



**HENRYS LAKE  
FOUNDATION**

Richard Prange  
Vice President/Projects Coordinator  
c/o 2320 Independence Dr.  
Boise, Idaho 83706

Non-Profit Organ.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Boise, ID 83706  
Permit No. 689

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

President: Harold Husted, Route 4, Buhl, ID 83316  
Newsletter Coordinator: Fred Grimes, P.O. Box 223, Lebanon, MO 65536  
Secretary-Treasurer: Polly Holbrook, 15200 Northwest Burlington Court, Portland, OR 97231  
(send all membership dues/donations to Secretary-Treasurer)

-----

The HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION invites you to join and support our non-profit, tax exempt corporation formed to preserve, protect, and enhance the great trout fishery of Henrys Lake. Just fill in the information below and send your tax deductible contribution or membership dues to:

Henrys Lake Foundation  
c/o Secretary-Treasurer  
Polly Holbrook  
15200 Northwest Burlington Court  
Portland, Oregon 97231

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 annual membership dues

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 life membership (deposited in a trust/interest bearing account)

\_\_\_\_\_ Existing member, and my contribution is an additional donation

November, 1989



HENRYS LAKE  
FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER

### President's Message

Another Henrys Lake summer and fall have come and gone. When we look back we have many thoughts about the time we spent with our "beautiful friend" (Henrys Lake). It can raise its head, let the wind blow, the rain come down in buckets, the bugs bite, the temperature rises or falls to extremes, but it ends them all with a beautiful rainbow, a full moon or a lake covered with fog with the sun shining through it.

Then there are the many hatches that are met with mixed emotions. The snowflies (oh-no), damsels met with excitement, the leeches - too many to answer to a fisherman's dream. There are many others that play such an important part in fishing at Henrys.

We need to mention Henrys most important by-product (yep you've got it); the people. Young, old, new timers, old timers, dedicated fisherman, those that don't get too excited, those that make the trip each year just to be part of and share the experience of "our beautiful friend."

You will see as you read the newsletter, that many great projects took place this past year. We can be very thankful that we have so many dedicated people in our general membership and on our board of directors.

Unfortunately, any time we talk projects, the bottom line becomes dollars. I would like to give you a report on the outcome of the last two (1988-1989) potlucks and silent auction. A year ago (our first auction) we took in approximately \$1,100. This past year with hat sales, dues, (paid on that day) auction and donations we took in \$4,500. Both years we had about 100 people in attendance and 20 to 25 auction items. We had a bigger variety this year including some items for the ladies. One item of special interest was a used motor. So if any of you have something at home in fishing equipment, fly tying equipment that you no longer use, bring it along. We will have a special table for it and see how it goes over. A big thanks to all who contributed things for the auction this year and to all the helpers and buyers. In 1990 we're shooting for 150 people in attendance, 20 more auction items and \$6,000.

The following is the weekend agenda for 1990:

Friday, June 29 - Board meeting and report to membership, 8 p.m. at Staley Springs Lodge.

Saturday, June 30 - General membership meeting and pot luck with board meeting to follow, 2 p.m. at Wild Rose.

Thanks for your patience and participation. Lets make our next auction the biggest and the best.

Harold

☞ A special thanks to Brad George, his hatchery crew and Grant Hamilton for their quick action on the Targhee Creek dewatering emergency. Their actions probably saved several hundred thousand fry.

### 1989 Projects Report

by Richard Prange

As I write this report in early October, the dust just begins to settle on our most successful year for project work. Indeed, more projects were pursued and completed between May and September of 1989 than all previous years combined. A key ingredient to our prosperity was the forging of three separate "challenge grant" agreements with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). These grant programs allowed the Henrys Lake Foundation to combine its financial and volunteer forces with those of the two agencies to mutually contribute towards the completion of a batch of fish habitat improvement projects. Representing the Foundation's interests, Ed Chaney again performed yeoman duty in rancher relations,

fence project layouts and arranging for professional fence builders. In the interest of brevity, what follows are highlights of the various projects as they unfolded during the season.

