception of the Big White Salmon and The North Fork of the Lewis Rivers which already had high dams. The final law became known as RCW 75.20.010, or the Columbia River Fish Sanctuary Act. The law was signed by the Governor and became effective on April 1, 1949.

Despite this well worded, all inclusive limitation to proceed with the dams, the City of Tacoma continued with its activities toward securing a Federal Power Commission permit to build the dams. The city's contention was that the projects as part of the BPA power pool constituted federal involvement and as such had the right to eminent domain or the right of condemnation, superior to state's rights. (Sounds familiar doesn't it?) On November 2, 1961, formal hearings were held before the FPC in Washington, D.C. The State and the State Sportsman's Council opposed Tacoma before the FPC. The examiner for the FPC after hearing extensive testimony denied Tacoma's application but in an almost unprecedented move the commission elected to ignore the Examiner's recommendation and issued a Federal Permit to Tacoma to build the dams.

Subsequent court appeals resulted in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upholding the Commission decision and the U.S. Supreme Court refusing to review the case. In fact the court felt that it was a matter to be decided by state courts. In 1953, after several court maneuvers, the State Supreme Court reversed lower court decisions that had ruled in favor of the sportsmen, and ruled in favor of Tacoma. In essence, the court decided that the state could not supersede the paramount authority of the Federal Government to issue a license to build the dams, and secondly, since the Fish Sanctuary Act did not specifically refer to municipalities, the Act did not apply to Tacoma.

A multitude of legal maneuvers continued after this decision which prevented Tacoma from taking advantage of more favorable bond issues.

On September 18, 1956, the Washington State Sportsmen's Council took a major step in an effort to stop Tacoma's project. The Council filed Initiative 24 which sought to prohibit high dams by establishing state control over rivers. At the time Initiative 24 was filed only fifty thousand signatures were required to get an initiative before the Legislature. However, during the election of November 1956, a new law became effective that changed the signature requirement to ninety thousand. Due to the time element involved, the State Sportsmen's Council was unable to successfully complete the signature gathering activity and the Initiative was not presented. There followed additional court reviews, decisions and legislative maneuvers all of which continued to delay the beginning of the project until on April 24, 1958, the Washington State Sportsmen's Council filed Initiative 25 with the legislature which in the opinion of the drafters would have blocked the construction of the Cowlitz dams by Tacoma or anyone else.

Subsequent legislative actions resulted in the Initiative being presented to the people of Washington in November 1960 elections at which time the people of the State concurred with the positions of the sportsmen that Tacoma should not be able to build the Cowlitz Dams. In spite of this, it became the decision of the courts that where Tacoma's projects were concerned the Initiative did not apply. What did result from the effort however, was a decision that the City of Tacoma, in conjunction with the State and the Federal Government, would have to provide a hatchery system for both salmon and steelhead that would insure adequate anadromous fish returns. It is the considered

opinion of those involved in the fight that had the sportsmen not fought the issue as tenaciously as they did we would not have the hatchery system now on the Cowlitz.

What is disturbing however, is that, had the Cowlitz been left alone to produce naturally the fish that are now being produced by hatcheries, there would be more fish, better fish and minimal cost to the taxpayer. This trade off of fish for power produced a minimal power source which contributes less than 1% of the total power pool.

## **CLUB INVOLVEMENT**

The involvement of the Steelhead Trout Club was one of total dedication during those trying years, The Club led the fight in the courts serving both as a source of inspiration and knowledge. The Club led the way in the initiative fights, both 24 and 25, with a sustained manpower source that boggled the minds of seasoned initiative fighters... The Club was involved because of our basic precept of protection of the Steethhead Trout — and its survival in the Cowlitz was certainly threatened.

A list of members who were deeply involved during those years is presented to indicate some of the leaders of the movement. If there are some omitted it is not intentional but rather that the memory dims in 18 years. Members were: John Evensen, Wally Habenicht, Mike Maquire, Don Bearwood, Ken McLeod, Howard Gray, Tom Wimmer, Fred Habenicht, Charlie Anderson, and George McLeod.

Some of the activities the Club engaged in during the Initiative fight were; preparation of a 103 page prospectus compiled to help speakers and signature gatherers, an 18 minute movie about the Cowlitz dams that graphically showed the sportsmen's position as to why we objected to the dams and what the result of the dams would be. The movie was produced by Howard Gray with financial backing of the Club. Finances were obtained through raffles, donations by companies and individuals. The Club obtained a 16 foot glass boat and trailer which was hauled around the country and raffle tickets sold on street corners.

Memory relates that the activity of gathering signatures was joined by every member of the Club. Teams were formed that worked street corners in practically every town in King County. Fairs, carnivals, in any gathering that might produce signatures, were attended by the Club members. Teams worked on holidays; Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, whenever and wherever a signature might be obtained.

Teams would visit various service clubs and organizations, day and night giving speeches, showing the movie and answering questions, all furthering the sportsmen's position and informing the public in preparation for the coming election.

Opposition came from labor unions as well as pro-power factions. A few of the members had some interesting experiences while gathering signatures . . . especially in front of liquor stores. For the most part we were treated with courtesy wherever we were, although we weren't given much chance of success.

The night of the election the initiative was losing badly until the returns from King County started to come in, at which time the trend turned around and Initiative 25 won. Clearly the results of the hard work done by the Club in and around King County.

In spite of the will of the people, construction of the dams proceeded because the State elected not to attempt to enforce the law against Tacoma. However, the battle was not without some successes. The sportsmen were assured a hatchery system that we would have never received had we given up in the early years. The rest of the sanctuary area enjoys some measure of protection that it would not have without the Sanctuary Act and the Initiative.

Initiative 25. Thirteen years of struggle, thirteen years of learning the frustrations of dealing with bureaucracy, thirteen years of watching the Club grow in stature as they came to discover the strength they had when they functioned in a united effort. Thirteen years of fun too... certainly a lively segment of the 50 years of history.



1959 — 110,000 protests against the Cowlitz dams.

## **STREAMBANK ACCESS COMMITTEE**

*By  
Tom Waston*

The purpose of the Streambank Access Committee (SBA), as stated in the bylaws, is to "Actively pursue the acquisition, development and maintenance of public access to waters of the State of Washington," The key words in this phrase are Public Access, because as one of our members so fondly repeats loud and often, "it don't do you one damn bit of good to have the river full of fish if you don't have a place to fish for them".

To gain perspective, let's examine the public access situation throughout the rest of the world. In Norway, you can go fishing for Atlantic Salmon on some of the best stretches of river in the world. A guide will run a drift boat and put you over fish. You stay in cabins situated in a beautiful scenic location near the river and it will cost you only about \$1,000 per week per person. Of course, some of the best stretches of a river are reserved for the landowners, many of whom now had the land in their families for centuries. The average working stiff in Norway has a very few areas where he can fish. The better heeled businessman can join a club which leases stretches of river and fishes at a nominal cost of a few hundred dollars per year.

In Germany public fishing is nonexistent except in a few lakes and on the big polluted rivers such as the Rhine or Moselle. If you want to fly fish for trout in a stream you must either own the land or lease the fishing rights. Some fishing clubs will rent fishing rights to tourists and vacationers at reasonable fees.

In England and the rest of Europe, the situation is about the same. The landowner owns the fishing rights on waters flowing through his property. If he is very wealthy, he might restrict fishing to only himself and a few of his family or friends. He can also lease the rights to another person or group. There are clubs in London that have held leases on better stretches of salmon rivers for over a hundred years. Tourists and vacationers who want to fish can rent fishing rights for a few days at charges ranging from several dollars to several hundred dollars per day per man, depending on the location and time of year.

The significant thing to notice here is that there is no consideration of the general public. The concept of fish and game belonging to the people is alien. You would get laughed out of the country if you asked to fish and didn't expect to pay for the privilege. Most of the best hunting and fishing areas are closed to you forever, unless you are a personal friend of the owner, or very wealthy, or a high ranking member of one of the old families of European nobility. In some Middle Eastern countries, (Iran for example), it is still like it was in medieval England, where all wild game is the property of the Shah, and you can hunt only with his permission.

In America, there is less and less land available to the public. Land is lost to urban development, industry and highways. Good hunting and fishing areas are locked up by private or even public interests. For example, some parts of trout rivers in Colorado are closed to public fishing. A considerable length of the Rogue River in Oregon is owned

by California interests, who even hire patrolmen to keep the public away from 'their' fish.

As far as steelhead fishing in Washington is concerned, much of the land is still available to the public. There are some notable exceptions of course. A large part of the Cedar and Tolt River watersheds are locked up by the Water Department of the City of Seattle. Tacoma has pre-empted the Upper Green River, besides degrading three of the best rivers in the State by erecting dams on the Nisqually, Skokomish and Cowlitz.

Many private landowners do not let fishermen on their land. A few want to keep the fishing for themselves, such as some so-called recreational developments on the Skykomish River. Other people just don't want anybody around at all. But most people who have closed their land have done so after inconsiderate strangers have torn down a fence, left a gate open or littered their property. Littering has become the number one problem in landowner-sportsmen relations. Most people take justifiable pride in their property, and nothing angers them faster than to see someone throw trash and empty bottles and cans on their land.

