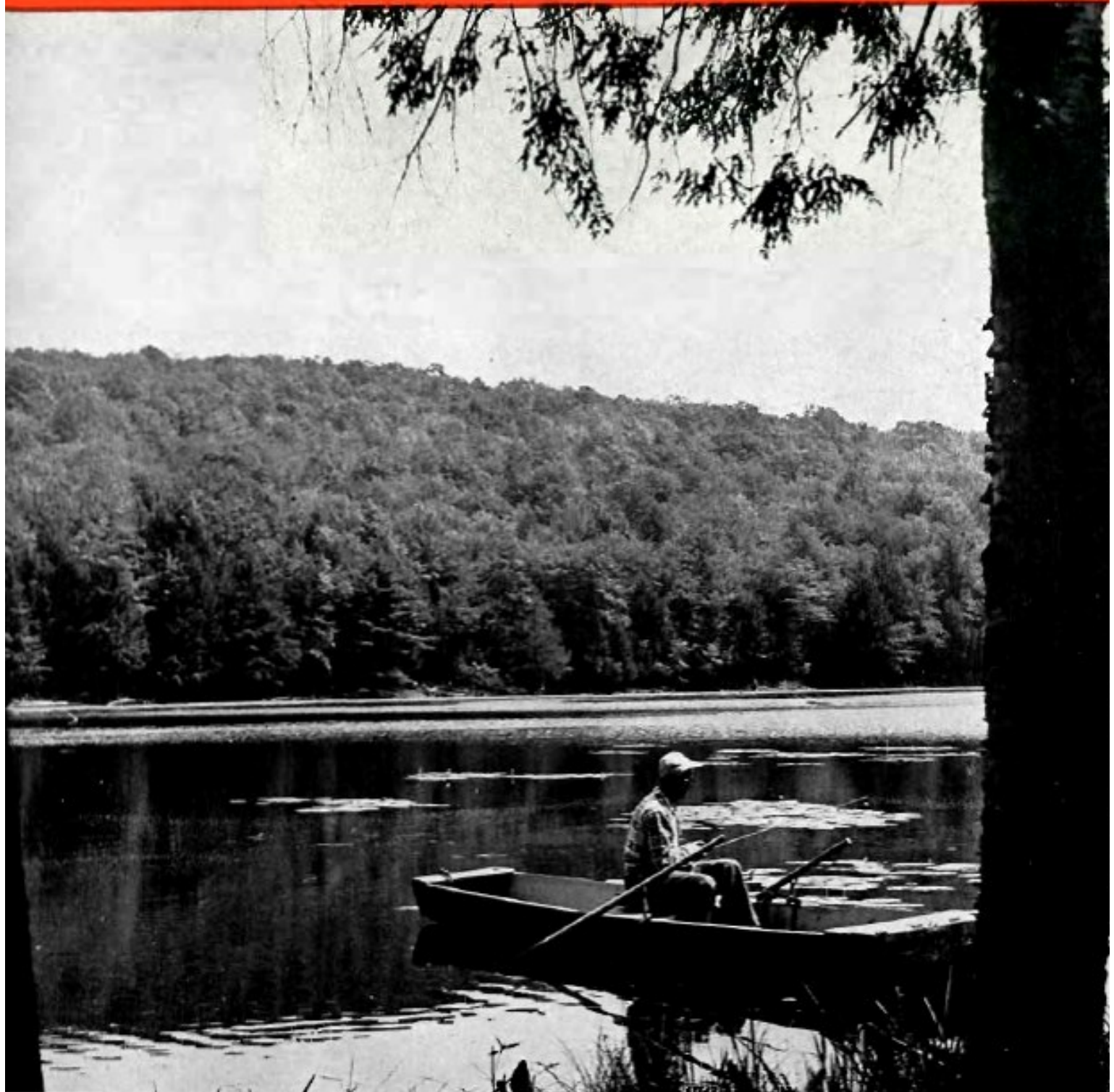


PENNSYLVANIA

ANGLER

SEPTEMBER 1955

PENNSYLVANIA FISH COMMISSION



**COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA**

HON. GEORGE M. LEADER
GOVERNOR

★

**PENNSYLVANIA
FISH COMMISSION**

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Construction Engineer

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PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER

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IN THIS ISSUE

CONSERVATION SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS	Carlton Ahrens	2
FOREST FIRES RUIN FISHING	N. R. Castillo	4
GOOD FORESTRY MEANS GOOD FISHING		7
BLUE PIKE FOR FISHING BLUES	Bill Walsh	8
CAMERA CLICKERY	Ormal I. Sprungman	10
HUNGER-PROOF BAIT	Keith C. Schuyler	12
LIMBER LURES FOR FINICKY FISH	Ben C. Robinson	14
THE VANISHING OLD MILL STREAM	Don Shinar	16
A PRACTICAL DUAL-PURPOSE ROD	Lee A. Diehl	20
SNAG'N METROPOLITAN BASS	Art Clark	21
FISH COMMISSION BEGINS SOMERSET LAKE CONSTRUCTION		22
WHAT'S YOUR ANGLING PROBLEM	Dick Knight	23
INDEX TO PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER ISSUES, OCTOBER, 1954 THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 1955		31

COVER: Bobber fishing for pickerel on a lazy September day.

BACK COVER: Angling under one of Pennsylvania's old covered bridges.

—Photos by Shinar

George W. Forrest, Editor

1339 East Philadelphia Street, York, Pa.

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Fish Commission Begins Construction of Lake Somerset

253 acre lake largest, most accessible public fishing lake ever undertaken by Commission



GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES at Somerset Lake. Among those taking part were (L—R): Honorable Harry Naugle, State Representative, Honorable Thomas F. Lansberry, president judge, Somerset County Court who made the ceremonial address; Dr. I. Hess Wagner, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church; Lloyd Oglive, Darius Dickson and George Pyle, Township Supervisors; Charles McLaughlin, President, Somerset Chamber of Commerce; Simon Uhl, Esq., Hon. John Grenoble, member Pennsylvania Fish Commission; James Knepper, Ord Rice, T. F. O'Hara, Construction Engineer, Penna. Fish Commission; Cyril G. Regan, Chief, Division of Land and Water Acquisition, Penna. Fish Commission and Grant Miller.

On Wednesday, August 17th, ground was broken and construction began on what may well become the largest, highest, and most accessible public fishing lake ever undertaken by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.

Attending the ceremonies were many dignitaries of Somerset County with The Honorable John W. Grenoble, a member of the Fish Commission, turning the first spade of earth, thus marking the initial start of the big project.

When completed, the new public fishing and recreational center will be known as Lake Somerset. Located on the East Branch of Coxes Creek, it is within easy access to the public, being just one-half mile northeast of the Somerset Interchange on the Pennsylvania Turnpike and lying between U. S. Highway Route Number 219 and

Pennsylvania State Highway Route Number 53, within full view from the turnpike, just a little more than one hour's drive from downtown Pittsburgh.

Lake Somerset will flood and provide 253 surface acres of water and will serve to answer a long crying need for additional fishing opportunities in this southwestern area of Pennsylvania.

The search for this lake site was made by Cyril G. Regan, Chief of the Division of Land and Water Acquisition of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, and was located during April of 1953. In August of 1954, the Somerset Chamber of Commerce became active and assisted in obtaining and concluding options. The options by the Chamber of Commerce were delivered to the Fish Commission on December

17, 1954 and on June 30, 1955 title for the entire property was conveyed to the Commission.

With a specially plated shovel furnished by the Chamber of Commerce, and amid music provided by the Rockwood High School Band Commissioner John Grenoble for and on behalf of the Fish Commission, turned the first shovel of earth, while a crowd of hundreds of enthusiastic people smiled and applauded. In his remarks Mr. Grenoble stated "I consider it a great honor to perform this initial act and assure the fishermen and the people of Pennsylvania generally that the Fish Commission will continue to further improve and expand the public fishing potential in our great Commonwealth. We shall be ever mindful of and invite your good constructive criticism."