**Duck Creek Fish Screens** - An IDFG construction crew was commissioned in May to finish installation of four irrigation diversion fish screens on Duck Creek - three on the Magleby Ranch and one on the Webster Ranch. This year's fish screen materials costs were split between the IDFG and Foundation under the challenge grant arrangement. Each shared equally in the \$9,444.68 worth of concrete, lumber, and steel hardware components. The proof of the pudding came later in September, when I observed many wild juvenile trout in Duck Creek that were safely making their downstream journey to the lake.

**Howard Creek Slough Fence** - This project near Henrys Lake State Park was completed in early June. Fencing materials were donated by the Idaho State Lands Department with construction completed by IDFG personnel and Foundation volunteers. Protects about 1/4 mile of a small spawning stream from livestock grazing.

**July Fencing Projects** - During the two weeks following the June 30 Foundation membership meeting, a total of four fencing projects were completed or started. Three of the projects represented new rancher participation in stream habitat restoration at Henrys Lake. Under a USFS challenge grant, the Targhee National Forest donated fence materials and the Foundation took on construction responsibilities to build fence on national forest lands. A larger challenge grant agreement was signed between the IDFG and Foundation, whereby each entity committed \$7,500 towards the costs of fencing various Henrys Lake tributaries. The Foundation hired a fencing contractor and a company of Foundation volunteers and agency workers toiled on the projects. Foundation volunteers provided an estimated 216 hours of labor which counted as cash contribution under the IDFG grant agreement. Electric fencing projects were completed on Duck Creek on the National Forest and on the Lew Webster and Wayne Johnson ranches - protecting approximately one more mile of this important trout spawning stream. Following completion of the Duck Creek fences, efforts shifted for several days to begin fencing Howard Creek on the Flying R Ranch.

**September Fencing Projects** - We again hired a fence contractor, returning in mid-September to pick up where we left off in July. Our contractor, IDFG personnel, and foundation volunteers worked for 6.5 days. The volunteers, tenaciously led by work horse Grant Hamilton and his ORV 4-wheeler, logged an estimated 140 hours of labor. The Howard Creek fence was essentially finished. It will provide future habitat restoration on 1.5 miles of stream. Our sights then turned again to Duck Creek where we commenced working along the remaining unfenced section of stream on the Magleby Ranch. We hired John Magleby and his tractor to provide post-pounding services. Within two days, all fence braces were built. We'll return next spring to string wire and energize the solar powered fence. One more stream mile of riparian habitat will be healing. And rancher John Magleby will incorporate the Duck Creek corridor fences we've built with some new pasture cross fences to institute intensive grazing that will provide better forage utilization and greater profitability.

## **Henrys Lake Foundation Meeting**

by John S. O'Neill, Jr.

The annual membership meeting of the Henrys Lake Foundation was held on June 30 and July 1. Turnout of members from Idaho and many other states was excellent on both days.

At an evening session on Friday, the first day, held at Staley Springs Lodge, Vice-President Richard Prange of Boise presented an interesting 30 minute slide show, featuring improvements made for spawning runs on the several tributary streams to Henrys Lake. These include water wheels at various irrigation diversion ditches to prevent the small trout from being stranded in the pastures while returning to the lake, and fencing projects along the tributaries to improve the spawning beds. Streambed changes, before and after completion of previous fencing projects, were graphically illustrated in photographs taken over a several year period.

Also on the program was a presentation by Brad George, Henrys Lake Hatchery Manager for Idaho Fish and Game, giving statistical information on the 1989 rearing of hybrid, cutthroat and brook trout for release in Henrys Lake and nearby Island Park Reservoir. From the eggs taken at Henrys Lake several hatcheries are busy raising more than three million fingerlings for release this fall, helping to insure excellent fishing in future seasons in these two major lakes.

On Saturday afternoon at Wild Rose Ranch the annual family picnic and silent auction of many items do

nated by members and other interested parties was held. An excellent potluck meal was enjoyed by more than one hundred men, women and children. Hand crafted fly rods, flies for Henrys Lake, reels, lines, hand carved items, paintings, photographs, knitted articles, an outboard motor and guided fishing trips were offered at the auction, which resulted in \$2,293 for the conservation projects on tributary streams undertaken by the Henrys Lake Foundation. This doubled the amount received in the first auction last summer.

The auction was smoothly handled by Shirley Husted, Sandy Hayes, Marge Roseberry, Val Forman, and Chuck Polityka. They also supervised purchase of new and renewal memberships, including several life memberships, by many present for the picnic.