Because of the rapidly increasing population and the decreasing area available to the public, the Steelhead Trout Club formulated its streambank access program. The main purpose was to provide leadership in pointing out the need for public streambank access. It was also our desire to set an example of what fishermen should do to ensure themselves of a place to fish.

Organized SBA activity started at a meeting in Olympia in 1951. There was some initial success in getting people to donate accesses and cooperating with our conservation clubs on work parties to develop accesses. In 1955 the SBA plan was changed when the Game Department finally became convinced of its importance and helped formulate techniques to actively pursue SBA. The two primary pushers of SBA in the Steelhead Club at that time were John Evensen and Wally Habenicht.

The basic SBA plan developed during this time was as follows:

1. The Game Department does most of the contact and legal work, and purchases the land or easements. Sportsmen help with contacts and promote landowner acceptance.
2. After the access is obtained, it is developed using Game Department materials and sportsmen manpower. Local SBA committees organize the work parties, with help from the local Game Department man. Typical work parties consisted mainly of streambank clearance, building stiles and fences, posting signs, and clearing paths and parking areas.

In March 1956, the Washington State Sports Council gave full committee status to SBA. John Evensen was the first chairman. Since then, many clubs have formed their own SBA committees. Some counties have SBA committees to prod local government to

provide for SBA. Even prior to this, Don Johnson, 1949 president of the club and long time chairman of the King County Planning Commission, pioneered the requirement of real estate developers on rivers within the county providing public access before plans would be approved. Success of this program was greatly facilitated and strengthened in the 1964-68 time period by work of Dave Botting, Howard Johnson, Cliff Smedley and others in maintaining public use.

The Steelhead Club has organized many work parties to brush out paths along river banks, and build fences and stiles. One continuing project has been to assist the Game Department in maintenance of hatchery areas. In particular, much work has been done at the Whitehorse Rearing Ponds on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish.

One of the hardest working SBA chairmen, Ed Hicks, started this project early in the 1960's. Wally Habenicht organized the largest work party to date (about 1960) of over 115 people, Howard Johnson in 1968 initiated a "Trouble Card" program, wherein we offer to help individual landowners if problems arise. For example, the Steelhead Trout Club will post signs, repair fences, build stiles and even clean up an area if it will persuade the landowner to keep his property open to the public.

Early in the program, a few landowners were persuaded to donate public easements for fishing. The best example of this is the Ed Fogh Drift on the Skykomish River, named for the late STC member who was largely responsible for obtaining the easement, It was soon realized though, that most of the access area would have to be purchased. The Game Department, after much prodding, began to see the need and programmed some money for acquisition.

The concept of Game Department access acquisition and Sportsmen development proved to be an excellent technique for SBA. But it was obvious that large amounts of money would be necessary if adequate amounts of public access areas were to be obtained. Through the work of Marvin Durning, Torn Wimmer and others, Initiative 215 was formulated in 1964. This initiative allocated the unclaimed marine gasoline tax refunds for acquisition of water oriented recreation lands. The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) was formed to allocate the funds and oversee their expenditure. Signatures for 215 were obtained mostly by sportsmen, and the Steelhead Club secured more names than any other organization in the State.

Initiative 215 was a landmark public benefit because for the first time a major source of funds was available (about \$500,000 per year) for purchase of recreation lands for public use. At the same time, Referendum 11 was passed which provided \$10 million in recreation bonds. Because of the overwhelming passage of Initiative 215, the recreation portion of the Forward Thrust election of 1964 was approved by a substantial majority. And a few years later a \$40 million bond issue was passed for recreation funds. Hopefully, the public is now conditioned to the need for supplying money for recreation lands. It is now a concern of the SBA committee to make sure that SBA gets a fair shake in the allocation of the funds.

In the last few years, the share of Interagency Committee money provided to the Game Department and Fisheries Department for access has decreased. The IAC has become dominated by people representing urban groups and parks. Urban parks are very expensive to acquire, and use a lot of money that would be better spent for streambanks. Our immediate concern is to reverse this trend.

The future of SBA is basically more of the same: To foster and maintain goodwill between fishermen and landowners; help raise funds for land acquisition; provide work crews to help develop access areas and assist in maintenance. Our ultimate goal is to have a pedestrian easement along both sides of all steelhead rivers in the state. Everyone should have an equal opportunity, if they desire, to try and catch a steelhead. On some Saturday mornings in December, I am beginning to be convinced that everyone already has that desire, and they are trying in the same place I want to try.



Good turnout for this Work Party, Club members and Department Personnel.



## **RIVER PROTECTION (50 years guardian of our rivers)**

**By  
Pat Patterson, Committee Chairman**

In 1928 it was commercialization of the Steelhead and today 50 years later because of the Judge Boldt unlawful decision, we are again faced with the same problem. But as tried and true Steelhead Trout Club members, we have arisen to the occasion and are fighting the problem.

I have been in the STC only 25 years, (my silver STC anniversary) dating back to 1953. So any background on River Protection beyond 1953 will have to be covered by the "Old Timers" of the Golden era.

Many, many battles for Conservation and Protection of the Steelhead had been won and lost before I became a member, so I will try to cover the time from the 1959 Cowlitz fight until the present time 1978.

Fred Habenicht will cover the Cowlitz fight in detail in his report so I will pick up the river protection activities from that point on.

In 1959 dredging of 54 miles of the Skagit river was proposed by the Corps of Army Engineers from Concrete downstream to Mt. Vernon. Public hearings were held at Mt. Vernon on April 12. Input and protests were heard and noted, letters were written etc. The Corps on Oct. 1965 reached a decision that the project was not justified by the estimated savings in transportation.

Dec. 4, 1963 The River Protection Committee requested advance notice of public hearings on the Avon By Pass flood control project at Padilla Bay on the lower Skagit and "Water Resources Development by The Army Corps of Engineers in Washington State, describing civil works projects and studies as of Jan. 1963. The information was furnished, meetings were held with the Corps and input furnished by the STC on various projects under study.

July 1963 Chehalis net ban was asked of Gov. Rosellini by way of a petition bearing 9000 signatures gathered by the STC, protesting a late 2 week commercial fishery for silver salmon at the mouth of the Chehalis River in December. The STC was able to put observers on some of the gillnet boats to check the incidental catch of steelhead.

Jan 6, 1964 appropriations for the Corps ran out with the spending of \$729,000 on the Sammamish River. The Corps was not pushing for new appropriations and projects.

April 5, 1966 Letters and meetings with the State Pollution Control in regards to the Lone Star Cement Company plan to pipe slurry from Concrete to Padilla Bay. The

project was protested by sportsmen and was defeated. The State Water Pollution Control Commission was a plus factor because of its stand against any pollution along the pipeline into the Skagit River or shoreline.

1966 Letters and meetings with the State Pollution Control Commission regarding the dumping of raw sewerage by the City of Sultan into the Skykomish River just above the confluence of the Skykomish and Sultan Rivers. As a result of the meetings and protest, a treatment plant was built and put into operation at what is now known as Sultan Park.

1966 Pollution Control also notified of a raw sewerage dump by the State Reformatory at Monroe just downstream from the Hansen farm, as a result of this input to the authorities a lagoon type treatment was put into operation and the pollution was stopped. (Note) This was the year that the National Wildlife Federation had proposed to "Keep America's Waters Clean."

1966 Pollution problem on Chambers Creek caused by the Oakbrook Development along the stream. Pollution Control and State Game Dept. notified and the situation was cleared up in short order.

1966 Letters to Rep. Thomas S. Foley (Interior and Insular Affairs Committee) asking that S-1446 be taken out of committee and affirmative action taken to try and speed up the Wild Rivers Bill concept.

April 13, 1966 Bad slide upstream on Jackman Creek discoloring the Skagit River for many miles downstream. This slide caused by logging and nature had to take care of this one.

Aug. 1966 Pollution by Western Sand and Gravel on the Cedar River and by the Reid Sand & Gravel on a tributary of Issaquah Creek. Authorities notified and situation corrected on both rivers.

1966 Grays Harbor extended Salmon fishery to Dec. 10, protested to the Dept. of Fisheries and to the Governor.

June 1966 City of Everett drains the Sultan river. National Wildlife notified and took action thru the Conservation News.

May 1966 Pollution to Cedar river by the Cedar Grove Trailer Park, letter to Wash. State Pollution Control. Action taken and cleaned up by July 1, 1966.

Sept. 20, 1967 Big fish kill in the Sultan River as the City of Everett Water Dept. shuts off the water to the Sultan virtually drying up the river Game and Fisheries seek mitigation for fish losses,

1967 Passage of Int. 215 Marine Recreation Land Act and Ref. #11 Outdoor Recreation bond issue, the STC played a big part in this one.

March 1967 First step in involvement to stop Kennecott Copper open pit mine in the Cascades, Contact made to Pollution Control Comm. to obtain information regarding meeting pollution requirements into any waters. Letters to Game & Fisheries Departments relating our concern of slurry, or tailings polluting the Sauk and Suiattle Rivers from the mine and its operation, roads, bulldozing etc.

Aug. 5, 1967 Kenneecott protest. About 150 conservationists met at Sulphur Creek campground to protest, and Justice Wm. Q. Douglas and his wife attended and made a short hike up the trail towards Image Lake. Pat & Edith Patterson, members of the STC made up posters protesting the Kenneecott operation and distributed them to interested protesters. Pat also made a movie of the protest. We had good TV and news coverage.

