



HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION

c/o Mike Glenn
Secretary-Treasurer
227 University Avenue
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

-or-

c/o Richard Prange
President/Newsletter
Coordinator
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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NEWSLETTER



The Henrys Lake Foundation invites you to join our non-profit, tax exempt corporation. This organization was formed to preserve protect, and enhance Henrys Lake now and in the future. All proceeds will be used directly towards the improvements of this great fishery with no funds going for administration or salaries. Just fill in the information below and send this application with your contribution so that you can be a part of the HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION.

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please enroll me as a member. Enclosed is a check for \$10 annual dues or \$100 life membership. I'm also enclosing \$ _____ as a additional donation (strictly optional).

Thank you—Mike Glenn, Sec.-Tres.—227 University Ave.—Twin Falls, Idaho 83301



HENRYS LAKE
FOUNDATION

May 1986

NEWSLETTER

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Richard Prange

Another fishing season is about to unfold at Henrys Lake, with the promise of some very fine angling. The ol' timers may be a little grouchy about the shortage of lunkers, which in the past made the lake famous. But look for fishing roughly comparable to last season in terms of the excellent catch rates with greater numbers of hybrids of 3 lbs. or better showing up. Barring an unexpected disaster, I believe we're on track to getting the lake in balance by providing good fishing for a wide size range of fish. I know some "trophy hunters" have now deserted fishing this exceptional lake- but they will return. Within 2 or 3 years, we will again be hearing about many 8-12 lb. hybrids coming to the net. When these ex-devotees return, they will gladly open their wallets to the Henrys Lake Foundation and be added to our membership ranks. Certainly, some of this predicted good fishing will be credited to the vigil, commitment, and revenues provided by the Foundation during the lean years. With that note of optimism, I offer you the following current events:

HENRYS LAKE HAS FILLED.....

after near normal winter and spring precipitation. It was a mild winter and the snowpack was somewhat down, but early spring storms brought above average, late moisture into the country. In March, I had occasion to talk about dam repair work with Dave Rydalch, manager for the North Fork Water Company and also a member of the Idaho Water Resources Board. Dave informed me that the water company is still planning to do outlet gate and spillway repair work on the dam, but they continue to wait for a dry year when they need extra water from irrigation storage supplies in Henrys Lake. North Fork does not want to draw down the lake unless the water is needed to meet irrigation demands and they have a permit to temporarily store water from one year to the next. With repair work procedures and coffer dam construction, the lake could be drawn down 4 feet. Dave pointed out that a coffer dam has been constructed four different times in the past 25 years to accomplish various work on the dam. He said that current repairs would not require Henrys Lake to be lower than during the 1977 drought. Any draw down would probably be in the late summer period. So as to whether this will be the year of dam repair-- your guess is as good as mine.

LYNN WATSON, HENREYS LAKE FISH HATCHERY MANAGER.....

for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), reported to me on May 7 that roughly 3700 cutthroat females had been spawned since operations started in early March, producing some 2.5 million eggs. There has been a tremendous concentration of fish off the mouth of Hatchery Creek and Lynn must at times close the fish ladder to the hatchery facilities to properly handle them. He has trucked out many cutthroat adults and put them into upper Targhee and Howard Creeks, where many of the fish will spawn naturally. He estimates that by June, about 5000 cutthroat will be dispersed in this manner to Targhee Creek, with another 3000 going into Howard Creek. Lynn is taking his cutthroat eggs

targeted for Henrys Lake throughout the 3 months of spawning operations so that there will be better genetic distribution of the hatchery reared fish going back into the lake. He has about 1/2 million cutthroat eggs to collect yet. About 500,000 eggs (producing about 300,000 surviving fingerlings) have been crossed with Kamloops rainbow males from Montana to produce the hybrid trout favored at Henrys Lake. Fish from these eggs will be planted this fall.

Lynn also reports that the average cutthroat spawner is about the same size as last year-- approximately 15 inches. The good news is that he has seen almost a threefold increase in hybrids returning to the hatchery so far this season as compared to this time last year. These fish are ranging from 15-23 inches in size (average 17 inches). Spawn taken from the hybrids is discarded and the fish are returned to the lake.

The IDFG is planning to conduct "salvage" operations on May 19 and 20 to trap and haul spawners that have accumulated below the dam in Henrys Lake Outlet Creek. Many of these fish have migrated into the stream by passing over the spillway or going through the dam's outlet gates. Since this bunch will be a mixed bag of spawners from both the lake and the Henrys Fork drainage, they will be hauled and planted downstream in the Big Springs area.

THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME ENHANCEMENT PLAN.....

efforts this season will center on modification of the highway culvert on Targhee Creek to provide adult trout passage. The work has been planned in coordination with the Idaho Department of Transportation and will be done during low flows later this summer or fall. The IDFG may call on Foundation members to provide labor assistance when the time comes. Fixing the fish passage problem through this culvert will open up several miles of pristine, underseeded spawning habitat for Henrys Lake trout. Other work will consist of evaluating the Targhee Creek fish screen problems and making necessary modifications to bring them up to acceptable standards. This will hopefully allow the IDFG to then make progress towards screening other irrigation diversions around the lake. Biologists will also be conducting fish population estimates in Howard Creek to compare differences between fenced and unfenced sections.