Drawing for a life membership valued at \$100 and donated by two members was held for a lucky youngster under eighteen years of age. Each winning auction bidder put a name in the hat, and the winner was 11-year-old Jennifer Patrick of Council, Idaho.

At a brief business meeting at conclusion of the meal, two new Foundation Directors were elected. Dr. Roger Lang of Concord, California, a summertime resident along the north shore, was added to the Board along with Dennis Kennedy, well known resident of Island Park. An ovation was given Walt Stephens of Glendora, California, retiring from the Board after several years of service.

Subsequent to the auction a short board meeting was conducted by President Harold Husted. The financial report was given by Secretary-Treasurer Polly Holbrook, and the tributary improvement program underway in 1989 was reviewed. A total of \$40,000 is budgeted for this vital program this year, including the new headgates and water wheels already in place on Duck Creek, and several miles of riparian fencing projects now being constructed on Duck Creek and Howard Creek. The cooperative efforts of several ranch owners, including John Magleby, Lewis Webster, Wayne Johnson, Gordon Hunt and the Flying R Ranch were applauded. The participation and aid given by the US Forest Service on one stretch of Duck Creek were noted with thanks. Many of these improvements can be seen along public roads around the lake at crossings over Duck, Targhee and Timber Creeks.

Expenditure of \$40,000 is by far the largest for one year since the tributary improvements were undertaken several years ago. Of the total \$25,000 has been budgeted by the Idaho Fish and Game Department, with \$15,000 in matching funds to be raised by the Henrys Lake Foundation and other interested conservation organizations and trout fishing clubs, including the Island Park Sportsmen's Association. The money is already on hand for all the 1989 projects, which had to be completed by September 30. Volunteer labor by members, personnel from Fish and Game and the Forest Service, and other friends of Henrys Lake played a big part in constructing all these projects.

Henrys Lake Foundation now has an active membership of more than five hundred. Over one hundred fifty are life members, whose \$100 contributions are permanently invested in US Treasury Bonds drawing annual interest to be invested in ongoing projects. Annual membership dues of \$15 are also invested in these projects, and each member receives two annual newsletters, one at conclusion of the season and one just before the new season starts, including items of interest to fishermen, landowners, residents and business people around Henrys Lake. New members are earnestly needed, and checks for dues can be sent to Polly Holbrook, Secretary, 15200 Northwest Burlington Court, Portland, Oregon 97231.

### **Report on the Exhibit for the Henrys Lake Foundation at FFF Conclave in Yellowstone Montana, August 10, 11 and 12th.**

by Polly Holbrook

The exhibit was a roaring success. We gathered 16 new memberships with one regular member becoming a life member. The booth was handled by a great crew of volunteers. John O'Neill and George Lang had the volunteers lined up for me when I arrived. Our helpers consisted of John and Pat O'Neill, Sandy Hayes, Dexter Ball, Ken Miller, Jerry Esch, Bill Osborn, Clarence Wright, Dennis Hofflander, Jack Bales, George Lang, Bill Schiess, Charlie Light, Hal Bohlscheid and myself. We spread the shifts over two hours each and it worked out perfectly. We made many new friends at the booth and passed out a great deal of literature and information. John tied flies two days at the booth and handed out the receipt list for all his flies. He made a display of the flies, which he will auction off next summer at our annual meeting. The photo book made up by Rick Prange was excellent. It explained our current projects in pictures and we used it a great deal in talking to all the booth visitors. The large map that shows the stream work done to date was a great draw into the booth. Rick uses it for his talks and it was an attention getter in the booth.

Our booth was located outside the conclave headquarters and we were sharing a tent with Buck's Bags and

two other non-profit organizations. The foundation purchased a brand new float tube from Bucks Bags at wholesale price and each new member that registered during the two and half days had their name thrown in the pot for the drawing which took place Saturday at noon. Fran Bales of Manhattan Beach, Cal., won the tube. This was also a great attention getter for the booth and our display. We also made some new friends from Bucks Bags.

I strongly recommend that this activity be maintained each year that the conclave is held in West Yellowstone, Montana.