The Kenneecott operation is in limbo at this time because operations due to winter weather and snow may not make the venture profitable. Also the Alpine Wilderness Act which passed in 1976 and signed into law by President Carter may have a bearing on the future prospects of Kenneecott.

Jan. 13, 1968 Fish Kill on the Pilchuck River by the City of Everett Water Department. Chlorine was blamed, authorities notified and mitigation was claimed by the Game Dept. State Pollution Control Commission was notified and reminded that there had been a similar spill on Sept. 20, 1967.

Aug. 1, 1968 Illegal fishing within 400' of the dam at Landsburg on the Cedar River, the Game Dept. sign warning of "No Fishing within 400' of the dam" had been removed. Game Dept. notified of the situation and came out and posted same with new signs, and a promise to enforce the area.

April 29, 1968 Letter to Water Pollution Control Commission c/o Mr. Roy Harris, inquiring of the part that WPCC would play in enforcement of standards set forth regarding thermal pollution. Letter acknowledged and details about thermal discharge into the water explained, although there are still many gaps to fill between Federal and State discharge laws and enforcement.

Sept, 20, 1968 Letter to Rep. Pelly, Federal Power Commission and the Water Pollution Control Com., indicating the STC stand against thermal pollution discharge into any of the Waters of the State of Washington.

Sept. 30, 1968 Letter to Water Pollution Control Comm. regarding the new item "Sewerage Plan Sparks Snoqualmie Fight" at Duvall Washington. Developers by passed the K.C. Planning Comm., had no public hearings, and filed no statements with any of the authorities of the State of Wash. The authorities, Water Pollution Control and K.C. Planning stopped the project.

Jan. 27, 1960 Stoneway Sand and Gravel again charged with pollution of the Cedar River East of the golf course at Maplewood. W.P.C.C. notified and action taken, Situation corrected.

March 30, 1971 Letter to the K.C, Dept. of Bldgs. in opposition to the Cedar River Campgrounds development, explaining that area involved was zoned residential, no perk tests had been made or filed, no variance issued and no permit issued for the development. The STC recommended to the K.C. Planning Commission they not consider the variances requested. Work was stopped May 15, 1971 by K.C. Bldg. Dept. Leisure Development Co, backers of the campsite ignore the priorities and continue to sell property. June 16, 1971 Judge halts camping club development. June 23, 1971 decision due on CROC. July 1, 1971 Graydon Beeks, Deputy County Examiner, urges denial of the CROC rezone application.

(NOTE) One of the good things that came out of the CROC fight was badly needed legislation to protect camping club investors from being taken in on bad risk areas and con artists.

Aug. 5, 1971 Denial sought for Campsite in Maple Valley on the Cedar river.

Aug. 8, 1971 Zoning denied. However, another application can be submitted after a year has passed. CRCC Filed Bankruptcy, ending fight.

1971 We waged a fight against clear cutting of our forests, many letters were written to Forestry Management and various Senators and Representatives. On Oct. 6, 1971 Charles Aweeka of the Seattle Times had the courage to take pictures of the rape of the Clearwater river by the logging industry on the Olympic Peninsula. Your River Protection commended him for the story and pictures presented. The battle against clear cutting is still going on today in 1978. From 1972 thru 1976 my records indicate only a few skirmishes with those who would destroy the rivers, however, it is my feelings that the Steelhead Trout Club membership should present any committee problems to that committee chairman at meetings or by phone and keep zeroed in on the bad guys. Sept, 26, 1977 Letter to Dixy Lee Ray (Governor) castigating her for taking a stand against the Wild Rivers Legislation before congress and for her stand to build a dam on the Sauk River.

Feb. 15, 1978 U.S.D.A. says no decision has been reached on whether Wild and Scenic classification of the Skagit would be affected by two proposed nuclear power plants. (See Wild & Scenic River Study)

## **WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY From 1962 Thru 1978**

**By  
Pat Patterson, Committee Chairman**

In June or early Spring of 1962, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the Federal Government's newest Conservation organization was born, and Pat Patterson of the Steelhead Trout Club, was the first to knock on the door of the B.O.O.R. and meet Ken Overly its director in the Seattle area.

It was this agency under the leadership of Edward C. Crafts (Director) and Stewart L. Udafl, Secretary that eventually led to the Wild River Concept. So for the record I would say that the Wild River concept started in 1962.

In June of 1963 the interior Department & Agriculture Dept. established the Wild River Study teams.

In Sept. 1963 Sixty four (64) rivers were identified by the study teams, in the Pacific N.W, the Hoh, Methow, Queets & Skagit were picked by the team. Of the above the Skagit Sauk & Suiattle were picked for extensive study.

March 9, 1965 Senator Jackson added the Cascade River to the already picked Skagit, Sauk and Suiattle.

At the time of the addition of the Cascade River, I started pushing for legislation to make this Wild River concept a reality, we had just lost the Cowlitz River after a bitter battle and it was my feeling that the Skagit system was now the last chance to preserve a great river. Everything that was needed to qualify as a Wild River was to be found within the Skagit, Sauk, Suiattle and Cascade Rivers and their tributaries.

On Feb. 8, 1965 the President of the United States Lyndon B. Johnson presented a message to our country relative to the Natural Beauty of Our Country, and in document #78 of the 89th Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, Page 6, under the title "Rivers", he made a most remarkable finding.

To make this transcript as short as possible I will relate that many bills from the Senate and the House regarding the W&S Rivers were presented, tabled, re-introduced, watered down, held in committee, etc. over the years. This led to many letters from the STC and committees requesting action on the bills presented and at times reintroduction of these bills pertaining to the W&S River concept. Letters to Rep. Pelly on Aug. 1, 1968 and Nov. 9, 1969 requesting that Pelly keep the W&S proposal active in the House, and work with his fellow legislators to re-introduce bills that had died in committee regarding W&S Rivers, Rep. Pelly went all out and has our undying gratitude

for his efforts, because it was only thru his efforts that we have a W&S act before Congress today.

Nov. 16, 1971 Hearings by the National Forest Service with explanation of the study questions and answers. Input desired from the audience. Hearings were attended by members of the STC, and input was forthcoming.

Aug. 29, 1973 testimony presented to Mr. Allen R. Duhnreck, Forest supervisor Mt. Baker Dist. regarding the STC stand on the NFS proposal offered.

Sept. 24, 1975 Written testimony was mailed to the Regional Forester NFS in Portland, Ore. to be entered in their records on the W&S Rivers hearings. The STC concurring with the plan set forth by the NFS and also reaffirming our position regarding any dam on the Sauk River.

President Carter in his 1977 Environmental message, endorsed the Forest Service proposal to add the Skagit, Sauk, Suiattle and Cascade Rivers to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers system.

Sept. 26, 1977 Letters from the STC and the River Protection Committee protesting Washington State Governor Dixy Lee Ray's stand against the W&S Rivers bill awaiting passage by Congress.

Dec. 20, 1977 The Seattle Times editorial section accuses Rep. Lloyd Meeds of Skagit politics for saying he would introduce the long awaited legislation to Congress declaring the Skagit system recreation and the other tributaries, Sauk, Suiattle and Cascade as scenic, but include in the bill language permitting a dam on one of those tributaries, the Sauk. It is expected that Congress will tell Meeds he can't have his river and dam it too! The whole W&S concept could be in jeopardy under his proposal. For the record. Testimony including that of many Skagit residents was overwhelmingly in favor of the NFS river system classification.

Feb. 15, 1978 USDA says no decision has been reached on whether W&S classification of the Skagit would be affected by two proposed nuclear power plants. **(Note)** Our recommendation from the River Protection Committee would exclude that portion of the Skagit downstream from Sedro Wooiley, thereby not endangering the recreation status of the Skagit, a proposal that was mutual between the STC River Protection Committee and the NFS. As of this date, Rep. Lloyd Meeds has double-crossed Philip Burton of California by amending the Omnibus Conservation Act in Congress, (which had included the Skagit System), to remove the Sauk River from the plan to permit a flood control dam on the Sauk. TO ARMS MEN! TO ARMS!

# THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

*By*  
*Thos. O. Wimmer*

The environmental movement has been with us much longer than many realize. The terms environment and ecology have always been a part of our language and teachings. However, we did not relate these terms as broadly with the outdoors or in the same manner as we do today. We have given them much more extensive meanings.

Conservation was the common description forty or fifty years ago when you wanted to preserve or save something. As we used the term, to serve the Sportsmen's interests even though narrow in its scope, it did serve as a basis to point out the shortcomings in the management of the outdoors and the wild things who live there.

In the State of Washington, the organizing of the first outdoor sportsmen's club was the beginning of the environmental movement. The development of our state, first brought people, followed by industry. This surge gradually changed the economic base from agricultural to one of industrial, which in turn put a tremendous demand on the utilization of the natural resources.

The Steelhead Trout Club was formed primarily because of concern for the dwindling numbers of steelhead and their commercialization, due to poaching and net fishing in the rivers. The destruction of prime spawning beds caused by logging, water developments and the increasing evidence of water pollution were also factors which justified their organizing. Attempts to correct these problems pointed to a much more subtle depressant called "County Game Control". This County management agency simply meant that wildlife management decisions were made in the political arena, naturally the resources suffered. To combat this negative element, the fledgling sportsmen's groups and individuals joined together and took their issue to the people in 1932 in the form of Initiative 62. The passage of this initiative placed the responsibility for the management of the fish and game resources under a new department of State government. Here the people could expect, continuity of policies, programs, and management, free from political intervention.

