



## Empire Sportsman

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A New York Press Association Service

### Fishermen April Fools?

It may seem more than coincidence that the first day of April was the opening of trout season. This is a read letter day on any angler's calendar. We wouldn't miss it for anything — the icy water, rain and snow, numb fingers, and crowded streams.

To a non-fisherman, April fools were out in force this year. They'll probably never understand it, but I will try to explain why we go.

First, there is the tradition of it all. Man really is a creature of habit, an opening the trout season is part of the year's cycle. There are the memories of years past, and, always, the expectation of the present.

Secondly, it is the signal of a new beginning. Just as spring training excites baseball fans, and the last day of school is welcomed by school boys, the best is yet to come. Whether you fish from a snowbank in Essex or Franklin Counties, or trod the path along Catherine Creek south of Seneca Lake in Schuyler County, the physical hardships of opening day are lightened by the fact that another fishing season is here.

Finally, there are all the little, almost forgotten things, that kept your spirits high during winter blizzards. The warm, roomy feel of your boots, and the flood of relief that comes when you find no leaks have appeared since last fall. The throb of a rushing current on your legs, that makes you feel part of the stream.

The familiar cork handle and delicate balance of a favorite rod. The whisper of a flyline, or efficient whirr of a spinning reel. The rainbow array of your flies, or the polished glint of a spinner.

Then you have all the signs of impending spring about you. Even though the thermometer says it's winter, the spirited chirping of a cardinal tells you otherwise. Watch for a torpid crayfish crawling slowly forward than swimming backward as you scare him. A red-tail hawk floating northward on air currents. A pair of wood ducks flushed from a bend in the

stream. A frisking horse, seemingly glad to be alive with the sound of his hooves in his ears.

And, of course, if you're lucky, you will feel the surge of the season's first fish. Maybe it will be only a sucker that has inhaled the worm you've drifted through a pool. But more than likely that fish crosses the current, under a snag and out into the pool again will be a trout. Perhaps a sparkling brookie, or a more somber-hued brown. If you are extremely lucky, it might be a large, lake-run rainbow looking as if it had been dipped in liquid silver.

But, say it's a brook trout. Lay him on winter's last snow drift at streamside. Admire those incredibly red speckles on his side. And then be glad there is an April fools day when you can go fishing.

### Hornell Firm Awarded Contract

Governor Rockefeller has announced the award of a contract for \$582,955.75 to the Hornell Construction Corp., of Hornell, New York for construction of a bridge on County Road 31 over Van Campen Creek in the Town of Friendship, Allegany County.

The firm submitted the lower of two bids to the State Department of Transportation. The State's share of the cost of the project will be paid with funds from the Transportation Bond Issue approved by New York voters in 1967.

The 122-foot span will have a 40-foot-wide concrete deck and a 4-foot sidewalk on the north side. It will be built about 70 feet north of the present bridge. Approach roadways will be rebuilt with two asphalt-paved travel lanes and two parking lanes on improved alignment for 0.3-mile.

Scheduled for completion by July 29, 1970, all work will be under the supervision of William J. Dennis, engineer in charge of the State Department of Transportation District Office at Hornell.

Commercial Printing at the News Printing House

## Fishermen Do Not Abuse Rights Of Landowners

With the trout season open in New York, a familiar sight is a row of cars parked along a country road bordering a trout stream. This is fine, but the State Conservation Department reminds all fishermen that it can result in several problems, all of which can be easily eliminated by consideration on the part of the sportsmen.

Most of the streams in the State are on private property. Through a series of agreements between the Department and landowners, public access and fishing is permitted along more than 1,000 miles on 105 streams. It is greatly to the advantage of the fishermen to see that the property rights of the landowner are not abused.

Carl Parker, Chief of the Bureau of Fish, and a man with long experience in negotiating landowner agreements advises sportsmen to follow three simple rules:

1. Park considerably so that you do not block lanes, driveways of other roads.

2. Don't litter. Nothing infuriates a landowner more than to see his property so thoughtlessly defaced.

3. Use the access path where indicated. In many areas of public access, paths to the stream have been provided to protect the cooperating landowner's privacy or property.

By keeping these simple suggestions in mind, you help assure fishing for yourself and your fellow anglers for years ahead.

### Appreciation

I wish to thank all of my friends and relatives for the cards and remembrances I received while I was a patient in the hospital. A special thanks to Rev. Wolter for his prayers and visitations.

Kenneth Alvord

## Births

April 30: To Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McMahon, Almond, twin sons.

April 30: To Mr. and Mrs. William Green, Wellsville, a son.

May 1: To Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Kaiser, Angelica, a son.

May 2: To Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Batterson, Wellsville, a son.

May 2: To Mr. and Mrs. Vint Griswold, Bolivar, a son.

May 2: To Mr. and Mrs. Roger Noren, Wellsville, a daughter.

May 3: To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Barish, Wellsville, a son.

May 6: To Mr. and Mrs. Richard Elias, Belmont, a son.

May 6: To Mr. and Mrs. Gary Bentley, Swain, a son.

April 26: Miss Lynnet Dodson of Wellsville to Michael Yurcio of Wellsville.

April 27: Miss Doris Hand of Belmont to Isaac Travis, Jr., of Belmont.

April 26: Miss Cynthia Ann Dieter of Friendship to Roland Paul Miles of Niles.

May 3: Miss Carol Sue Andrews of Rochester to James Alva Armstrong of Wellsville.

## Deaths

William Whitcom, 81, Wellsville, May 2. Five daughters and a sister survive.

Mrs. Lewis Jordan, 84, Belmont, May 6. Four sons and four daughters survive.

Charles M. Stephens, 65, Birdsall, May 5. His widow, five sons and two daughters survive.

The State Conservation Department maintains more than 1,000 miles of foot trails within the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves.

## Marriages

Miss Suzanne Osterhout of Canisteo to John S. Babbitt II of Houghton.

April 12: Miss Sheron Butler of Belfast to Alan Stebbins of Wellsville.

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## Sunday, May 11th Is Mother's Day

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- |                 |                 |                |
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