

Fishing success remains mixed in area

JUN 2 1978

By George Vukelich
Press Connection Writer

I remember the year the Old Man stopped fishin' with hand grenades and went to using live bait.

It was the summer he discovered hellgrammites. I remember it well because that was the same summer I discovered the curveball and the Old Man did a lot better than I did.

The hellgrammites killed the bluegills in Pewaukee Lake that year. Nothing I ever used could kill the curveball. Or even wound it.

The hellgrammites, as you know, also work on the jumbo perch in Mendota when nothing else will and Big Jim Sanders reports that Big Green Hellgrammites should be arriving at Blair Street Bait and Tackle about June 8. That should improve your fishing. If not, you can always try the hand grenades.

Incidentally, if you're wondering what an accurate fishing report is

doing in a Madison paper, you should know that it is a labor-of-love compiled with the good offices of our friends. Ashore. Afloat. And sometimes awash throughout the Madison area.

They include the folks at Capt. Jack's Fishing Pro Shop, 909 East Broadway and Blair Street Bait and Tackle, 138 South Blair, who help Papa checkout all the bars: Sand, gravel, rock and disco.

Here, lake-by-lake, is your weekly report:

● **LAKE MENDOTA:** Perch and smallmouth bass still hitting off James Madison Park on small nightcrawlers.

Perch are starting at Second Point in about 10 feet of water on worms. Bluegills are still hitting behind the Hatch Cover and a couple of nice catfish have been taken at Westport.

The Northern Pike fishing is slow. "That's S-L-O-W," says Big Jim.

"It's awful strange. I don't know why."

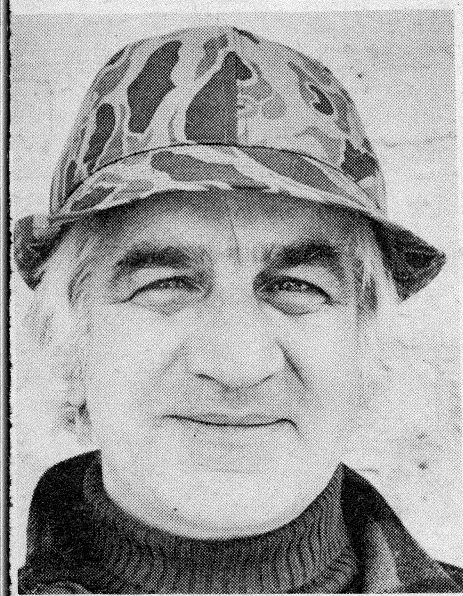
But one bass fisherman came off the big lake happy this week and you could check it out with Jim Mader. That feller is:

● Glenn Spaay of Mt. Horeb, who caught a 7 pound, 6 ounce largemouth bass on a minnow. Fish measured 22½ inches long.

● **LAKE MONONA:** At the Triangle: Real good on crappies. Best bait: The ubiquitous Pinky (1/32 oz.) dressed with a minnow. Crappies also at the railroad bridges. On minnows.

South End Squaw Bay: Largemouth bass have tapered off somewhat. Lots of them up in the shallow flats, but activity is about "half of what it has been," according to The Captain. The panfishing — bluegills and crappies — is good. The bluegills "are comin' on heavy" in Squaw Bay, around the island and in

See FISHING, page 23



Papa Hambone's
Fishing Report

24

Press Connection
6/2/78

Friday

Fishing success remains mixed

JUN 2 1978

CONTINUED from page 24

the channels. Best time is evening. Best rig is a flyrod with a black wet fly. Waxworms and garden worms are good too, if flyrods freak you out.

Oh yes. There was a legal muskie caught and kept off Olin Park. A hybrid, a "planter" measuring 30 and ½ inches.

● **UPPER MUD LAKE**—Still picking up small bass, nice bass, but bluegills and bullheads are the best things going right now. One of the week's better catches was by:

● Dan Jackson of Madison, who took a 4 pound, 13 ounce largemouth bass on a nightcrawler.

● **LAKE WAUBESA** — Bass fishing is down. Like slow to medium-slow. Mostly pound to pound-and-a-half fish are being caught. But the bluegill and crappie fishing is super. Best areas: Bible Camp for crappies. Goodland Park for bluegills. They're also taking "beautiful" bluegills off the South Shore on hellgrammites and garden worms.

Walleye fishing still good at night. Nothing big, 2 to 3 pound fish. Fish the late evening and into the darkness. Minnows are still good, but nightcrawlers are beginning to work too.

One of the more notable catches was by an Illinois angler:

● Adam Schumann, of Flossmore, who nailed a pound-and-a-half crappie on a minnow. Fish measured 14 1/4 inches long.

● **YAHARA RIVER-KEGONSA AREA:** Panfishing is good. Bass are not bad, but mostly smaller, male fish are being taken. At the outlet to Kegonsa, they're taking small walleyes — one and two-pounders — at night. At Holiday Point, bigger walleyes — "good fish" — are being taken. On jigs. On nightcrawlers. On jigs dressed with nightcrawlers. And on the old reliable yellow jig,

undressed.

Crappies and perch are doing pretty good. Perch are taking the small minnows.

Overall, the Northern pike fishing is next to nothing. Bass fishing is about medium. Walleyes are excellent at night on Waubesa and Kegonsa. And the panfishing — including bullheads — is excellent

too. Nice size bullheads are being taken all along the river from Squaw Bay on down.

So, check out the hellgrammites and see you here next Friday. In the words of the famous British Naval toast: For good bait. For good beer. For good boat. Thank God.

On second thought, it might not be British Naval. It might be Yugoslav Naval. I'll czech.