This success helped to inspire the formation of the Washington State Sportsmen's Council in 1934. Many of its organizing members had been active in remodeling the county control program in 1931-32. Then another group with many of the same participants sponsored and enacted in the same year Initiative 77, which eliminated the fish traps from state waters and restricted other methods of commercial gear. The organized sportsmen in those days and in the years following, accomplished many worthwhile conservation projects, such as, stopping ill advised dams on major spawning streams, pinpointing water pollution as a major depressant for fish production, salmon and steelhead enhancement programs, streambank access, just to name a few. They were the only strong voice at that time for the protection of the public's interest in the management of our wildlife resources.

After World War II, the increase in our nation's population brought many new families to Washington State. They had heard of our mild compatible climate, our relatively unspoiled natural environment and the opportunity for virtually an unlimited variety of outdoor recreational experiences, and so they came. This influx of new people brought with them a different philosophy for the use of the natural environment. Some were hunters and fishermen, but many more were interested in hiking, kayaking the white waters of the rivers, skiing, mountain climbing, watching the birds and animals in their natural habitats, or just walking in the forests and enjoying nature. Many of these newcomers were young professionals, who decided to leave the big cities of the East and South. They were disenchanted with the decay of the rural and urban environment of their home lands. They wanted more out of life for themselves and their families, than a highly paid job in a smoggy, dirty community, where a trip to the country was a three times a year event.

However, they soon realized that the State of Washington, like the rest of America in concert with the Federal government, managed the natural resources and the public lands for the benefit of established user groups, such as, the forest industries, mining interests, agriculture, hunters, fishermen and etc. These new groups were not satisfied with these limited and single use policies and programs, they wanted areas set aside so they also could pursue their special kinds of interests in the outdoors. Their perseverance and determination caused the establishment of a national wilderness system, which set aside forest preserves, more and larger national parks, wildlife refuges and so on. It is understandable then that suspicions developed between this new kind of conservationists and the established sportsmen's organizations. The sportsmen opposed the creation of more and larger national parks, because parks eliminate the opportunity for hunting. Many sportsmen were also highly suspicious of establishing a Wilderness System. It controlled the use of the sophisticated outdoor recreation vehicles in the back country, and the high alpine mountain areas. It also prohibited man built contraptions in the wildernesses and they were also opposed, because of the ever present fear of the eventual restrictions on hunting.

In spite of the strong feelings on these issues from both sides in the early sixties, there was developing a feeling by some of the older conservationists and the new preservationists that they should be communicating about the things they could agree upon and not engage in futile discussions about issues where compromise was not possible. After all there were many items of mutual concern, which both groups supported. By coordinating their efforts, they could further those interests and resource conservation would be advanced. This feeling of mutual support culminated with the introduction of a wild and scenic rivers bill into the 1967 session of the Legislature. The response to a call to attend a public hearing on the bill was so overwhelming, we knew that now was the time to develop an umbrella organization, which could address itself to the broad issues of conservation or protection of the environment which most groups could support.

The new organization was incorporated in 1968 and named the Washington Environmental Council. The sole reason for its existence was for the development,



introduction, lobbying and implementation of legislation for the management and protection of the natural environment. A number of the established sportsmen's groups, who had a broader understanding of the conservation issues joined up. We are pleased to say that the Steelhead Trout Club of Washington was one of its first, strongest and enthusiastic supporters.

The formation of the Washington Environmental Council was the beginning of the organized voice for all environmental concerns in Washington State, and the third such organization nationally. The Council's ten years of existence enacted laws, which have received national recognition and have been used as models many times. Naming a few: Creation of the Department of Ecology in 1970. The Shoreline Management Act of 1971. The Water Resources Act of 1971. Strengthening of the Air and Water Pollution Control Laws in 1971. The Forest Practices Act. In my opinion one of the most important pieces of legislation was the passage of the State Environmental Policy Act of 1971. This act established guidelines for the protection of the environment, which the private and public sector of our society must take into consideration in their plans for development. W.E.C's legislative successes could not have happened if it had not been for the combined support of many dedicated citizens and organizations, fishermen, hunters, birdwatchers, lovers of open space and etc. All were concerned about the mismanagement and desecration of the natural environment.

As a word of advice for those who follow. Most of us who have been involved in the conservation movement for many years, realize that the issues are never really solved or brought to a final conclusion. You just slow down the process of exploitation. Our fore-father who said, "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance<sup>1</sup>" spoke a truism that also applies to the management and protection of the natural environment.

# THE BOLDT DECISION

By  
*Garland Morrison*

Never in the 50 year history of the club has a more devastating and demoralizing ruling been handed down than on February 12, 1974, when Judge Boldt ruled on the provision of the infamous Stan Pitkin suit which patently handed over 70% of the state's salmon and steelhead resources to fewer than 1% of the state's citizens. Until this time, the Steelhead Trout Club had been ardent enthusiastic conservationists; leading the fights against dams, and water pollution, bad forest practices and engaging all issues affecting streams and stream bank access. This occurred long before the current environmental interest. With the tyrannical Boldt decision, almost all sports clubs involved with salmon and steelhead fishing went through a metamorphic change where citizen interests turned from issues of conservation and management of fish and game to a concentrated hatred of the federal bureaucracies, federal courts (especially Boldt) and against almost anything Indian. This attitude festers today and will continue to fester until someone re-establishes the God-given right to be born with equal opportunity to share equally in the natural resources, based on skill, hard work, and training in accordance with U.S. Constitutional guarantees.

A review of the history of the Boldt decision and examination of the events leading up to the ruling shows that the Steelhead Trout Club once again was a leader in seeking changes to benefit the fish and the fishermen.

On September 21, 1969, in Yakima at a meeting of the Washington State Sportsmen's Council, Ken McLeod handed a draft of an emergency resolution 969\*E3 to the new sports council steelhead chairman, Garland Morrison, and said "sign ttf" Without knowing what the consequences could possibly be Garland signed the emergency resolution, along with Earl Engman the salmon committee chairman. The resolution passed the sportsmen's council general assembly without dissent.

The resolution had been drafted by Ken because Governor Evans, through his director of fisheries, Thor Tollefson, had established exclusive off-reservation commercial gill net fisheries solely for Indians — a clear violation of state and federal constitutions. The Governor and the director of fisheries ignored the sports council resolution to cease and desist, and as a result, Garland and Earl filed suit against Thor Tollefson early in 1970. The suit sought to claim equal fishing status off-reservation for non-treaty and treaty citizens alike. It was filed against Tollefson.

In early September 1970, a counter suit was filed by the U.S. Attorney Stan Pitkin, This suit was designed to litigate the Indian treaty status in the State of Washington, both on and off-reservation. For months the Sportsmen's Council tried to become intervenors in the suit, along with others, to no avail. Judge Boldt autocratically held that the State would "adequately" represent our interests and thus allow only fisheries and game (represented by only one attorney) to defend the State's interests.

Due to the overriding nature of the Pitkin suit, the Washington State Sportsmen's Council dropped its suit on the advice of its attorney and tried to help the State prepare its case against the power of the federal government, and 14 Indian tribes armed with federal grants. After three weeks of testimony in 1973, six months later, Judge Boldt dropped his bombshell. He claimed that only the Indians had a "right" to fish, all others only had a "privilege". (This was later denied by the State Supreme Court.) Judge Boldt claimed that the Indians could fish at their usual and accustomed grounds and stations off reservation and harvest 50% of the harvestable salmon and steelhead; plus they could also take fish for subsistence and ceremonial purposes; plus, if they were fishing with state licenses, their share had to count against the non-Indian take; plus there was no limit on reservation catches. This decision resulted in an outright gift of over 73% of the State's steelhead resources to less than 1% of the State's citizens, and as high as 75 to 98% of the steelhead catch on 12 of the 19 rivers in the Boldt case area. In addition, Boldt's decision has arbitrarily removed steelhead trout from its 40-year game fish classification under State statutes and permitted Indians to totally commercialize it.

The sense of frustration and inequity of this blatant miscarriage of justice fills us all today. Thus, it was the members of the Steelhead Trout Club engaged in a long bitter struggle to regain our lost rights. Political battles were and are being waged by involved members. Members are attending meetings set up by a Presidential Task Force which was established because of citizen political unrest over the inequality of the Boldt decision. The presentation to the Task Force is essentially as follows:

1. Decommmercialize the steelhead trout and remove it from sale and export.
2. In accordance with (1) above, all federal funds should be used for salmon enhancement — the Department of Game will go it alone with State funding.
3. The matter of equal protection of citizens under the law must be restored.

It is our hope and prayer that these next few years will see our objectives come true so we can get back to the original environmental and management issues that badly need attention, plus a return to political sanity and constitutional government.

# **THE FUTURE OF STEELHEAD AND STEELHEAD FISHING**

*By  
Phil Tucker*

Whatever we project for the future of steelhead is primarily a function of people . . . their quantities and their behavior.