## 1989 Henry's Lake Highlights

by Tom McGuire

While my 61 fish day at Henry's Lake was an excellent day, it was not my highlight. However, one of the 61 fish was a 5 1/4 lb. hybrid, eight were 3 lb. hybrids, two were 4 1/4 lb. cutthroats, and the rest were in the 1-2 1/2 lb. class.

The next day, I had a two hour period with a young novice, Mark Kessler, the 5 year-old grandson of Harold Husted, from Wells, Nevada. We anchored our boat about 200 feet from Bill Hayes' boat, who generally is in the vicinity of the fish.

After five minutes of instructing Mark on how to strip a flyline, I made the first cast. Then Mark made his strip and hooked his first fish of the day. The smile that he wore as I slipped net under the 2 lb. cutthroat to bring it into the boat, and the excitement we felt was priceless.

Mark had fourteen hookups, and we netted ten fish in that period. Of the ten fish we caught, one was a 4 lb. cutthroat, eight were in the 1-2 lb. class, and the other was a 3 1/2 hybrid that got deep into the backing which Mark handled like a pro with very little coaching. One of the four fish we didn't get to net, made three jumps and headed for West Yellowstone, was approximately a 6-7 lb. hybrid.

For a novice, one of the hardest things to do is releasing the fish. However, we did keep the 4 lb. cutthroat.

What an enjoyment it is to a young boy when introduced to fishing, and the feeling of pride on my part to have been his instructor.

The smiles and laughter from Mark throughout the day was a memory to cherish forever. Needless to say, his enthusiasm and fun had made my highlight for this year's trip.

## The Day They Put Traffic Lights in West Yellowstone

by Roger Lang

We, here in Henry's Lake land, live at the edge of civilization, where the wilderness yet remains between the areas of settlement. Wild animals are nearby, roaming the nearly empty space.

The event of the new stop-lights recently installed in West Yellowstone can be used as a message to the people of Henry's Lake. Maybe it's a message of the population explosion (the world is doubling its population every ten to twenty years now) or perhaps one of increased technology and expectations of civilization. It is a message that we could pay attention to.

A question comes to mind: What is the future of country living at Henry's Lake? If West Yellowstone now has paved streets, street lights and for a long time a working sewage system; what is in store for us?

Right! You got the message and we, the Henry's Lake Foundation members must look to the facts of the future. It's too late to argue the pros and cons of population pressure as we near the twenty-first century. We must meet the standards necessitated by the burgeoning population in our area.

The water quality of Henry's Lake is fragile and it cannot stand forever the poorly regulated water and sewage controls of the past. The time will soon be near when a sewage line around our lake will need to be laid to take care of the rising numbers of part-time and full-time residents. The earth and soil itself has a limited capacity for filtering our effluent so our technology must assist it.

Hand and glove with this technical improvement must come some amount of property and building management. Standards of health, crowding, building codes and visual compatibility with the environment should be kept in mind. Right now a big company from, let us say Texas or New York, could build a steel and plastic high-rise along our shoreline and there would be little we could do to prevent it.

Perhaps, in the future, the Henry's Lake foundation could be a catalyst toward the organization of all the

property owners near our lake to mandate the maintenance of good fishing, healthy water and clean, nice looking homes in all price ranges.

What we don't need are stop lights like those in West Yellowstone!

### **Short Casts Contribution**

from Grant and Adeline Hamilton

We have a new historic landmark sign erected by the State Highway Department at the Highway 87 intersection with the county road to Staley Springs. The sign says that Staley Springs was originally the Gilman Sawtell Ranch. We researched this further and did some reading.

When William Henry Jackson came to Henry's Lake in 1872, he found Gillman Sawtell, a white settler very much at home raising cattle and working the land. Jackson had expected to find Indians at Henry's Lake, and did not anticipate white settlers. During Gilman's stay at Henry's Lake, an orphaned youth, Ed Staley, was taken in by a white man and his Indian squaw wife. Records don't indicate the white man's name. The ground that borders around Staley Springs was the site of the Sawtell Ranch cabin and out-buildings. Upon their departure from Island Park, the Sawtells sold their holdings in 1896 to Ed Staley, then a grown man. At that time, the springs became known as Staley Springs.

Ed Staley later sold his holdings. As we all know, the springs is a world renown fishing spot. Staley Springs Lodge is situated on the same natural spring that has the historical distinction of being the first area in all of Island Park to be settled by white man.