A \$100 DONATION TO THE FOUNDATION.....

has been contributed by the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) in recognition of our Duck Creek fencing project. The AFS is a national organization of professional fishery biologists. I gave a slide presentation on the Foundation's fencing project at the annual AFS, Idaho Chapter meeting in Boise in early March. Foundation members can be proud of the fact that the Duck Creek fencing effort was highly regarded among this group of professionals. The contribution will be spent on putting some final "hardware" touches on the fence in June.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION

The annual Henrys Lake Foundation meeting and potluck will be held this year on Saturday, July 5. We have been invited to hold our meeting at Wild Rose Ranch again, by manager and Foundation Director, Bill Schiess. Normally the gathering would be located at Staley Springs Lodge but the resort has been sold and we have not had opportunity to meet the new owners nor acquaint them with the Henrys Lake Foundation. With permission of the new owners, we will plan to have the 1987 gathering at Staley Springs.

This year's get together will feature a tour of the Duck Creek fencing project that was constructed last September by Foundation members on the Magleby Ranch. Let's plan on meeting at the driveway entrance of Staley Springs at 1:00 P.M. and car caravan south about three miles to the project site. Everyone is encouraged to come and view this unique solar panel/electric fencing project that holds great promise for enhancing wild trout production in the spawning streams of Henrys Lake.

As in the past, the outdoor potluck will begin at 4:00 P.M.-- bring folding chairs if you have'em. The Foundation will provide soft drinks, paper plates, and plastic utensils. Please bring a hot plate, cold cuts dish, salad, or dessert adequate for about 8-10 people. Following the meal we'll hear from IDFG personnel on fishery matters at the lake and on items concerning the Foundation. Bring your thoughts and suggestions on how to improve the workings of the Henrys Lake Foundation-- this is our one and only opportunity each year to personally meet and talk together. We particularly need to be thinking about how we can improve our membership recruiting efforts.

A Board of Director's business session will follow the general membership meeting. We will need to elect 1986/87 officers and 3 or 4 new Directors. There will be 1 or 2 Director nominees coming from the Boise, Idaho area. If you are interested in becoming a Foundation Director or volunteer of any kind, and are willing to donate your talents, contact either John O'Neall at Staley Springs Lodge, or President, Richard Prange (address on Newsletter cover) before our gathering. John is due to arrive for his summer stay about June 5 or 6.

As part of our weekend festivities, we have received confirmation that the old Sherwood Museum, located across the highway from the Henrys Lake Fish Hatchery, will be open on Sunday, July 6. This is a special opening for the Foundation. In the past, the museum has not been opened to the public on a regular basis. This will be an excellent opportunity to see first hand, some of the region's historic relics.

NEWSLETTER DEVELOPMENTS

You may recall that with the mailing of the February Newsletter, we made special provision for the Postal Service to give us any new forwarding addresses of our members. This worked wonderfully and Mike Glenn, our Secretary-Treasurer, had some 20-25 Newsletters returned to him with corrected addresses. Mike has recorded the updated addresses on his mailing list. Thus, the May Newsletter is being sent to a number of long lost members whose dues are probably not current and paid. For those of you who fit this category, please renew your commitment and membership dues. We have decided to retain the ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED endorsement on the Newsletter. However, it's much less expensive for the Foundation if you will notify Mike (his address is on the Newsletter cover) of your new mailing address after you have moved.

Note that your mailing address label may have some numbers written on it-- they indicate the month and year of your membership expiration. If you have an LM on the label, that means you are a life member and need not pay annual dues. If neither of the above is on the label, it likely means your dues are past due!

LIFE MEMBERS

Below is a list of the Foundation's 34 life members who have contributed

\$100 or more to join the Henrys Lake Foundation. Many of these individuals continue to donate annually to the Foundation. Originally, there were 14 life members when the Foundation was formed in 1981.