Until the advent of civilization the factors bearing on the steelhead were, for the most part, natural events. These included evolution, climatic changes, epidemics affecting the fish or their food chain, fires, etc. At least in smaller streams the Indians could exert a significant impact, it is interesting to speculate, however, that the Indian could ever totally destroy the fish. The Indian avoided starvation by moving to new locations when his current fishing was depleted to the extent that he became hungry. This occurred prior to total destruction of the fish runs and consequently the runs were always able to regenerate.

In examining this proposition we should keep in mind that the value of the steelhead is almost completely as a sports fishery. It makes little sense to perpetuate steelhead for food. Salmon are easier to raise and easier to catch. There is little motivation to perpetuate steelhead just to satisfy ourselves that they exist. A steelhead in the water does little to provide much in the way of satisfying or pleasing our senses... no lark songs, no aroma of cottonwood trees, no sights of huge Vs of Canadian honkers. Let's face it. . . Its value is in the fishing.

Preserving the fishery is possible. In the face of population projections which double or triple the quantities of people in our state before the year 2000, it will be a monumental task. Projecting from the impact of people in the past 50 years, it will be impossible without a quantum change in the behavior of people. We have witnessed a beginning. Today a significant segment of the population is concerned with the environment. We steelheaders are very lucky that many in this segment will fight for any environmental cause. They are our closest allies and must be supported. In the past, as virtually the only environmentalists, we were able to hold on to some of the resource. Today's pressures cannot be countered by a handful of steelheaders.

Fortunately, many of the needs for preservation of the fishery are the same goals that most environmentalists agree upon. Clean water, controlled logging, preservation of stream flows and preservation and regeneration of streams in their natural states are goals shared with us by the majority of environmentalists. Because of this we have a better chance in these areas than in other fishery preservation fields. Among these other more difficult areas are the over-harvesting of fish, quantities of fishermen, revitalization of stream habitat, competition for salmon populations and Indian commercial fishing. In fighting for these necessities we will find ourselves generally lonely and often alone.

In arriving at our picture of what the future might hold, it appears unreasonable and possibly even undesirable to expect to have more fish to fish ever than existed prior to the impact of people. We know that steelhead never existed in quantities like salmon. Although experts disagree on exactly how many steelheads there were, it is generally conceded that there were significantly more than now except possibly in rivers like the Cowlitz and Elochoman which have had huge plantings with good success.

In any case, and even if we were able to attain run sizes equivalent to historical levels, the availability of steelhead fishing per capita will be reduced as the population increases. We know too that if our standard of living continues to improve, that people will have more capability in time and money to fish.

Our picture of the future of steelheading develops then that the availability of steelheading will be reduced. We have seen it occur significantly as a result of the Boldt decision and current projections indicate we will see it more. In the past our game department administrators faced this problem primarily by reducing limits. Recently they have been shortening seasons. In the future they will find it necessary to consider such further controls as limitations on total fishing days per fisherman and catch and release regulations. Restrictions on boats will also become more necessary, and these of course will be affected by the availability of access for foot fishermen.

Granting that the per capita availability will be reduced it still will be possible to maintain a reasonable sports fishery if people want it badly enough. As discussed earlier, we are seeing today a strong environmental concern by a large segment of the population which will work in a number of areas to help the steelhead. This concern will probably continue and we should give it our support. This general environmental concern, however, cannot be expected to do too much for the steelhead fishery. The preservation of the actual fishery will continue to depend on the steelhead fishermen.

The effort must be concentrated in the narrow range of concerns which are shared by the steelhead fishermen with a very limited number of other people and sometimes none. When one gets to the question of habitat competition between steelhead and salmon, the steelheader may find sympathy, but he surely won't get much help. The same goes for the commercials with their incidental catches of steelhead. On other concerns such as Indian fishing and revitalizing stream habitat, we will find allies, however each problem finds us with a changing array of allies and enemies.

In summation we can probably expect to have a steelhead fishery, its quality will be directly dependent upon the efforts of steelheaders. The Steelhead Trout Club and other steelheaders will have to be twice as effective as in the past to retain a fishery equivalent to that of today.

Neither the natural phenomena nor the Indians of history were able to produce the devastating impact of our present civilization. There is no question that civilization's demand for timber, industrial development, energy, irrigation, highways and homes could quickly result in extinction of the steelhead. But this would not happen by

accident. There are enough concerned people today with enough knowledge to be able to identify any actions which would cause extinction.

The question then is if those concerned for the future of the steelhead fishery is greater than the competing values of civilization.



Typical Club Charity Fishing Party, this one on Skagit, when all catches are donated to charity.

## **MEMBERS VOTED INTO LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR EFFORTS BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY**

### **ENOS BRADNER**

*By  
Howard P. Gray*

Even back in the early 1900's when Enos Bradner was a kid, he had to show his brothers "how it should be done" when it came to fishing. Much of Bradner's childhood was spent in Upper Michigan at a time when fishing meant meat on the table, so Brad's later expertise came naturally.

After graduating from the University of Michigan and serving an active hitch in the army, much of which was spent ducking bullets in France, Brad returned to his home in Michigan. In 1925 he decided to take a 2-month vacation. Fishing all the way from Michigan to the State of Washington must have been a challenge, especially when his transportation was an old model car.

While seeking fishing information at Piper & Taft's, Seattle's leading sporting goods store at the time, he ran into Charley Wright. Charley was a Queen Anne Hill mortician and veteran steelhead bait *and* lure fisherman and became a member of the Steelhead Trout Club after it was organized in 1928, Charley, who had recently been introduced to the fabulous summer-run fly fishing on Snohomish County's Deer Creek offered to take Brad into that Shangri-La. Although Brad caught no fish that first trip, he saw Charley hook two and land one.

Brad's statement "I liked what I saw in Washington", must have been true, for in 1930 the 38-year old OUTDOORSMAN pulled stakes, moved to Seattle permanently and opened a bookstore on Olive Street just West of Broadway. Within a year he had resumed his tryst with Deer Creek and began taking summer-runs on a fly in 1930. He remained with his first love until the Game Department closed the creek permanently beginning with the 1936 season.

One summer morning in 1935 Brad tried his luck at the Deer Creek Riffle for the first time on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish. He hooked four and landed one that morning. He was hooked too for he began making frequent trips back there in the early hours of the day as his store did not open until afternoon. His first winter-run steelhead was taken on a lure in 1931 fishing the Skagit with Bill Free.

Brad also discovered the Wind River, one of the Columbia's tributaries in 1935 and began making the long annual treks for over 20 years over the Fourth of July and Labor Day holidays and on some trips remained a week. Here he found superlative steelhead flyfishing, hooking several fish on most days and rarely drawing a skunk. Brad is also an

avid winter fisherman, but just ask him and he'll say he'd rather take one on a fly than a dozen in any other manner. His prowess as a bird hunter is also well known.

In April 1943, the Seattle Times made one of their most important decisions. They hired Enos Bradner as their Outdoor Editor, a position he held for 26 years until retiring in 1969. Honesty in reporting was a Bradner trademark. It was not until after Brad retired that the sportsmen of the state, particularly the members of the Steelhead Trout Club, fully realized how much his column "The Inside of the Outdoors" would be missed.

Many awards have come to Bradner over the years — almost too many to detail. Among these however, were included the National Conservation Award of the Woodmen of the World; and the Dolphin Fishermen's Hall of Fame; and in the state, the Steelhead Club's Conservation Award; the Washington State Sportsmen's Council Conservation Award; in 1958 the YMCA's Hobby School Award and the Fly Club's "Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award; an impressive recognition of his services to the sportsmen of the state. Bradner's book "Northwest Angler" written and published in 1950 is on the shelves of fishermen all over the country.

It just might be that Brad's cast is a trifle shorter after 85 years, but I'll wager there are still very few young squirts who can beat him to the river.

## **JOHN EVENSEN**

*By  
Elmer Smith*

To the leaders of the original sixteen who signed the Steelhead Trout Club's charter and established the slogan "to perpetuate the Steelhead trout", add John C. Evensen's name to that select group along with other worthies who have worked tirelessly toward that goal.

John joined our Club in the early 1950's and quickly threw himself into the crusade. At that time the Club was promoting the novel concept of streambank access, an unheard of idea among state officials and landowners. John with our ever present State Sports Council I delegate Ken McLeod had the job to sell the program—first to the Council and then to the State Game Department. After many meetings and some considerable persuasion, the Club was able to get acceptance from the Department.

One of John's many promotional gimmicks at that time was to get 'one of our local beauties to parade, "wearing as little as possible, but enough to be considered appropriate at the time" with a sign identifying her as Miss Streambank Access. The opposition seemed to melt and we were on our way to Streambank access.

John was our first Streambank Chairman in the State Sportsmen's Council and held the position for several years before finally turning it over to Wally Habenicht and many others of the club.



This effort ultimately led to the Interstate Agency for Recreation program and the adoption of Initiative 215 in 1964. This plan has provided money for acquisition of water oriented recreation lands. He was also a leader among the many members who stood hundreds of hours on street corners obtaining signatures of registered voters for this initiative.

John also participated in several other signature drives for initiative measures and was always among the top in names obtained. In the forefront of these were Initiatives 24 and 25 to the Legislature, in which the Club led all others in the state against the Cowlitz Dam projects. We ultimately lost in the United States Supreme Court, but time has shown that John and the Club were right basically as the majority of the people in the country today are against the philosophy of developing one resource at the expense of all others. Maybe we were ahead of our time.