### **Short casts**

The newest, and one of the youngest, life members of the Henry's Lake foundation is eleven-year-old Jennifer Patrick of Council, Idaho. She is the lucky youngster whose name was drawn from the hat at conclusion of the silent auction at Wild Rose Ranch on July 1. Every successful bidder for an auction item put a name in the hat for a favorite youngster eighteen years old or younger. The membership was donated by John and Pat O'Neill of Hachechuhbee, Alabama, who hope to make this an annual feature at the auction.

Ten-year-old Abby Ferris of California drew the magic name, and Jennifer was present in the audience to enjoy her good fortune. She is in the fifth grade, lives on a ranch, and has interest in all things natural, animals, birds, bugs, and rocks. She was brought to Henry's Lake on vacation by her maternal grandparents, Rex and Barbara Day of Mountain Home, Idaho, who have fished here for 13 years. Jennifer likes to fish and is learning the art of fly tying from her granddad, who tied and donated a beautiful box of Henry's Lake flies to be sold in the auction. This life membership was given in memory of charter member Robert Briscoe of Valley Center, California.

### **Short casts**

An interesting new member for the Henry's Lake foundation was gained in August when famed astronaut, Gen. Thomas P. Stafford, visited Staley Springs accompanied by his wife and daughter, for a fishing trip with his longtime friend, Lee Garland of Oklahoma City. It will be recalled that Tom Stafford made four trips into outer space and was the pilot of the spacecraft orbiting the moon when Neil Armstrong made his famed walk on the moon in 1968.

Lee Garland, who has been coming to Staley Springs since his father brought him here as a boy, put on a fish fry for the Stafford family, which was greatly enjoyed by a number of guests staying at Staley Springs.

A new fly pattern was created in honor of Tom Stafford, aptly named "The Moonwalker." The new fly pattern has a variegated olive and brown chenille body, with a black marabou tail and a black hackle. Tom Stafford took the original tie home with him to Oklahoma City as a memento. The new fly has already hooked some hybrids. Perhaps it will be better than its famed cousin, the Woolly Booger, which has been so successful at Henry's.

Now that Tom Stafford has retired from active service, it is hoped he will have time to enjoy long-delayed fly fishing. Welcome to Henry's Lake, Tom!

## Shortcasts

Last winter, Tom Morris challenged all the granddads in the Henrys Lake Foundation to buy life memberships for their grandchildren, encouraging them to follow the preceding generations in the love of trout fishing and Henrys Lake. As each newcomer comes along, Tom is enrolling him or her as a life member. Lee Garland is doing the same thing, doubled in brass. Kids and grandkids are life members. The latest granchild, Brittany Ann Garland, has a life membership at age two, the eighth among the Garland grandchildren.

Life memberships have now climbed to more than 150, which means that more than \$15,000 is permanently invested in government bonds to help give perpetual financing to the Foundation. Only the yearly interest is spent for projects annually. As life memberships continue to grow, the annual income realized will increase significantly, giving the Foundation a steady and vital income.

## Short casts

Memorial contributions were received by Henrys Lake foundation this summer for O. A. "Tommy" Thomas, a longtime Henrys Lake resident and an avid fisherman and sportsman.

Memorial contributions may be sent to:

Henrys Lake Foundation  
c/o Shirley Husted  
Route 4  
Buhl, Idaho 83316

Please include who the memorial is for, who the acknowledgement should be sent to; your name and address.

Thank you, Shirley Husted.

## Season Ender 1989

by John O'Neill, Jr.

The lesson to learn from the summer 1989 is simple and straightforward; "Don't try to outguess or outsmart Old Mother Nature!" The Island Park country went from a severe drought in 1988 to a relative plenitude of water in 1989, starting with a heavy snowpack in the winter. The summer scene went from a severely burned forest and a heavy pall of smoke hanging over Henrys Lake day after day to a crisp and green landscape and crystal air to breathe.

The denuded lakeshore and severely lowered lake of 1988 were replaced by an almost full pool in 1989, one that even gained four inches in August, to the fifteen foot level. Not within memory had the lake stood at such a high level as August drew toward a close. In the latter part of the summer it was like fishing an entirely different lake, bringing about real difficulty in comparing fishing results from one season to the next. But that is our task here despite the fact that conditions were poles apart.

