

Let's Go Fishing

By Charles McDermand

What do Sierrans do with layover days and hard-earned leisure hours during the summer outings? A good many go fishing, and some bring in the limit of firm-fleshed, cold-water trout. We are fortunate in having, for this outing issue of the *BULLETIN*, the advice of a top authority, Charles McDermand. Friend of fishermen if not of fish, Mac is the author of *WATERS OF THE GOLDEN TROUT COUNTRY* and *YOSEMITE AND KINGS CANYON TROUT*.

Looking over the preliminary announcement of 1955 summer outings (SCB, December 1954) it seems to me that most members visiting the Sierra can look forward to trout fishing which will range from good to excellent.

Wilderness base campers who go over Shepherd Pass (better ride a horse) to Milestone Basin can be sure of superlative fishing. Milestone Basin itself is populated with eating-size rainbows, while the Upper Kern Basin is not too far away to walk over, fish and return to base camp the same day. Upper Kern contains golden trout, rainbows and brook trout, many of good size up to 20 inches.

The High Trip to northern Yosemite visits good rainbow waters—Dorothy, Tilden,, Benson, Wilmer, Smedberg and other lakes..

Either of the two burro trips that were tentatively selected would furnish good fishing. Yosemite's back country has trout scattered all through it. Mono Pass to Piute Pass—that route follows trout creeks much of the way, and skirts near many lakes containing goldens, rainbows, or brook trout. Pioneer Basin has a mixture of trout, Fourth Recess has brook trout, Third has rainbows and goldens, Bear Creek has rainbows and goldens. Goldens in Rose Lake, brook trout in Marie, goldens in Heart and Sally Keyes, and in Piute Creek.

The two-week knapsack trip to the Monarch Divide will probably visit the golden trout of Grizzly and Lewis creeks. Just west of Dead Pine Ridge, Kennedy creek and lake contain golden trout.

The late August-early September one week trip from Shepherd Pass to Whitney Pass is a toughie, but if anyone carries fishing tackle he'll find it useful. This route touches or goes near some of the best golden and rainbow fishing in the Sierra: Tyndall Creek Wright Lakes, Wallace, Crabtree and others. Some of the largest golden trout in the Sierra fin around in middle Crabtree lake.

The beginners' knapsack trip to the Clark Range would probably reach the rainbows of Ottoway and Edna lakes. There are some golden trout on Gray Beak fork. Brook trout in Washburn Lake and rainbows and brown trout in Merced Lake, if the route in or out passes them.

Sierra fishermen should prepare for every eventuality by carrying both fly and spinning tackle. A few tapered leaders and some flies —gray hackle with yellow body black gnat, Royal Coachman, captain, cutthroat, McGinty and blue bottle—will do well on most Sierra lakes and streams. But a spinning outfit for the big lakes with some Dardevels, Wob-L-Rites, and Flash Baits in red and white, nickel, brass and copper will often take fish when flies fail. This is particularly true on windy days when fly fishing is difficult or on lakes when the fish are lying a hundred feet out from shore. Beginners at fishing will also find a spinning outfit easier to master than fly equipment.

Excerpt taken from the *Sierra Club Bulletin* of April 1955