John was president of our Club in 1957, which was a good year. He was the second member to receive the Ken McLeod Inspirational Trophy which was inaugurated in 1959.

Our man was still pressuring the Game Department until he reluctantly had to withdraw for his move to Detroit, where he is now a high official in the L.T.T. Corporation. At the time he was trying to get the department to return to the practice of closing the upper rivers to protect the native runs of fish, a concept that the Club had sponsored when the State Game Commission first came into being, and which they adopted, but later abandoned. Now after six years the Department is back doing just that.

John has been blessed with a lovely wife, Dorothy, who has helped him on many of the club projects in which he has been involved to say nothing of the fish she has helped him beach, or who even caught the fish when he got skunked.

We can all be grateful to John when we fish such rivers as the Stilly, Sky, and the Green, because there are many accesses on those rivers in which he was directly involved in obtaining.

I think it can be truthfully said that John is the father of our Streambank access program. Club members are noted for their willingness to work for the sport of steelheading, John brought to this work a rare combination of guts, vigor and skill which made him one of the most effective workers for outdoor recreation in the history of our state.

John says he will be back with us. Quoting one of his favorite expressions: "even at the risk of being obnoxious", he will let us and our government leaders know how he feels. He will be right more times than wrong. A Fisherman's Fisherman in any type of weather or adversity — always ready to do it again. That's John C. Evensen.

## **MR. SPORTSMAN — KEN McLEOD**

*By  
Enos Bradner*

Ken McLeod well deserves the title of MR. SPORTSMAN, spelled in capital letters. For the past sixty years at least, he has been knee deep in every movement in the State of Washington that concerned the enhancement of the organized sportsmen. He is now regarded as the Father of the Steelhead Trout Club, which celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. He has been instrumental in organizing other sports clubs and worked hard for the formation of the Washington State Sportsmen's Council. You may name any one of the Statewide, West Coast or national movements for the betterment of fish or fishermen and you will find Ken McLeod right there among the ring leaders. A history of his achievements is a history of the organized sportsmen.

Ken was born August 6, 1898 in a modest house on Lakeview Boulevard, Seattle at a site overlooking the old steam plant on Lake Union. In 1903 the family moved to 4220 Corliss Avenue by way of a combination wagon and trolley bridge leading to the University of Washington which had just moved from its downtown location to its present campus.

Ken began his lifelong experiences in angling beneath this same bridge when he was six years old. He followed his older brother Norm to a selected spot near the center of the bridge, where he was supplied with a line ending in a hook baited with an angleworm. Ken was told to stay there and not move, and Norm left for a few minutes.

Soon Ken felt several gentle tugs on the line but did nothing as he was told not to move. (This is not typical of Ken in later life as he soon developed his own personal ideas and was never at a loss to express himself). At any rate, when Norm came back fishless and was told what happened, Ken was rebuked for not setting the hook. Later he developed into a good perch fisherman and was hooked for life.

Then he began to spread out. When he was eleven he started fishing the many creeks North and East of Seattle, including Keith, Maple Leaf, McAleer, Lyons, Swamp, North and the two Bear Creeks, to 1914 and 1915 he made the long hikes to the Forks of the Tolt from the Kirkland Ferry.

It was in 1915 that he had his first brush with a steelhead in the canyon of the North Fork of the Tolt. A big steelhead rose to take his single egg as he was lifting it from the water, but it missed. It was not until 1921 that he landed his first steelhead, in a pool in the lower canyon on the Sultan River, a 4-pound summer run on a spinner. Prior to this however, he had become a proficient searun cutthroat fisherman as far back as 1918, fishing the lower Stilly near Silvana with his friend Joe Husby, whose folks had homesteaded in the valley. But that steelhead on the Sultan really turned him on. At that period of time anglers did not range around the state looking for good steelhead streams as they do now, but Ken did a fine job of covering the waters near Seattle.

It was in 1921 that Ken hiked into upper Deer Creek over Mt. Higgins in a 3-day August deluge that proved only one thing — there must be an easier way in. So the next two summers he made three long 28-mile round trip hikes in by way of the Finn Settlement and Pilchuck Creek and hit the jackpot on summer runs using both spinners and flies. But that was still a 3-day trip in and out if you did any fishing at all. His first steelhead on a fly was from Deer Creek in 1922 on a Western Bee.

Ken had become one of a small group of anglers who became acquainted with the great unique run of summer fish that used the Deer Creek waters for spawning. Late in the summer of 1923 he found a much shorter way that he could make in an hour by way of a bluff near Oso (but without trail), yet still reach the productive pools and drifts made famous by Zane Grey in his Tales of Fresh Water Fishing.

Ken fished many of the pools pictured in that book. Roderick Haig-Brown, the international author of angling books was an early patron of the Deer Creek pools. That famed water has been closed since 1935 to all fishing and after the adjacent forests were logged off the steelhead runs declined. They are reputed to be on their way back and most anglers hope that the Creek can return to its former glory as all of the steelhead going into Deer Creek must get there through the Stillaguamish River.

In 1925 Ken started fishing the North Fork of the Stillaguamish at the Deer Creek Riffle, The property below the mouth of the Creek was purchased in 1928 with three owners, Joe Husby, Harold Pemberton and Ken, each with an undivided interest in the land. All three were members of the Steelhead Club, The ownership was later expanded to six. The first year the McLeods pitched two tents in the summer months at a permanent campsite they selected. In 1946 Ken built the cabin that still stands on the river bank overlooking the Stilly and the cabin is still in use. He started his son George out as a fisherman at the age of six and bought the lad his first fly rod when he was eight. From then on George became an accomplished steelheader both with bait and fly, plus an expert tournament fly caster.

About 1917, Bill Lohrer, a teen age friend, was taken on his very first trout fishing trip to Swamp Creek by Ken. Bill reciprocated about five years later by starting Ken on winter steelheads with bait, fishing lower Deer Creek, Canyon Creek, Pilchuck Creek and both forks of the Stillaguamish. By the mid-thirties Ken was successful in beaching winter runs with flies when water conditions were suitable.

I came out here from Michigan in 1930, later discovered the Deer Creek Riffle and found fine summer run steelheading there on the fly. I had a book store at that time and was able to go fishing nearly every morning ! drove up to the Stilly several times a week, met George on the river and we fished together, hiking down from Deer Creek and exploring. I became acquainted with Ken after joining the Steelhead Club.

About 1941 Ken came back once more to trout fishing and started haunting Lake Ballinger for rainbow trout in the early morning before work. At times Ken found schools of rainbows there rising steadily to the surface feeding on some sort of insect life or

larva, but almost impossible to interest with any standard fly. He caught one accidentally one Sunday morning that disgorged a quantity of what he identified as tiny perch fry not over  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch long. He got the message and headed for home where George, who was the family fly tyer, was busy at his vice.

They came up with a perfect imitation they called Nylon Nymph. It was dressed with a slight tail of gray mallard, the body an undercoating of white floss overlaid with clear nylon and cheeks of tiny jungle cock eyed feather, all on a light wire No. 10 hook. It had a translucency that was unbelievably lifelike. Ken rushed out to the lake again and was back home within two hours, having hooked and netted ten successive trout that raised within casting distance of his boat. This is one of the McLeod fly patterns that has achieved wide acceptance and it can be changed to red or green floss to match the vari-colored nymphs which are sometimes found in local waters — with equally lifelike appearance.



Ken McLeod  
Oct. 11, 1961 — Kispiox River  
Prime 14 and 11 pounders.



George McLeod - 12 years old.  
First Steelhead on fly for 1934 - 7½ lbs.

However, Ken's main angling interest was always the sporty steelhead and in his later years he concentrated mainly on taking them with fly. His experiences on Deer Creek helped to cement his lifelong interest on that type of angling. His trips to British Columbia's famed Kispiox River with George over the past twenty years, where they have fished exclusively with flies, have been replete with Field & Stream winners, including George's 29 pound 2 ounce steelhead caught in 1955 for a record that stood for seven years and Ken's 27–pounder taken in 1970.

Today he sticks mostly to the North Fork for his steelheading and has become virtually a fly angler for this migrant fish, but he will desert the fly rod in winter when he wants a fish bad enough to smoke. At an age nudging 80 he makes trips up to his cabin at the Deer Creek drift and fishes the water whenever conditions are right both winter and summer, wading the stream in boots or chest waders without use of a wading staff.

Anglers who do not indulge in the taking of steelhead on the fly do not realize the impact that Ken has made with his creation of the pattern known as the Skykomish Sunrise. It was inspired by the brilliant sunrises coming up over the serrated Cascade Mountains in shafted colors of red and orange they frequently witnessed as they headed toward Monroe and the Skykomish River. Under Ken's direction George fabricated the Sunrise and the fly has been dressed in that manner ever since. Ken's first fish on this fly was a 13 pound 13 ounce caught on the Sky's Hansen Riffle January 21, 1942.

The pattern has come into general use since, in all waters where steelhead are found. It is listed in all anthologies on steelheading. Most of the catalogs that list steelhead fly patterns include the Sunrise.

