



Robert Pfuntner, candidate for County Legislator in District 4, Wellsville, congratulates Senator James F. Buckley on his wonderful speech that he delivered at the 4th Annual Allegany County Republican Dinner held at the Heater last Friday evening. News Photo

## CONSERVATION COMMENTS

By Paul M. Kelsey

### BULLHEADS

"Apples in bloom, bullheads bite soon." is an old time bit of advice passed down from our forefathers who were keen to notice relationships between different elements of their natural surroundings. That is the homey way of saying that as water temperature move from about 43 degrees, when the bullheads come up out of the mud where they have spent the winter, they will become more active. Their demands for food will increase until the water temperature gets to about 70 degrees, at which time they will concentrate spawning instead of eating.

The brown bullhead (*Ictalurus nebulosus*), also known as the common or speckled bullhead or horned pout, is the most common member of the catfish family in New York, being found in all of our watershed systems. It thrives best in warm lakes with good growth of vegetation or silty bottoms. Under these ideal conditions, it may exceed two pounds, and may rarely reach three pounds. By contrast it is also a native of the Adirondacks where it was found by early travelers sharing clear, cold waters with the brook trout. Under these adverse conditions there are often extremely high populations made up of individuals weighing only a few ounces each.

If you must fish from shore, the biggest problem isn't finding a pond with a good bullhead population, but rather finding a spot along shore where you can most efficiently throw out your line into deep enough water, without getting tangled in weeds, old stumps and limbs or other underwater debris. It used to be that you looked for the spot that had the crocheted sticks and old campfires. They are still there, but it is easier to spot the beer cans that were heaved just outside the ring of light from the fire or lantern.

I don't want to give the impression that all bullhead fishermen are litterbugs, for I have seen some who were dragging out all the empties they could put in a sack in an effort to restore their favorite fishing spot to its natural beauty. We need more of the latter type of fishermen, for one of the key reasons for posting is

litter left behind on private property.

The Department is sometimes taken to task for spending too much of its time, energy and money on trout, and not giving warmwater fish their due. On the surface, this appears to be true, for bullheads yield more for the pan than trout and bass combined. We recognize the importance of the bullhead, but have learned that the best management, because of very successful natural reproduction is to encourage all the bullhead fishing that we can. The bullhead is its own worst enemy, and the more heavily they are harvested by fishermen, the better fishing will be. It doesn't seem to make sense, but it is true. Too many bullheads mean a stunted population.

The secret of their success is their ability to survive in water with an available oxygen content so low that most other fish die. Weedy, shallow-water ponds often have oxygen deficiencies during winter, killing most bass, sunfish, perch and other fish. Seldom are bullheads found among these dead fish. A second reason is their omnivorous appetite. They will drift along the muddy bottom, using their eight barbels to locate nymphs, mollusks, minnows, crabs, various aquatic plants or many other odd and choice bits.

Some of the best baits that fishermen have found to meet his not-too-demanding liking are night-walkers, pollywogs, frozen shrimp, chicken entrails and chunks of fish. The method of delivery can be varied as the bait, but an old handline will get just as many bullheads as the fanciest rod on the market.

As obliging as they are, it is surprising how hard it often is for a novice to catch one. He would do better, bite-for-bite, on brook trout. The pout will "mouth" the bait for an exasperating long time before he will take it far enough to be successfully hooked.

Help manage our bullheads by catching all you can. This will leave enough food so those remaining may grow to their full potential.



Mrs. Eleanor Lunn is a medical patient in the Jones Memorial Hospital.

Roger Baker, a surgical patient in the Bethesda Hospital, has returned home.

Kenneth Alvord is a surgical patient in the St. James Mercy Hospital.

Mrs. R. E. Spicer, a medical patient in the Jones Memorial Hospital, returned home Saturday.

Harold Huffcut, a patient in the Jones Memorial Hospital, has been discharged.

Mrs. Ray Albaugh, a patient in the Jones Memorial Hospital, has returned home.

Mrs. Nellie O'Dell, a medical patient in the Bethesda Hospital, has been discharged.

Mrs. Belle Updyke is a patient in the St. James Mercy Hospital.

## Music Department To Present Spring Concert Friday

The first Spring Concert of the year will be held Friday, May 18 at 8:00 p. m. in the Andover Central School Auditorium. The Junior Band will play:

- "Activity March", Bennett
- "Four Winds", Overture, Dillon
- "Balladair", A piece in the modern dance style, Erickson
- "Born Free", Black-Barry, Powers
- "Little March for Band", Morisey

Junior High All-County Awards Senior Band

- "King Cotton", March, Sousa
- "Pageant", Persichetti
- "House of the Rising Sun", Holcombe

Presentation of Awards Sr. High All-County Awards All-County Band Medal Award John Phillip Sousa "Ragtime Wedding", Yoder "Prelude & Fugue", Bach-Mo-chmann

## Veterans News

### LISTEN VETERAN

**REVIEW OF DISCHARGES** — Within 15 years after discharge, veterans may apply to a Board of Review with authority to change, correct, or modify any discharge or dismissal from service that was not the result of a general court-martial and to direct issuance of a new discharge. Former service members who received undesirable discharges based solely on drug use or possession of drugs for personal use have the opportunity to have these discharges reviewed for possible recharacterization to an "under honorable conditions" discharge. If the discharge is recharacterized by the Board of Review, such individuals may avail themselves of drug abuse medical treatment now offered.

