

MISSOULA, MONTANA, SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 14, 1912.

WESTERN MONTANA, THE FISHERMAN'S PARADISE CALLS ALLURINGLY TO LOVERS OF THE SPORT



WHEN YOU GO A-FISHING IN WESTERN MONTANA YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON A GOOD STRING.



PLANTING FRY IN BASS CREEK LAKE.



THE RATTLESNAKE IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR FISHING STREAMS TRIBUTARY TO MISSOULA.



TYPICAL OF THE PRETTY CAMPING SITES ALONG WESTERN MONTANA STREAMS.



CAUGHT IN THE ACT—YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND THE BIG ONES JUST BELOW THE RAPIDS.



BOAT FISHING ON THE BLACKFOOT.



THE LOLO IS A FAVORITE STREAM FOR THE BOYS OF ALL AGES.



FISHING ON GRANT CREEK.



ANNUAL FISHING CAMP OF WILL CLARK AND PARTY ON THE BIG BLACKFOOT.

Through the Association of Anglers Missoula Awakens to Her Responsibility in Stocking Waters of Surrounding Streams.

Most of us in Missoula are a lot of blind Adam and Eves. We are living in the heart of Paradise, and we don't know it. We are in the midst of a fishing country whose attractions, if sufficiently advertised, would draw hundreds of sportsmen from every part of the country every year, yet we can't see it. We sit with our noses in railroad pamphlets, trying to find a summer vacation place where there will be good fishing, good weather and good scenery, with the best of places just outside the front gate. Our own attractions are too close to our eyes; we can't see them.

No matter whether you have an automobile, or a horse and buggy, or money for railroad fare or a stout pair of legs, Missoula's surroundings offer everything to be desired in the way of fishing streams. There are a dozen splendid fishing streams, where the scenery is unexcelled and the fishing of the finest sort within reach of the man who has but one day to spend at the sport and only a pair of boots for transportation. For the man with a horse or an automobile there are dozens more. Truly we are blind.

The Rattlesnake, the Bitter Root, the Missoula, Rock creek, Grant creek, O'Brien creek, Pattee creek, Marshall creek, Lolo creek, Miller creek—all within a few hours' walk. And in each and every one the fishing is of the finest kind—fine, big mountain trout there are for anybody's basket. And

everywhere, too, there is splendid scenery, refreshing air and good camping places.

For the man with a family, who wants to take his children on an outing where they will be safe and where he can at the same time enjoy a little fishing, Pattee, Marshall, O'Brien, Grant and Lolo creeks are the best of the closer streams. None of them are very large, and children can play in them safely. At the same time they are full of fine fish waiting for a chance to be taken out.

Pattee creek is a couple of miles southeast of the city. It flows out of the canyon at the south side of Mount Sentinel. There is a splendid road up the canyon for miles and every opportunity for a pleasant day's outing. Grant creek is some four miles west of Missoula. The county road to the west leads to the creek and from there to the north there is a perfect road for twenty miles upstream. Grant creek is one of the prettiest streams in Western Montana.

O'Brien creek is southwest of the city about five miles. It flows into the Bitter Root from the west, just above the Maclay bridge north of Fort Missoula. A good wagon road leads to it.

Marshall creek is on the Bonner side of Marshall grade, some four miles from Missoula. The county road leads to its mouth and a good wagon road follows the stream.

Lolo can be reached by rail or road,



A DEEP, DARK HOLE, BEHIND AN OLD STUMP, IS A COVETED PLACE.



LANDED IN ONE AFTERNOON—FROM BITTER ROOT, NEAR VICTOR



A TEMPTING MESS FOR DINNER.

It is about eight miles from Missoula and flows into the west side of the Bitter Root.

For the more adventurous fisherman the Rattlesnake, Rock creek, the Missoula, the Bitter Root and the Blackfoot are the most inviting. There are the big red-bellies and the bull trout, the gamiest fish in the world. The best fishing places in the Missoula river are at the mouth of the Rattlesnake, inside the city limits, and along the sloughs west of Missoula. The Rattlesnake is a good fishing stream from the mouth to the source and is followed by a splendid road. The Bitter Root is another stream which can be fished successfully from one end to the other. The good fishing places can be reached either by rail or road, for the Bitter Root branch of the Northern Pacific follows it as does one of the finest roads in Western Montana. The Blackfoot can be reached from the Bonner trolley line or the Northern Pacific. The Milwaukee branch road runs twenty miles up the river and there is a good road from Bonner clear up into the headwaters of the stream. Rock creek can be reached by the Northern

Pacific, the Milwaukee or wagon road. It is east of Missoula about thirty miles.

On the reservation there are many fine fishing streams. Finley creek, near Evaro, is one of the most popular streams in Western Montana. There are big fish there and lots of them. The Joeko is another good stream which is popular with Missoula fishermen and which yields a lot of fine trout each year.

We have in this fishing country a double asset—a personal asset so far as our own pleasure is concerned and

a community asset were the country advertised widely enough to draw some of the sportsmen who are so eager to find good fishing streams. We are surely blind. Scenery, a splendid climate, bracing air and the finest fishing. There is a combination which is hard to beat.

The Missoula Anglers' club has rendered splendid service to the streams near the city. Last year some three million fry were planted in the streams within easy reach of the city, and the work will be kept up this year. Eastern brook trout, the mountain trout and grayling are the sort planted. Last week Chick White and Frank McHaffie planted 100,000 fry, half in Thompson's slough, just above Fort Missoula, and half in the Bitter Root near Big Butte. George Holmbach is the president of the club and Frank McHaffie is secretary. These two men, together with Judge Bickford, the moving spirit of the organization, whose intimate association with the Columbia gardens and hatchery in Butte has secured a lot of fry for Missoula, have done more than any other three men in the city to

King of Missoula Fishermen, After Thirty years of Fishing With Rod in Western Montana Streams, Offers Some Iron-Clad Rules.

If the hot weather is getting the best of you; if you are nervous and impatient and "all in"—go fishing.

Rot, you call it? You say that you have heard this stuff about bracing mountain air and the smell of the pines and the delights of eating the fish you have just caught, before. You went fishing once and found that the mountain air was filled with mosquitoes and the pines didn't smell half so much as the underbrush tripped you up and caught your tackle and that if you had eaten only the fish you caught you would have starved. And you held up your hand in holy horror and cry "Never Again."

That is the unvarying experience of amateurs. That is why only members of the Anglers' association, who have learned by bitter experience, and strangers go into ecstasies over the fishing paradise which surrounds Missoula—for we do live in the heart of a fishing country which deserves the name of paradise.

And the reason for these amateurish troubles lies not in the fact that the fishing and the country are not good, but because of the ignorance of the fishermen of certain basic principles of the Walton's art—an ignorance for which there is no excuse. True, only experience will make a really successful fisherman, but there is a lot to be learned which can be learned by anyone with a little "horse sense" who has never had a rod in his hand.

Enter the hero. Missoula has plenty of good fishermen, fishermen who can go out in the morning and return before dark with bulging creels, but of them all Chick White is self-admittedly the King. And "Chick" White, realizing the fact that there are scores of people living here with splendid opportunities for real, invigorating sport at their very doors, who are overlooking those opportunities simply because of an initial disappointment, has undertaken to lay down a few rules which