When a fly pattern has been adopted by generations of anglers, it will be long noted in angling literature — the name will endure. So the McLeods will be long remembered for their Skykomish Sunrise after they have gone to their happy fishing grounds in the sky. Many of the skills and techniques commonly used by steelhead fly fishermen today are the result of Ken's discoveries and developments.

Among his firsts were:

1925 — Adaptation of the stripping basket to steelhead fly fishing as a substitute in which to coil shooting line. Heretofore, when Ken was tournament casting, the line was always coiled on the platform on which the caster stood.

1942 — Developed the use of the 35-ft. shooting-head fly line in combination with monofilament running line for longer casting and drifting, either wet or dry fly and which evolved into using the superior oval braided monofilament for the running line when it became available later.

1952 — Gave Scientific Anglers, Inc. specifications for their first Weight Forward Wetcel fly line.

1962 — Tried to convince Scientific Anglers to come out with a shooting head having a 15-ft. sinking tip and 20 feet of floating section, which he had been using successfully for several years and predicted if they did not come out with it first, somebody else would. Cortland beat them to it almost a decade later with a 10-ft. sinking tip on their own length head. Ken continues to make his own sinking tips by attaching desired short lengths of high density fly line readily joining them by means of minuscule loops to suit the water he wants to fish.

Now, realizing that Ken McLeod has spent over half his life fighting the sporty steelhead, we turn to showing the other half when he was fighting for the organized sportsmen. Ken attended Lincoln High School where he ran on the track team, specializing in the mile run. He also played center on the school's city championship winning Midget basketball team. Immediately following high school graduation Ken started working as a bookkeeper-stenographer for the Locomobile Company in 1916, After a year there he was permitted to use the company car for frequent Sunday trout fishing trips, the only day off each week. He joined the Army in 1918 and trained at the Student Army Training Corps at the University of Washington for a month. He then was recommended for a transfer to the Central Infantry Officers Training School (CIOTS) at Camp MacArthur Texas, where he served out his short hitch ending 30 days after the November 11, 1918 Armistice.

Several months after discharge, Ken found a job with the Western Wallboard Company, a local concern which had pioneered in the manufacture of plaster wallboard in South Seattle. He again hired out as a bookkeeper-stenographer at the depression wage of \$125 a month, but when pay day came three weeks later, he was given a check for \$150. Advancement came rapidly and shortly he was named secretary of the corporation and general manager in 1926. Then in 1928 came a forced merger with a Los Angeles firm, followed by the stock market crash in 1929 and the roof literally caved in October 31, 1930. He not only lost his corporate holdings in the company, a \$500 a month job, but the family home as well to a one-third equity mortgage holder. During the following winter, fried steelhead, boiled steelhead, baked steelhead and creamed steelhead was the piece-de-resistance of the McLeod household.

Ken began to write outdoor news for the P-I in March, 1931 as its outdoor editor and served there until 1950. During that period he was the news spokesman for the Outdoors, writing columns named the Singing Reel, Red Hat Brigade and Splatter Casts that will be remembered by old time sportsmen.

As I stated earlier, Ken spent his adult life deeply involved in every movement for the enhancement of the angling fraternity. We will take a quick look at the main efforts in these endeavors, always emphasizing that Ken was a leading worker in every movement and often being the only one able to represent the sportsmen at Olympia during legislative sessions.

He served as secretary-treasurer of the WSSC from 1934-41, was reinstated in 1943 and re-elected each year until he voluntarily resigned in 1953 to devote full time to his S-dimensional photo viewer business. He was also executive secretary of the Salmon

Conservation League from 1934 through 1951, Also during this period he edited seven biennial editions of the Ben Paris Northwest Fishing & Hunting Guide; served as advisor to the Washington State Legislative Fisheries Interim Committee in 1935 and 1937; Consultant to the State Department of Fisheries 1942-45; declined full time appointments as Assistant Director in 1944 and Director in 1950; also co-authored and edited book titled "Fisheries" for the State of Washington in 1958, Ken was named Honorary Secretary of the Sports Council when he resigned in 1953 and still holds the distinction of never having missed a Council quarterly meeting since its inception. In 1936 he was awarded the Leo Weisfield Trophy as the State's Outstanding Sportsman.

As this booklet depicts, the Steelhead Trout Club was organized Jan. 20, 1928. Ken was a charter member. He served as its President in 1930. He won both gold buttons awarded in 1928 for the largest fish caught on bait and for the largest caught on a fly. His name is inscribed on the Ernie Hahn Trophy in 1935 for the largest on bait. He is one of the club's most faithful members, having attended virtually every meeting the club has ever held. He has earned about every award the club offers for taking trophy steelhead. For a period of several years, Ken took the gold button for fly-caught steelheads. The most prestigious trophy the club confers is named the Ken McLeod Inspirational Award. He truly may be considered the Father of the Steelhead Club.

In past years Ken was involved with many other sportsmen's clubs. Outside of being a life member of the Steelhead Club and the Seattle Poggie Club, he holds an honorary membership in the West Seattle Sportsmen's Club and has a charter and honorary membership in the Washington Fly Fishing Club.

Listing chronologically the main movements that the organized sportsmen have battled for, remembering that Ken McLeod was right there in the front rank fighting for their success, are:

1932 — The State Game Control Initiative 62 was formulated and voted in after an intensive and very successful campaign. It was carried by a large majority in six counties that overcame the deficit in the other counties of the state. It abolished the cumbersome and antiquated county control of fish and game and resulted in the present setup of the Game Department, which is rated as one of the best in the nation. It also served notice on the electorate that when the organized sportsmen got solidly behind an initiative it would pass.

1934 — Initiative 77, to outlaw fish traps was drawn up and after another intensive campaign passed by a 2 1/2 to 1 margin.

1935 — The Steelhead was made a statutory game fish in Washington State, which meant that it could only be caught by hook and line and could not be sold whole or in part within the state by anyone.

1935 — Also sponsored effort that obtained over \$1 million from Feds to screen all irrigation diversions in Eastern Washington to save downstream Steelhead

and salmon migrants, and to construct Minter Creek Biological Station and Issaquah Salmon Hatchery for Fisheries Department.

1936 — The Sockeye treaty controversy came to a head and was ratified the next year after a 40-year delay. Ken was named to a committee of six chaired by Dr. L. W. Whitlow that worked out the differences with Canadian fishermen in less than four months by adding three simple reservations of understanding. The International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Treaty was then promptly approved by the U.S. Senate and a few months later by the Dominion Parliament. It resulted in rehabilitation of the Fraser River Sockeye run.

1943 — Spearheaded effort to obtain money from general fund to help run Department of Fisheries.

1945 — Got State Pollution Control bill passed.

1946 — The fights were won against proposed dams on the Nooksack, Skagit and lower Green Rivers. It should always be remembered that the main efforts of these campaigns were won with the full cooperation and support of the WSSC, other sports clubs and dedicated sportsmen. The dam on the lower Green would have been built only six miles above Auburn, but after a tough fight it was erected up river above the range of migratory fish in Eagle Gorge, which also helped stabilize the flow of the river.

1947 — They fought Governor Wallgren to keep the Game Commission out of partisan politics by defeating Referendum 26 by a 7 to 1 vote of the people, showing again the power of the organized sportsmen once aroused.

1949 — The long and bitter fight to prevent Tacoma City Light from building the two dams on the Cowfitz, it was conducted again by the WSSC, other sports groups and virtually every organized sportsman in the state. Their efforts were successful in putting through the State Legislature the Lower Columbia River Sanctuary Act prohibiting construction of dams higher than 25 feet on certain of the river's tributaries below Bonneville. (See more detailed account elsewhere in this booklet.)

1974 — The infamous Judge Boldt decision. This decision spelled out a well nigh death knell for sports fishing for steelhead, a sport that had been enjoyed by sportsmen for more than 50 years, by permitting as high as 98% of the steelhead catch being taken by Indian nets in some rivers. Under sponsorship of the Federal Government the decision has prevailed to this date. Only the future will tell what the eventual outcome will be. (Other details also available herein.)

Today Ken McLeod is still fighting vigorously every attempt to encroach upon the traditional and constitutional rights of the sportsmen. More power to him. We all hope



that he will have many more years to serve as the unofficial watchman over the inherent rights of the sportsmen of Washington State.



George McLeod - 14 years old.  
11 lbs. 4 oz. - 32½" - August 6, 1936.

## **MORRIE MILLER**

*By  
Ken McLeod*

Morrie Miller was elected a Life-Member in 1977 after 43 years of faithful service to the Steelhead Trout Club. Morrie has been an ideal club member—a dedicated worker ever since he joined as a kid in 1934 and could always be depended on to do more than his share on any assignment. Although he never sought election to any post, he was imposed upon to accept the vice-presidency in 1948. He declined however, to be available for further office because of the additional responsibilities that developed upon him in managing the family owned Seattle Quilt Company after his father passed on, but he continued to attend meetings regularly and is always enthusiastic and cheerful.

Over the years, Morrie has contributed much to the life of the club. In his early years he was known as one of the better fishermen, especially for salmon. In the early forties, he was the "Mayor of Hope Island" one year for catching the first salmon of the season over 50 pounds. And about 1970, Morrie had a couple of beautiful 18 and 19- pound steelheads on display at the Club sponsored clinic that he caught on the Thompson River.