**MARRIAGE IS NO BAR** — to benefits to children otherwise eligible for financial assistance under the Dependency Educational Assistance Program of the GI Bill.

That's because the VA continues to classify them as children of veterans for benefit purposes. Financial assistance to go to college under this program, formerly known as the War Orphans Educational Assistance Program, is provided eligible children between the ages of 18 and 26. Even adoption of the child out of a veteran's family does not change his eligibility. Eligible for educational benefits under this program are wives and children of totally and permanently service-disabled veterans, as well as widows and children of veterans who died of service-incurred disabilities. For counseling and assistance in applying for dependency educational assistance contact the counseling center of the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs located at the Municipal Bldg., Wellsville, N. Y., on Tuesdays, and at the City Bldg., 108 Broadway, Hornell, N. Y., on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Public campsites in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves will open for the season on the evening of May 18, 1973. Commissioner of Environmental Conservation Henry L. Diamond announced today.

Rates will be the same as last year: \$2.50 per night or \$17.50 per week. A day use service charge of \$1.00 per car remains in effect for those utilizing day use facilities. The policy regarding pets at campsites under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation remains the same as in previous years. Household pets are permitted, however they must be confined on a leash restricting them to the immediate tentsite area of the owner. Proof of a rabies inoculation is required.

During the summer season more than one million individuals are expected to stay at one of the forty-four campsites maintained and operated by the Department of Environmental Conservation.



### BULLHEADS ARE FOR KIDS!

Sometimes spring nights are cold and windy when the bullheads are bitin', and sometimes it's warm enough to make the peepers sing a chorus. But whatever weather, bullhead anglers will be out when the fish are runnin'.

There is something beautiful about bullheads — perhaps their downright plain looks, or the utter simplicity of catching them. Even in an up-tight world that is overglamorized, some things remain the same. One of these is bullhead fishing.

You sit on a piece of driftwood and watch the moon come up in a field of stars; you listen to the waves lapping the shore; you share the companionship of a campfire. Ostensibly, you are there to catch a mess of bullheads, and to do this you put a couple of worms on a hook and throw it out in the water. Then you settle back to wait results, listening to frogs and thinking thoughts of other years.

Even if the fish aren't hitting, you can always catch a breath of springtime and a headfull of memories.

You can't explain bullhead fishing to those people who think fish are found in a grocer's freezer when beef and pork get too expensive.

You can't even explain it to trout fishermen, who are still suffering from the after effects of Opening Day. Now, when the water is settling down, they are consumed with the challenge of catching a trout on an artificial nymph or wet fly. "Sitting on the bank drowning worms is for kids," they will say.

You can explain bullhead fishing to youngsters. It suits them just right — the fishing is often fast enough to keep them occupied, and when it's not there are stones to throw in the water. The mosquitoes aren't out yet, and a hot-dog of some marshmallows toasted over the fire is all anybody could ask. They understand things like the rising moon, waves on a shore, and spring peepers singing to the world.

The trout fishermen are exactly right! Bullheads are for kids. And, if I live to be 90, I expect to have enough kid left in me to go.

## Holland - Perry Speedway News

Holland, New York — The first of several "Family Night" evenings at Holland International Speedway is on tap this Saturday, May 19.

The Family night Track Special was instituted only a few seasons ago and has continually gathered solid support from the already staunch stock car auto racing "clan" fans.

On a regular event evening, the total family admission is a possible \$9. The Family Night Special offer includes the parents plus all children, regardless of age and number, for the single low price of \$5.

The fine stock car racing fans at Holland International will also be offered the opportunity to "reap the harvest" on other special events for the 1973 season, including Kodak Camera Night, where fans may enjoy a discount evening of racing plus take pictures of their favorite drivers, just for bringing their camera to the race track.

Competition begins at Holland International Speedway each Saturday evening at 8:00 P. M., with gate open for competitor and fan alike two hours earlier.

Perry, New York — with the 1973 Stock Car Racing Season under way at Perry Motor Speedway, car owners and drivers in all Divisions begin the season's long "trek" toward the several point championships offered to the NASCAR competitors for the 1973 Stock Car Racing Season.

The Permatex National Racing program adds \$1,000 for the winner toward the season's Purses total, plus travel money. The Genesee Championship Trail totals another possible \$5,000 plus the NASCAR Track State and National Point Championships increase still another \$25,000 to the total.

One of the very strong favorites to walk off with much of the laurels at Perry Motor Speedway and many other raceways this coming season, is hard-charging, likeable Roger Kelly of Perry, New York.

Kelly, a family man with two children, is a veteran of 11 years of Stock Car Competition on many northwestern ovals. Champion of the Late Model Division for the Eastern Racing Circuit of America in 1969, Roger graduated to the Late Model Sportsman Division and has enjoyed much success driving the Pontiac powered Firebird Trans-Am No. 11 for owner Bruce Futney.

Although Kelly planned to run the 1973 Permatex 300 Event this past February during NASCAR'S Speed Week, the deal never materialized. "I would have like to compete on the Daytona Tri-Oval, but I'll have to settle for this coming year's event," said the likeable chaffer as he squeezed his six-foot frame into the sleek, low-slung white racing machine.

Whether on the track or off Roger Kelly is considered a sportsman and a gentleman in all phases of his life. Roger believes this is his year, as does his many avid followers.

### Too Late To Classify

WANTED — Good Home for 2 7-weeks-old Puppies, part Beagle, 1 male and 1 female. Contact 478-5843. 20