We have six firm opinions from six dedicated Henrys Lake fishermen who put a lot of hours into fishing the lake in June, July and August, plus the writer's observations. What these six say carries real weight, for we know their talents and the fly fishing results they get. They do not always agree, nor should they, for we ask them for their honest evaluations.

Starting with Bill Hayes of Hemet, CA., who haunts the "Glory Hole" at Staley Springs and is a familiar figure in his Gregor boat, landing and releasing fish after fish, his summer angling extended from June 1 to mid-August. He found that the numbers in the three species - hybrids, cutts and brookies - came in roughly the same ratio as 1988, with the brookies up a bit. The size on the hybrids diminished somewhat. He caught only eight of four pounds or more, with the biggest a 6 3/4 pounder. Less numbers in the four to six pound category was made up by more in the 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 pound class. The cutts, very healthy and vigorous, came in about the same number and sizes, but he landed his biggest ever cutt in two decades of fishing here, a seven pounder. Bill commented on the season starting with the lake lower than usual and then rising during the summer, the exact opposite of the usual occurrence. He found the fishing much tougher as summer wore on into August, with little concentration of fish in his favorite hole.

Harold Husted of Buhl, ID., president of Henrys Lake Foundation, had a fine fishing trip of about six weeks from middle of June to near end of July. He thus escaped the "dog days" of August which we shall describe later. Harold spent several of his days ramrodding the conservation projects going forward on Duck and Howard Creeks, a willing sacrifice on his part, but it did cut into his fishing. On the whole he felt that it was a very satisfactory summer. His own catch produced a larger size in the hybrids taken, but he noted a decline in size of the cutts taken and fewer numbers. Brookies were spotty but size was up. He felt that his take in terms of fish per hour increased, with a higher percentage of hybrids. He noted the interruptions caused by a stormy June and excess wind, and felt a definite decline in fishing success the last ten days of his trip. He spent more time than usual out in the lake, away from the Staley Channel, feeling that the high lake level kept the fish more widely scattered.

Harry Tupper of La Crecenta, CA., arrived on the lake much earlier in June than in 1988 and fished perhaps double the hours compared with last year. He keeps very meticulous records on the numbers, species and sizes caught.

In 1988 with both June and August shortened, he caught a total of 579 fish. This season the total rose to 765, but with double the hours invested. Therefore, his catch rate per hour was down considerably. Among the species he took 508 cutts, 163 hybrids and 94 brookies. Considering only cutts and hybrids, his percentage of hybrids was about 25%, which he feels is somewhat high and which indicates, in his opinion, a shortage of cutts in the general population. For the past four years the stocking rate of cutts into the lake has been pegged at one million fingerlings per year. It was cut from two million after 1984. It is set at one million again in the fall of 1989. Harry feels very strongly that this stocking rate ought to be increased to at least one and half million per year, attributing the decline in fish caught per hour to a declining cutt population. He noted a slightly larger size of fish caught in all species in 1989. He also noted the extremely heavy pressure on Henrys Lake in the early season, with great numbers of fish harvested and high mortality on those released by trollers. Heavy pressure was brought about partly by the failure of the fishery at Island Park Reservoir, depleted by three low water years in a row and opening of ice fishing three years ago. All the more reason, he feels, to keep a strong fingerling stocking program going in Henrys Lake, with emphasis on cutts as the basic fish.

Clarence Wright, who now calls Island Park and Henrys Lake home, and a veteran of many years of fishing on the lake, bemoaned the unsettled weather of June and August that cut several days from the fishing calendar. But when the weatherman did smile, Clarence was impressed that his catch rate improved over 1988, also that he consistently caught larger cutts and hybrids than the previous year. His percentage of hybrids ran considerably higher than last year, reflecting the same results obtained by Harry Tupper.

