

# Lots of talk, not much pressure

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There hasn't been so much activity at Blair Street Bait since Catfish Stenlund was demonstrating his home run stroke and his stride carried him right into the cricket ranch.

Steady Eddy was perched behind the counter watching The Indian, who was watching Guacamole, who was watching Wally, who used to tend bar at the old 400. Wally, like most bartenders, was watching himself at all times.

"After Labor Day," Steady said, "I'm scaling down the hours."

"You might as well," The Indian said. "You haven't scaled anything else all summer."

"Listen," Guacamole asked everybody, "have you tasted The Indian's wine? My wife couldn't

believe he made it. It's very professional."

"It's drinkable at 33 days old," The Indian said. "What I gave you was about 26 days old."

"That's very professional," Wally said.

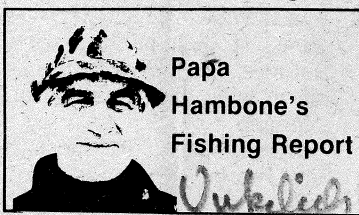
"I know were there's a 15-pound muskie in Monona," Steady said, "and after Labor Day I'm gonna get him."

"Monona muskies are dumb," The Indian scoffed. "There are smart muskies and there are dumb muskies. Monona has dumb ones. I use them for fox bait."

"You trap foxes?" Guacamole asked.

"He traps everything," Steady answered. "You ought to see him on a row of sweet corn."

Wally shook his head, picked up



his bait and walked out to his pickup truck.

"Hey, Cochise," Guacamole smiled. "That was good wine. Honest."

"Wine, women and walleyes," The Indian said expansively. "The three Y's."

"Not Y's," Steady said. "W. As in Wally."

"Y," The Indian said, "as in Why."

"Why not?" Guacamole asked. In the silence, the fishtank

gurgled like a coffeepot.

**LAKE MENDOTA:** Fishing is slow. Slow. Slow. You can get decent perch off Picnic Point, Second Point and Fox Point and you'll be practically alone.

A couple of good northerns taken out of North Bay on suckers. One pike 12-pounds, the other 10.

Fishing pressure always cuts down with the start of school, likewise the baitshops' hours. Steady Eddy will be open 7 to 4 on Labor Day and then 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; 8 to 6 p.m. on Friday; 6 to 6 Saturday and Sunday. Captain Jack on the beltline will be open Labor Day 6 to 5 p.m.; and then 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sun-

day. Steady says the new hours give them a chance to get out more. He wore his **Who the hell is Steady Eddy?** T-shirt to Orton Park and a lot of the young people knew him.

"Sure," The Indian says. "Who they know. You have to ask them **Why.**"

**LAKE MONONA:** A lot of perch off the famed Turville Point. On small minnows, hellgrammites and pieces of night-crawler. They're in 12 to 20 feet of water and the bigger perch are running around 9-inches or so.

A zillion crappies at the weed-lines, Pinky and yellow Twisters all you need. And there are small largemouth bass being caught off Olin Park.

Squaw Bay is also producing some bass. On nightcrawlers. The bass are in quite shallow, two to four feet of water, in the heavy grass. Crappies here too, but then they're all over the lakes. "They got it covered," Steady says. "It's like watching Stenlund play the outfield."

**UPPER MUD LAKE:** Bluegills hitting here, not too shabby The Captain says: "Not jumbo, but decent. Running right around a half-pound." On redworms and waxies.

A few largemouth bass — up to two-pounds — on crawlers and plastic worms. Most of these are being taken not by the Pro Bass Hunters, but by folks on the shores and banks as they panfish. Crappies are like locusts.

**LAKE WAUBESA:** More crappies and perch around Hog Island, most of them on the small side. Fish aren't too fussy, Pinkys, Twisters and what-have-you? Same situation prevails off The Bible Camp.

There are Largemouth bass to be taken off The Bible Camp. The Italian Stallion is doing right well here and bagging bass between three and five pounds. The Pride of Italy is using a live crawler weighted with a little split shot and working the pockets. Like Minnesota Fats.

Good Northern pike fishing at The Springs. Floating suckers on a bobber. Pike are in five to seven-pound bracket. No biggies. But you could get lucky.

**LAKE KEGONSA:** Decent perch at The Country Club. In the nine-10 inch class, but smaller ones are mixed in with 'em. Fish in about 15 feet of water. Bluegills here also, but again, a lot of small with the big. Get yourself a small fillet knife and keep them all. You could grow up to be a surgeon.

There are some largemouth bass hitting around the weed points. They're mostly small, usually less than two-pounds or so, but you have to remember The Stallion. God knows what's down there. And She keeps Her own counsel.

Overall, light pressure on the Madison lakes and now's the time to get out.

The good walleye fishing will start in mid-September and the bigger perch likewise.

"You start fishing now," The Captain insists, "it's like before the white man came."

"Now," The Indian says "you're talking."