

Sports

Fishin' not too hot, yet

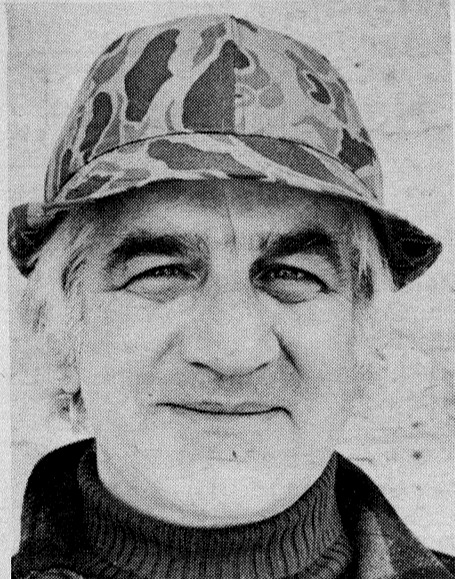
MAY 12 1978

DUKE LICH, GEORGE

Welcome to the fishy world of Hambone, Paisan. This is the first in a weekly series of what we hope will be the most accurate, helpful reports available on How and Where the fish are biting in the Madison lakes — and on what.

The reports are compiled with the help of our good fishin' buddies, our bad fishin' buddies and our special friends at Blair Street Bait & Tackle, 138 South Blair and Capt. Jack's Fishing Pro Shop, 909 East Broadway.

The reports will be published



Papa Hambone's Fishing Report

every Friday in the Press Connection and, hopefully, will continue year-round. Forever.

Here, lake-by-lake, is what Bonnie Connie & Friends tell me:

Lake Mendota — A few walleyes and perch taken Opening Day in 20 feet. Small minnows best bait. Water still cold as a publisher's heart. Best advice is to move the bait SLOWLY. Biggest fish this past week:

• Jack Hurst, Madison — 11 lb. 10 oz. northern on a sucker.

• George Trotter, DeForest — 4 lb. 12 oz. smallmouth bass.

• John Nygaard, Madison — 23 lb. 13 oz. northern, measuring 44 inches. ("I caught it," John says, "on a DareDevl.")

Checking in with the biggest pan-fish bag, and the best-eating:

• Dan Kraft, Madison — 30 "good-sized" perch and six bluegills weighing over eight pounds. Westport area not producing catfish yet. A few bullheads on nightcrawlers.

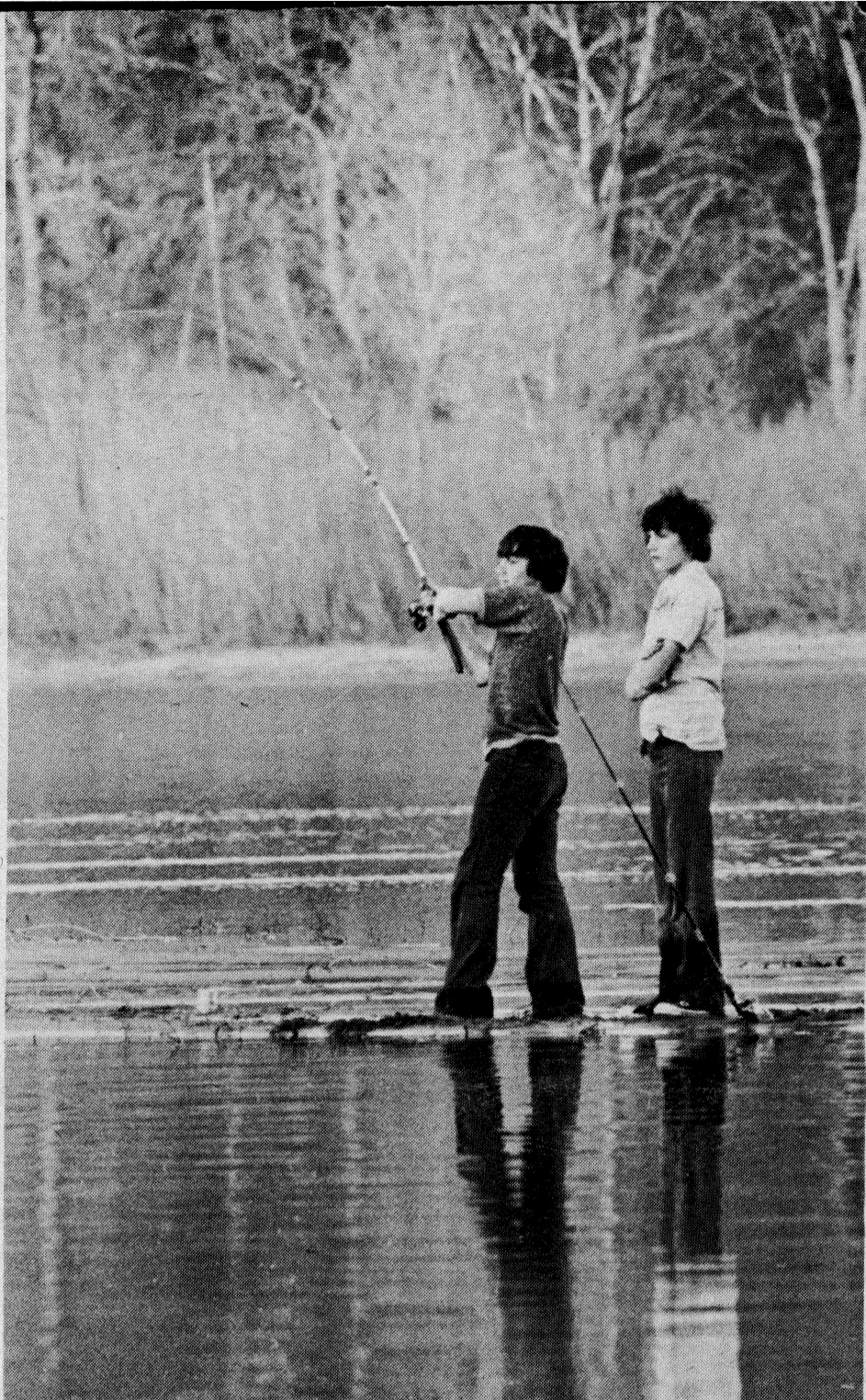
Lake Monona — At the Triangle, starting to produce largemouth bass in two-lb. category. Black four-inch Twister Tails doing best. Small Pinkys with minnows producing large crappies in same area, but they are scarce, moving in and out. Bluegills fair, smallies on waxworms with ice jigs. Most dramatic catch by Paul Zoch, Madison, who took 10 white bass off the gas outlet. Zoch's stripers weighed over nine pounds.