Last year we had an interview with Bill Lynch of Sacramento, CA., who usually comes to the lake in mid-August and stays until wintry conditions drive him out. This year his arrival was late, so we were unable to get results from him spanning enough days, so we selected a substitute Elwin Robison of Reno, NV. Elwin owns a cabin above Staley Lodge and makes several trips to the lake each season. He stated that June provided the best fishing he has experienced here in forty-one seasons. He concentrated his efforts in the center of the lake. He was especially impressed with the quality of the fish caught, their obvious good health and fighting abilities. His catch rate during June was about eight fish per hour. Upon return to the lake after a trip home, the results for latter part of July and August dropped to two fish per hour. His ratio of hybrids to cutts was approximately two to one, or 66% hybrids, with just a few brookies in his catch, but some of them quite large. Elwin also noted there were far fewer fish concentrated in Staley Springs than usual and slimmer results in the Glory Hole, which he attributed to higher and colder water. His electronic fish finder showed scattered fish all over the lake summer-long.

Bill Schiess, manager of Wild Rose, spends many hours per week on the lake and is a student of its fishery. Reflecting Elwin Robison's experience, Bill stated that June was the best ever at Henrys, a trend that extended to July 15. During that period his catch rate was 6.3 fish per hour. July 13 was the single best day, with 47 fish caught and released. The summer produced one cutt of 26" and one hybrid of 29 1/4", truly a big fish. During June word was out that Henrys was really producing, and there were days of 300 plus boats on the lake. Many of these were trollers with several fishermen in each boat. Weed growth was slower than usual, so trolling could continue into mid-July. It was estimated that 60,000 trout were removed from the lake during that 45-day period, with perhaps a like number injured by catch-and-release, principally on treble hooks. Most of the latter were probably casualties going to the increasing flock of pelicans inhabiting the lake.

From July 15 on, Bill Schiess opined that the bottom dropped out of the fishing. The damsels had quit swimming, the weather turned hot and still, and surface temperatures rose sharply. Suddenly it got very hard to catch a fish, especially around the edges of the lake. The center holes still produced slowly. Afternoon storms erupted almost daily in August, and fishing remained in the doldrums throughout the month. This in contrast to



last August, which had been a star month. Bill's report for the final two months of September and October will be most interesting, to see if a resurgence occurred.

Bill's scoresheet for 1988, carefully kept, reflects a catch of 60% cutts, 30% hybrids and 10% brookies, basically the same as 1988. The percentage of hybrids was considerably higher after July 20. Looking at these figures, he advocates leaving the stocking rate on cutts at one million fingerlings per year, as has been the plan for five seasons. With normal water levels, he figures that increased recruitment of small fish from the tributary streams, largely due to the conservation projects of screens and fencing already installed, will supply a surprisingly large number of cutts to the lake and cover any deficit which is developing. The other recommendation would involve using only single barbless hooks in the lake, whether with flies, lures or bait, in order to save a large percentage of the estimated 60,000 trout that died needlessly in 1989.

Since the writer's experiences closely matched what is reflected above, there is little need to be repetitive.

June was a bonanza when the cold storms let up, and the first two weeks of July provided some of the most memorable damsel fly fishing ever. All the fish, particularly the cutts, were the healthiest and most vigorous we have ever seen. Unlike a decade ago, the full bodied cutts fought their hearts out - no rolling over and playing dead. These are the highest quality fish we have seen in Henrys Lake in two decades of fishing there.

There was no overlooking the fact that from July 20 on to the end of August, fishing was as tough as the "fishless" years around 1980. Whether due to excessive catch in the early part of the season under tremendous fishing pressure, unusually high water, intense heat in July, endless storms and winds in August (pick your own favorite), fishing success at Henrys died a sudden death. Whether this was a temporary lapse or a harbinger of disappointing times ahead remains to be seen.

A steady course must be sailed, and high on the list of recommendations would be to maintain resolute progress on the conservation projects to enhance spawning and recruitment of young fish to the lake from ten tributary streams. Much has been accomplished and much remains to be done. These results are going to start "coming on line" right away, especially if we get decent snow pack. We also like the idea of saving fish that have already been raised. Since so many fish are subject to "catch and release" in this lake, it seems to make sense to protect them as much as possible through use of barbless hooks. Any angler can take home his limit with barbless hooks and should feel a lot better about fish released in a manner that gives them a fair chance at life. After all, he wants to catch them again next month, or next year!

It is also surely to be hoped that Idaho Fish and Game will follow through 100% on stocking one and a half million fingerlings in Island Park Reservoir in the fall of 1989. The death of fish there in 1989 has partly led to the tremendous pressure on Henrys Lake. Getting a good population going again in Island Park will lead to many subsistence fishermen returning there, where the limit is more liberal.