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| Von Andrews, Ft Collins, CO | Charles Light, Macks Inn, ID |
| Martin Benowitz, Carlsbad, CA | John McDaniel, Lexington, KY |
| Boise Valley Fly Fishermen, Boise, ID | Wayne Meeks, Nampa, ID |
| Dawnaline Bybee, Idaho Falls, ID | Juan Menchaca, Twin Falls, ID |
| E L "Buck" Bybee, Idaho Falls, ID | Tom Morris, St Maries, ID |
| Don Coffey, Spring Hill, KS | Bill Neal, Vernon, TX |
| John Cox, Wesbry, CA | John W Noonan, Livermore, CA |
| Magic Valley Fly Fishermen, Twin Falls, ID | John O'Neall, Hatchechubbee, AL |
| E R Fitzgerald, San Marcos, CA | Clarence Phillips, Yuma, AZ |
| Jack & Rosiland Garland, Oklahoma City, OK | Lloyd E Ross, Irvine, CA |
| Janalee Garland, Oklahoma City, OK | W C Sheppaerd, Jerome, ID |
| Lee Garland, Oklahoma City, OK | Jack & Martha Stanford, Englewood, CA |
| Ted Garland, Oklahoma City, OK | Thomas Stouffer, Spokane, WA |
| Rupert Gates, Caldwell, ID | Dr Gary Thorgaard, Pullman, WA |
| George Lang, Macks Inn, ID | Morris B Willis, Chillicothe, MO |
| Fred Grimes, Ballwin, MO | John L Runft, Boise, ID |

A HISTORY OF HENRYS LAKE: POST REGISTER OF AUGUST 18, 1985- by Tamra Cikaitoga
(This is the second of a two part article submitted by George Lang.)

Dick Rock, a former guide for General George Armstrong Custer, was one of the more colorful characters to homestead Henrys Lake in the late 1800's. Rock made a living buying and trading furs. He ran a ranch and often captured wild animals which he sold to zoos. Rock was featured at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, where he exhibited Nellie Bly, a moose he had broken to harness and trained to pull a wagon. Rock claimed Nellie Bly had never been defeated in a race matched up against the fastest harness horse. He was known to keep a menagerie of animals for pets, including elk, mountain goats, trumpeter swans and Canadian geese. Rock was eventually killed by one of his unusual pets, a buffalo he had raided from a calf. He was said to be able to ride the animal like a horse, but in 1903 the animal gored him in the back, killing him.

Shortly after the turn of the century the military played a part in Henrys Lake history. Troops from Fort Harrison, MT, would frequent the area in route to Yellowstone National Park. The military was the management force within the national park prior to the formation of the governing federal agencies. The military was again in the Henrys Lake area in 1941, when a U.S. Army camp for the training of ski troops destined for European assignment, was constructed across from Valley View. However, the base was never completed. The buildings were dismantled and burned by military personnel the following year.

The area almost succeeded in having its own bank in 1918, when a group of Henrys Lake and West Yellowstone residents formed and requested permission to build a savings and loan across from the Sherwood Store. Sherwood's records say the land for the bank was staked out but there was no record as to what stopped the construction.

Targhee Cemetery overlooks Henrys Lake on the north. The privately owned cemetery is in a unique situation. Residents joke among themselves about having to know someone or you can't get in. Chis Schafroth, 91, a longtime Island Park resident, was instrumental in the early 1950's in enclosing existing graves and

expanding the cemetery behind chain-link fence. "The property belongs to old Jim Salisbury and you've got to be a native, otherwise you just can't be buried there," Schafroth said. Some of the graves, dating back to the 1800's are identified with simple handmade wood markers or by piles of stone. Wildflowers and an occasional aspen tree have been allowed to grow wild in the older portion of the cemetery. "A native that has been around a long, long time might be able to get in there, but none of this transplanted stuff." Schafroth said. "None of these people that have been here only 25 or 30 years can be buried here, no newcomers allowed." A group of three residents-- Schafroth, Salisbury and Al Frazier-- determine who can be buried in the cemetery.

Much of the land surrounding the lake is used for cattle grazing, but more and more the area is used for recreation and sites for summer homes. To accommodate visitors, recreation facilities have sprung up around the lake. Henrys Lake Lodge, Wild Rose Ranch, and Staley Springs Lodge, all former homesteads, have accommodated visitors for more than 50 years. Henrys Lake Lodge, formerly the Pittsburg Club, has since been closed to the public and is owned by a corporation for private use. Property on the southeast portions of the lake were incorporated into the Idaho Parks and Recreation system in 1965 for creation of Henrys Lake State Park. The nine square mile park provides camping and launch facilities from Memorial Day through September 30. Construction of homes around the lake increased in the 1970's, in part, due to the Rocky Mountain pine beetle infestation in southern Island Park, which killed pine trees making much of that area unattractive. "The lake area was especially popular," said Mike Todd of Island Park Realty. "The pine beetle didn't affect that area as much, and it looked much better than the areas hit by the beetle." Public access is limited. The only non-fee launch area is the William From County Park on the west side of Henrys Lake. Other public launches, with fees, are available at the Wild Rose Ranch, Staley Springs and Henrys Lake State Park.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Our next Newsletter will probably be sent out this fall in November unless there is some events important enough to warrant contact of the Foundation membership sooner. If you have let your dues payment slide by, please send your \$10 or more, tax deductible donation to Mike Glenn, Secretary-Treasurer, 227 University Ave., Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301, so we can keep the Newsletter coming your way. Your contribution will be helping to improve the fishery at Henrys Lake. I hope each of you can find the means to fish and enjoy the environment of Henrys Lake again this season.