TURNING FIRST SHOVEL of earth is Commissioner John W. Grenoble, specially plated shovel furnished Somerset Chamber of Commerce

On the speakers' platform with Charles E. McLaughlin, President of the Somerset Chamber of Commerce who acted as master of ceremonies, were The Honorable Thomas Landsberry, President Judge of the Somerset County Court; The Honorable Harry A. Naugle of Davidsville and The Honorable Paul A. Stephens of Meyersdale, both members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Judge Landsberry who made the ceremonial address, was high in his praise for the Pennsylvania Fish Commission and for the fine co-operation which developed and existed between the Commission and the Somerset Chamber of Commerce in helping make Lake Somerset possible. The Judge graciously extended the thanks and gratitude of the county and expressed his confidence in the world of good which the lake will serve and contribute to the social and economic phases of public life in the State.

Immediately following the program, work on the lake got underway, and will be under the direction of Thomas F. O'Hara, Construction Engineer of the Fish Commission. The costs will be defrayed with funds furnished by the Dingell-Johnson Act, as administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission and the Somerset Chamber of Commerce.

Angling Antics

By Erma Reynolds

Bud Russell, a fisherman in Chillicothe, Missouri, needed a vehicle to haul his fishing boat plus gear so he purchased an old long black hearse to do the job.

After curious people began to pester Russell with many quips and questions about his unique equipage he painted a sign on the side of the hearse, "Nobody's dead—Just goin' fishing."

• • •

Trouble instead of fish was the result when a Kansas fisherman made a back cast. His line became tangled with the automatic signal system of a railroad and caused lights to show red over a 107-mile stretch of track. Seventeen trains were stopped and two hours elapsed before the situation could be corrected.

What's Your Angling Problem?

By Dick Knight

If you have an angling problem that's bothering you send your inquiry to the Editor. While every effort will be made to answer all inquiries in space allotted, duplications will be deleted and inquiries edited as necessary.

Question: I've caught some pretty big carp but can you tell me the world's record?
N.K.—Philadelphia, Pa.

Answer: According to "Field and Stream Magazine" the world's record carp was taken on hook and line, weighed 55 pounds, 5 ounces in Clearwater Lake, Minnesota in 1952. The all-time record was an 83-pound, 8 ounce fish caught in Pretoria, South Africa by commercial methods. This past June a Mississippi river commercial fisherman caught a 59½ pound carp on a trot line. It was taken on a bit of angleworm the size of a you.

Q—I just purchased a spinning rod and intend using it for bass and walleye this season. Is there any particular method or lure I should use?
R.M.—Montoursville, Pa.

A—Spinning, as a method, lends itself to light lures. Try midget plugs and small spoons. Fish them deep, right on bottom. Probe those deep pockets at the base of riffles and fish them SLOWLY and carefully. With bait, use chubs or redfins, hooked lightly through the lips, and fished in the same manner. With hellgrammites, use a small bubble to hold them just free of the bottom as they drift.

Q—I lost five big fish this year. I seem to hook a lot of them and land very few. What's wrong?
L.B.—Wellsboro, Pa.

A—You've plenty of company. They wouldn't be big if they were easy to land. But you can make it a little easier if you follow a few simple rules:

- (1) Before each trip, check your tackle for weaknesses.
- (2) Play the fish on a long line if water permits. This will prevent those frantic surges when he sees you.
- (3) Do not fight him in his own home water. Back out to the shallows and lead him into a fighting ground of your selection rather than his. Leave it up to him and you are 75% defeated before you start.
- (4) There is no hurry in landing large fish. Take your time and tire him completely before bringing to net.

Q—I enjoy everything about fishing except the cleaning. Isn't there an easy way to scale fish without making your arms tired?
S.W.—Pittsburgh, Pa.

A—We know what you mean and there are some fairly good scalers offered on the market. If you really want to do it the easy way use an electric drill and a half-inch pipe tap. The pipe tap is spiny on one end, square on the other. All you have to do is round off the square end to fit the drill socket, then go out and catch some fish.