South Shore & Squaw Bay. Bluegills fair on ice jigs dressed with waxworms. Crappies also fair on small (1/32 oz.) pinky and crappie minnows. Also chartreuse colored Mr. Twister. Largemouths coming on last two days, from two pounders down. Nightcrawlers top bait, although biggest bass caught by:

• Mary Freitag, Madison — 5 lb. 5 oz. largemouth (20 1/4 inches) on a Big O. The week's biggest fish came out of Squaw Bay, 16 1/2 lb. catfish on a Mr. Twister.

Upper Mud Lake — Quite a few largemouths caught. Again, nightcrawlers. Best baits: Beetle Spins & Mr. Twisters. Some fish up to five pounds but majority are smaller male fish in 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 lb. range. Interlake: Quite a few bluegills starting to show "average size" but decent. Waxworms best bait. In the cold water, small baits seem to work best on the bluegills.

Crappies — "pretty good size" — are being taken on Pinkys. Bullheads, nice-size and fat on nightcrawlers & garden worms. Big-



—Press Connection photo by Norris Klesman

A pair of young fishermen hook one.

gest fish by:

• Ron Derke, Madison — 5 1/2 lb. largemouth on a nightcrawler. For starters, fish off the channels and lagoons.

Lake Waubesa—Of 20 largemouth bass checked through Captain Jack's, the average was three pounds, the largest 5 1/2 pounds. Best baits small Beetle Spins and jig-nightcrawler combinations. A handful of guys did fairly well using Reapers. Best spots: South of Hog Island, the "McConnell Bay" area; the North Shore area; and the Rockford Heights area. Biggest smallmouth bass taken last week a 4 lb. 5 oz. fish by Todd Schara, Madison on a Spoonplug. Nice walleyes were being caught, but not a lot. A four-pounder the biggest. Fathead minnows the best

bait. Rockford Heights the best area. For night fishing, the trestle where the Yahara comes in — you can shore fish. Also in front of Goodland Park off Christy's Tavern, but you need a boat here. Some bluegills and crappies were taken off Christy's this week but it's not hot fishing. Folks did fair with crappies off the Bible Camp on the East shore.

Lake Kegonsa. Small walleyes taken, but pretty sparse and small. Bullheads plentiful on the Northeast shore up from the river. Bluegill and crappie fair, fish running pretty small, BUT, the perch are hitting on the Southeast shore off the country club. They're in two to three feet of water taking small jigs and min-

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nows. However, the Captain's No. 1 choice here is: A small bobber with a small crappie minnow on a No. 10 or No. 8 hook. DON'T GO BIGGER!! Incidentally, one report, unconfirmed, tells of a six pound largemouth caught in the channel at Tom and Dot's Landing, but that could be one of those Wackynut rumors. Overall: not a lot of fish considering all the

folks fishin'. We need warmer water, but if we don't get it, try it anyway. For as The Old Man loved to rove, the best time to go fishing was anytime you could get away.

And he also proved that the hours a man spent fishin' were not deducted from his lifespan. They were deducted from his wife's. May the good God fill your boat, Paisan.