The Skagit has always been one of Morrie's favorites. For years he regularly put his boat in at Rockport or Birdsvew and caught his share of the big Skagit River fish. It is rumored that there is an old movie of him making a mighty cast one morning and knocking his partner's hat in the river just below Pressentine Creek.

Morrie's forte is to keep the club solvent and fixed up for raffle prizes. He is undoubtedly one of the world's greatest promoters of things like the clinic and our attendance raffles. He has personally sold more tickets and garnered more prize donations than nearly all the rest of the club put together. Morrie (Maury) is the only member to have had his name inscribed twice (1969 and 1975) on the Ken McLeod Inspirational Award.

No one is perfect, and Morrie does have a couple of faults. His repertoire of jokes is perhaps the worst in the club. And we all know that fishermen will stretch the truth on occasion, but Morrie makes a science out of it. When the fishing reports are given at the start of each meeting, Morrie invariably has some funny tale to relate. Finally, Morrie is luckier than any six people in winning raffle prizes.

As you can probably infer by now, Morrie loves the give-and-take camaraderie of the Club — and we all enjoy and love Morrie too, and thank him for his many years of loyal friendship.

## **TOM WIMMER**

*By*

*D. L. Bearwood*

The year was 1947 when Thomas O. Wimmer gave his pledge "to always carry an extra pair of dry socks with him while steelhead fishing". The reason? 'To help a fellow member in distress", as all members of the Steelhead Trout Club well know.

As a soon-to-be new member of this prestigious group of *Salmo Gairdneri* seekers, Tom, the new pledgee learned the reason. However, Tom, unnoticed during the frivolities of club initiation, must have been holding his head higher than his posterior, the usual and accustomed way, for Wimmer rose to become one of Washington State's leading conservationists and environmentalists.

A native Seattleite, Tom started fishing as soon as he was tall enough to cut a branch from a willow tree. All he needed then was six feet of string, a safety pin and an angleworm.

In those days Lake Washington, a four-block walk from his family home, had an abundance of rocks and logs to stand on. The water was fresh and clear and Tom could see down into ten or twelve feet of water. He could see the "Big Ones" way down deep, and Tom firmly established the lifelong challenges to get that "Big One".

As Tom grew older, the quality of fishing on his lake began to decline. He was finding it more difficult to see down into the once clear depths. At each passing year the purity and clarity of the water rapidly diminished. Thus at an early age, Tom became concerned about our water pollution and what could be done to combat its encroachment.

By this time Tom had become an avid steelheader. Anxious to learn more about this elusive, silvery creature of the depths, he was so to speak "all teeth and eyeballs" when he was invited to attend a meeting of the Steelhead Trout Club of Washington. The invitation came from Howary Gray and Guy Howard, who owned a restaurant called Howard and Howard, across the street from Tom's lighting fixture business. Guy has since passed on, but no president has ever been more dedicated to the job.

Even though Tom was well aware of the reputation the Steelheaders possessed, as being totally nuts, his enthusiasm was not affected at all. He was, after all, most anxious to learn all there was to know about catching steelhead. Tom was also made aware of the Club's objectives. The Club's conservation pledge stood for everything that he believed in. His elation then came as no surprise when his name was presented for nomination for membership.

Tom could then look forward to going fishing with the experts. He could learn where all the best rivers were located. In reminiscing about this the other day with Tom, I asked him coyly, if he ever found out where Bush Creek is located. He looked at me sort of

startled and said "That's strange you should ask me that. I was just going to ask you the same thing".

Soon after becoming a member Tom became active in the club. He headed various committees. In 1950 he was elected Secretary, in 1951 Vice-President and became President in 1953.

An artist and designer by profession, Tom during his term in office produced a new format for the club letterhead. This same design was used for the Steelhead Club brassard and window decal that are still in use today. The bronze "Conservation Award" plaque was also his creation.

Because of the tremendous influx of people moving into the Pacific Northwest after World War M, fishing pressure increased on our rivers. The hordes of anglers invading the stream banks each weekend soon rankled the farmers and adjacent property owners. Many new "No Trespassing" signs appeared along favorite stretches of river. Ill will developed between fishermen and landowners. The rights of anglers to fish certain areas were contested in controversial court battles. Real estate developers, who once regarded riverbanks as worthless, suddenly saw new value in this property. Large tracts of land along streams were purchased and chopped up into small lots and sold at premium prices. Vast areas of riverbank thus became inaccessible to the angler.

During Wimmer's term as President in 1953-54, Clarence Pautzke, a biologist who headed the steelhead program for the Washington State Department of Game approached Tom and said "Tom, we've got to do something about this streambank access problem, or else in a few years there just isn't going to be any place along the rivers to fish".

The issue was brought before the Club membership. Various suggestions on how to combat this serious problem were made. Reserving places along the rivers with the best fishing holes, either by purchase or some other method angered some of the old timers, "Hell! We've got too many fishermen on the rivers now. Why publicize these places?" some protested. A new committee, Streambank Access was set up and John Evensen named chairman.

After much debate a method of permanent easement was devised for access to the river banks. Thus, in cooperation between the Steelhead Club the Sports Council and the Game Department the Streambank Access Program was born. Carroll Rieck, a department biologist headed the program for the state.

Tom also learned that Seattle with its surrounding waters had the dubious reputation of being the sixth most polluted city in the nation. He met men in the Steelhead Club like Don Johnson, Ken McLeod, Eli Paulson and others, who had been actively working the problem since the mid-thirties and actually got a bill through the 1945 legislature creating a statutory Pollution Control Commission, It wasn't all they desired, but it was a start.

Then in 1953, Tom Wimmer, Irving Clark, Jr., and others vowed to do something to strengthen the existing authority which would clean up the horrendous problem.

A professional Sanitation Engineer and Professor from Johns Hopkins University, Abel Wohlman, was hired as a consultant by the City of Seattle. This person made a study, and in effect, said all we had to do to clean up the waters was to extend the sewer outfalls into deeper water — an obvious political fraud. So until Allan Pomeroy was elected Mayor of Seattle in the mid 1950's, we got precious little support from city fathers.

Wimmer was appointed chairman of the Pollution Committee of the Washington State Sportsmen's Council in 1953. During his term, the issue was thoroughly researched. Hearings were held in Olympia. When the subject of river pollution was discussed, a mayor of a prominent Washington city stated "We've always dumped our waste into the rivers". Wimmer responded by saying "Would you let your kid swim in a cesspool?"

As a result of increased pressure being exerted on our elected officials, Chet King, a legislator, introduced House Bill 355. This bill was a sportsmen's bill and was designed to clarify and expand existing pollution control laws. The bill passed and required a permit for discharging effluent into public water. Thus a firm basis was established to really pursue the pollution problem.

Eventually a City of Seattle bill called "Proposition A" the first area wide effort to clean up our waters, was presented to the voters of Seattle. Through the efforts of Wimmer and Irving Clark, Jr., the Municipal League voted by a count of 11 for and 10 against to support the measure. The measure passed, and finally in 1958, our present Metro system of pollution control was approved by the voters.

Tom retained his chairmanship of the Pollution Committee of the WSSC until 1962, the year he was elected President of the state group. Many legislative bills, initiatives and referendums concerning our environment and conservation needs were spearheaded by Tom and others and he remained active in the Council until 1968.

Recognizing the need to involve persons in all walks of life with regard to the preservation of our natural resources, Tom began talking to other groups and individuals about conservation problems. He discovered a tremendous resource of people who basically were pursuing the same ultimate objectives. These groups and persons were concerned with the problems of air pollution, water pollution, disappearing public access to shorelines, establishment of wild and scenic rivers, wilderness area preservation, etc.

Such a tremendous response ensued that a new organization was formed, "The Washington Environmental Council", Tom Wimmer was elected its first President in 1968 and served for three terms through 1970. Through the efforts of the WEC the Shoreline Management Act, Initiative 43 to the people was filed. The required number of signatures was obtained.

In 1971 shortly after Initiative 43 was passed, a new state agency, the Washington State Department of Ecology was established to enforce the new measure and a lot of old laws and various rules and regulations. John Biggs, the state's long-time and efficient Director of Game and friend of the sportsmen was named its first Director.

In 1970 Tom joined the Washington State Audubon Society and was elected President in 1973 and 74, and served as a national board member from 1970-76.

In 1974 Mayor Wes Uhlman appointed Wimmer to the Seattle Park Board. He was elected Chairman in 1977 and still retains the post in 1978.

Some of Tom Wimmer's honors of recognition for outstanding service are: 1956 Received the Steelhead Trout Club's Conservation Award, and in 1963 the Club's "Skunk Plaque" for catching no fish. 1969 Named "Democratic Man of the Year\*\*" by the King County Young Men's Demo Club. 1971 Honorary Life-Member of the Steelhead Trout Club, 1972 Old Timer of the Year Award, also, from the American Institute of Planners, "The First Citizen Award for a lifetime devoted to the furtherance of outdoor recreation and conservation. 1978 "Environmentalist of the Decade" by the Washington Environmental Council.

1978... Now 68, Tom says he's got thirteen holes in his steelhead punch card this year. I asked him where he caught them. He said "Bush Creek". Actually, if you'll promise not to tell him where you heard it, he got most of them in the Leo Wenzel drift on the Cowlitz.