Gladiator muskie

This one's for you, Emil. I know that you've had days like this one, Mr. Kachmar, you tough old muskie hunter. We've all had days like this one ... exciting times, days when we really learn ... '

The sad part is that they're so few, and the chances are so far, so very far in between.

I sat silently on the wooden government dock in the village of Haliburton, leaning back against a pillar and enjoying the shade. My God, it was the end of October, less than two months to Christmas, and here I was looking for cover, some respite from the sun of the classical Indian summer of eightynine.

And I thought to myself, Emil, how fortunate we are, how lucky. we are to be living in the best province in the best country in the only world we've got. I gazed upon the beautiful scenery that spread in front of me like some majestic painting; the rolling, multihued hills of the Haliburton Highlands; the clean, sparkling water of Head Lake, positioned like a fine, shiny jewel in the middle of this tiny but bustling community; the happy shouts of rambunctious schoolchildren; the friendly faces of passing villagers, townfolk who glanced at my weapons of war... huge muskie plugs, bucktails and spoons, spinner-baits and pool-cue rods... and they smiled, knowingly... You know the look, Emil.

"I see you're after the big one." a lady said calmly, as if 14-inchlong lures were a simple and accepted fact of life.

"So, how's the fishing?"

"Good," I answered. "We were out in that fog for a few hours this morning... lost one, and had another follow... nice muskie. We'll get his parents this afternoon!"

Wise guy, eh Emil? Cocky ...

"Live bait's the answer in that cold water," I continued, knowingly, confidently. "My brother Mike's gone to get some more big sucker minnows..."

Ah yes, good old Michael. He had described the lake perfectly: not very big; the little town buzzing all around it; very few fishermen; and many tales of big muskies, with the usual monster that got away.

It was perfect, Emil... A perfect day in a perfect setting in pursuit of the heavyweight champion of

"Welcome to the world of the heavyweight champion," I thought to myself. "Today, you fall, haby..." and indeed at that very moment, a big fish, a gladiator of a muskie lay in waiting, amidst the submerged logs and stumps in a bay on the opposite shoreline.

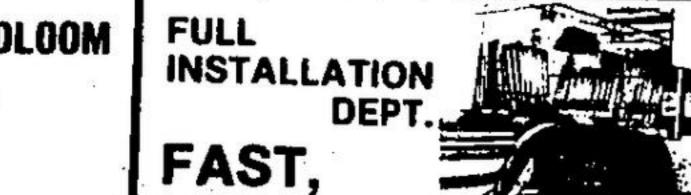
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It lay waiting, eyes glaring... toothy, malevolent grin... always that eerie smile.

I knew it was there, Emil! I knew it. Give me credit for that much. But I was about to make a mistake. Perhaps I was tired; perhaps it was the unexpected sun and heat of the day.

I decided to prepare a live bait rig. I had one decent ten inch sucker minnow in my bucket. I reached for a large baitholding hook and, using a Palomar knot, I tied it to the 14 pound test Prime

This was the lead hook. It would penetrate the sucker minnow's snout and guide it to its doom. A fine wire line was tied to this book, and run along the length of the sucker. A treble hook was then attached to the wire's end and hooked into the large minnow behind the dorsal fin. This was the killer hook of the quick-set system. This treble hook, near the tail of the sucker, was slated to meet the jaws of the heavyweight champion. It was tightly secured. I was

But I had made a mistake, a grievous error.

I see you shaking your head, Emil... biting your lower lip. You know what I did wrong, don't you... you, and some others, you know my mistake.

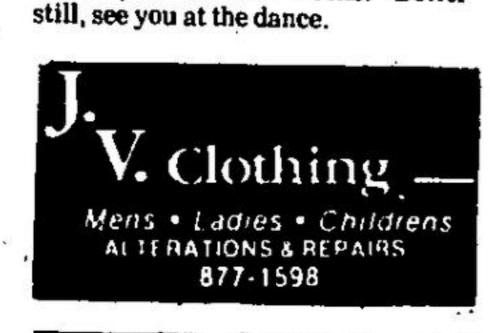
Michael arrived at the dock with more sucker minnows, and we were shortly off to do battle with a very big fish.

Meanwhile, the gladiator muskie of Head Lake lay in waiting, hidden in those long sunken logs, his devilish smirk now perhaps a little wider than usual...

ON THE HORIZON The conclusion of Gladiator of Head Lake."

SHORELINES Help protect our environment by planning to attend POWER's dance featuring "Marion's Country Band," Friday, Nov. 24, 8 p.m. at the Acton Legion. For further details, call Mrs. Kirkwood at 853-0039.

See you in two weeks. Better





Leisure Lines

Positions are available

Have you even thought about this upcoming summer yet? What about the job you would like to do? Where will you want to go? If you want to consider an exciting and enjoyable position with Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department, then we are asking you to think about the summer of 1990, today.

We offer many programs for children during the summer months. The success of them however, lies in the qualified and competent staff we hire. Interested applicants should:

-enjoy working with others; -want to gain practical experience:

-be enthusiastic and motivated; -like working with children of all ages and abilities:

-have an interest in sharing their skills with others.

If you are considering a future in teaching, early childhood education, business or public relations, then gain the necessary experience in these fields by working for the Recreation and Parks Department. Experience is essential and

required for vocational pursuits. We are now accepting applications for co-ordinator, supervisor and leader positions. Programs include children's playgrounds, day camps, sports and tennis camps, programs and art prodrama grams.

CO-ORDINATOR

-position involves overseeing the whole summer program operation;

-responsibilities include hiring of staff, organizing programs, publicity and general administrative duties;

-must have access to a vehicle and be able to work May through August.

SUPERVISOR

-position involves supervising staff, planning and organizing specific programs;

-must have access to a vehicle and be able to work May through August.

LEADER -leaders run the actual

grams; -they plan each day of the week and make camp an exciting place to come:

-must be able to work July and August.

Working in the Recreation field is both rewarding and enjoyable. Whether you're a youth, a student, an adult or an older adult, here is your opportunity to develop your skills, share your experience and work where you can make a difference.

Applications for these positions are available at the Recreation and Parks Department Office, Civic Centre, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown, the Acton Indoor Pool; or at any Recreation Facility. Deadline to apply for the coordinator and the supervisor positions is Friday, Dec. 8, and for the leader positions is Friday, Feb. 2, 1990. Call 873-2600 ext. 267 if you wish any further information.



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