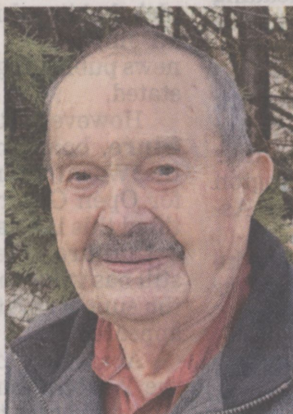


Reminiscences: I'm nearly 100 years old and missing the good old days ...

Fishing the mountain lakes of my youth



by local contributor

Dan Sater of Cle Elum

On March 31, 1933, Franklin Roosevelt founded the CCC's (Civilian Conservation Corps) to put men to work during the Great Depression.

Exploring the lakes

There was a CCC camp located near Tanner in North Bend. At this time North Bend Timber Company had a railroad running up the middle fork of the

River toward Snoqualmie Lake. Just past Snoqualmie Lake were Deer, Bear and Dorothy Lakes. If the fishing was no good at one lake it wasn't that far to another.

One sunny day my son and I walked up to Deer Lake and when we got there he took off his pack and he had a red sweater on and a hummingbird landed on it and stuck its beak into his sweater.

Hoping for forgotten lunkers at the end of an overgrown trail

Being stationed at Camp Brown, I kept looking for other lakes in the area that I thought that I might get to.

Across the river from where I was camped was an old trail that hadn't been worked for years going toward Rainy Lake. I talked my dad into coming up one weekend and giving it a try.

The trail had been overgrown and we had to make our way the best that we could. As it had no good trail into it, I believed that it hadn't been fished for a long time and there should be some lunkers in it. About when we got about half way there, my dad sprained his ankle and we had to turn around and head back.

Some time later, my friend Frank and I tried it again and we took several types of bait with us to try out. It was a good thing that we did because there was only one thing that they were interested in. We only caught a couple fish and they were only average size. The next day we never had another bite.

I always carried an army K-Ration with me for emergency and Frank always kidded me about it. Before we got back, he was asking me to bring it out as he was starving to death. I never thought to make another trip up there again and I do not know if that trail had ever been brushed out again. Anyway, I do not have any more K-Rations.

Snoqualmie River.

There was also a trail running from Camp 15 up the river to Goldmeyer Hot Springs. The CCC boys built a road up the end of the Middle Fork Road to the hot springs and on up Taylor River.

They built a CCC camp (Camp Brown) near the forks of the two rivers and worked the numerous trails up to the high mountain lakes in this area. They also built a Forest Service campground in this same area.

In the summer of 1944, I worked for the Forest Service working trails and posting signs at a lot of those mountain lakes. As a result I got to know a lot of those lakes and got many a chance to try fishing on them. I always tried to carry a hand line and a jar of eggs with me to try my luck when I hit a new lake. I believe that was the best summer job that I ever had.

Father and son fishing trips

For several years, my dad and I made an annual trek into Nordrum Lake every Labor Day weekend up until my son was born that same weekend. The trail to this lake went up Taylor