

Stuck on a pier in a mallard symphony

VUKELICH, George MAY 26 1978

One of my good buddies assured me that he would go straight home from his banquet Monday night, get plenty of sleep and pick me up at 5 a.m. sharp on the Lake Monona pier, the one with all the duck droppings.

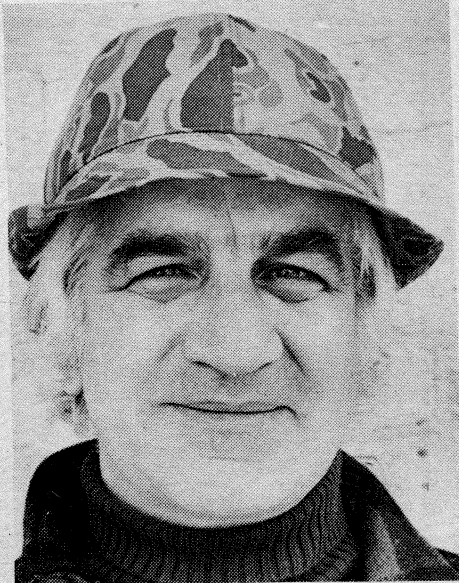
I found the right pier all right, but he never did and I waited around until after 6, trying to be cool and casual while ankle-deep in mallards who wanted me off their turf.

It turns out my GB didn't go straight home, because he ran — drove, actually — afoul of the law and spent the night, plus the prime morning time, in the slammer. You start hanging out with bowlers, The Old Man used to warn us, you have to expect these things.

Fortunately, the slack was taken up by our straighter friends at Capt. Jack's Fishing Pro Shop, 909 East Broadway, and Blair Street Bait & Tackle, 138 South Blair, not to mention friend Roney who wades in the waters with his ultralight and sometimes the waters part.

Here, lake-by-lake, is what's happening in the World of Hambone:

Lake Mendota — Good perch action off James Madison Park on nightcrawlers. Bluegills also good off the Hatch Cover on garden worms. Pheasant Branch Creek has slowed on the walleyes. Bluegills



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starting off The Rock Pile on garden worms.

Catfish not active yet at Westport, but bullheads picking up on all worms. They're getting perch and smallmouth off Picnic Point and not much off Second Point or Maple Bluff. Governor's Island is produc-

ing a few Northerns on suckers.

Crappies, small, at Warner Park on minnows. Tenney Park has slowed, but there were mixed bags of panfish on minnows and worms. In mid-week, folks were still coming off the breakwater — numbed as a publisher's heart.

Catch-of-the-week here belongs to:

D. J. Wilson, a seven pound smallmouth 22 inches long off James Madison Park. Steady Eddy says that's the biggest fish he has seen in the area since he dealt Hambone a poker hand.

Pete D. Martino, an 11 pound catfish at Westport on chicken liver.

Lake Monona — At the Triangle, crappie and bass are getting active. Brittingham Park area is producing small Northerns on suckers. The Law Park area is slow. Turville Point is turning up some bluegills.

Squaw Bay is producing a lot of bass and crappies. Best baits: Crawlers, Rapalas, small 4 inch rubber worms. Best colors: Black or purple. Crappies on small minnows or jigs. Some bluegills on worms: Waxies, red and garden. Bullheads on small worms or nightcrawlers.

Catches-of-the-week in Monona:

Chuck Grimm, Madison, a 5 lb. 12 oz. largemouth on a nightcrawler.

Len Riha, Monona, a 21 lb. 3 oz.

catfish on a smelt.

Upper Mud & Yahara River — Here too, a lot of bass and bluegills. Crawlers and rubber worms are the best bass baits, but small spinner baits and Rapalas OK. Bluegills on garden, red and waxworms with waxies the best choice. Bullheads on plain ole worms or crawlers.

Waubesa — Fishing is Super here. Panfishing Excellent for crappies, bluegills and some perch. The Bible Camp area is the Number One choice. The Goodland Park area also good.

Bass very good up in the North End and Hog Island area.

Walleyes excellent at night in Rockford Heights area on fathead minnows.

Catch-of-the-week in Waubesa:

Phil Lester, Rockford, Illinois, an 18 lb. 4 oz. catfish. God knows on What, but neither She nor Phil are talking.

Yahara River, Lower Mud, Kegonsa — A goodly number of panfish and bullheads are being taken.

The walleye fishing is very good at the river inlet to Kegonsa right now. The fish are running on the small side, but they are providing a lot of action on small jigs & min-

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nnows. Also on the small Mepps spinners.

Catch-of-the-week in Kegonsa:

Jeff Davis, McFarland, an 8 lb. 12 oz. walleye that measured 27 inches long.

One final note, too late for last week's Fishing Report: On Thursday, May 18th, two Madison fishermen, Steve Walter and Tom Kneebone checked into the Blair Street Bait Shop with a stringer of 10 largemouth bass that weighed 22 pounds 5 ounces. The biggest fish was 4 lbs. 11 oz.

The very next day, Walter and Kneebone were back with Another

stringer of 10 fish that weighed out about the same as Thursday's catch. Biggest fish in the Friday batch was a 4 lb. 9 oz. individual.

The Prolific Pair say they were using spinners and crawlers both days and they swear they were on Waubesa both days. Steady Eddy says that could be the biggest put-on since The Sting, but wherever they came from, that's the best catch of bass he's seen in three years of looking.

And listen, if you see somebody sharing a Lake Monona pier with a mallard some morning, for God's sake, do stop and pick one of us up.