

Fishermen Take to Creeks As Trout Season Opens Sat.

By Staff Writer
Halton County, well supplied with sparkling, crystal clear fresh water streams — natural habitat of the salvelinus fontinalis or speckled trout as it is more commonly known — will be alive with fishermen on Saturday as the time-honored rite of the opening of the trout season is observed.

Weeks of anticipation, oiling reels, checking lines, discussing the merits of fly fishing as opposed to worm dunking, will end on a hurried note as the squaretail enthusiasts head for their favorite fishing hole, often only a few miles from home. There, most will commit wiggling pink garden worms or fat red night crawlers into the spring waters. A few purists will try wet flies and all the enthusiasts will be soaking in nature's relaxing tonic of fresh air and sunshine.

Best Fishing Later
Unfortunately, few will catch any big specimens of piscatorial splendour despite their years at outsmarting the wily speckleds.

Experts contend that the best speckled trout are not caught until mid-May or later when the fly hatches have provided natural food in greater quantities and the fishes have fattened up. After a winter of inactivity the fish are still gaunt and the specimens that are latched onto will be inferior to those landed later in the month.

The speckled trout is perhaps the world's most beautiful fish. Its back is greenish to dark brown and occasionally almost black. Heavy dark wavy lines extend on to the dorsal and caudal fins. On the sides are small well-defined red spots

bordered by a bluish halo. The leading edge of each lower fin has a milk-white border. Breeding males are particularly colorful.

But surely, coloring doesn't attract fishermen in the quantity that finds a fascination for trout, you say. What is all this tremendous attraction that leaves so many widows?

As well as being colorful, the flesh of trout is delicious. Some fish are amber, pink or red while others, taken from the same waters, have white flesh. And in addition these peacocks of the fish world are equipped with tremendous fighting qualities that make every bite a thrill of expectation.

Seven Inches Legal Length
In spite of the vast numbers caught each year, Nature does a good job of propagating the trout. In the autumn, the mature fish migrate upstream. Spawning takes place in late October to early December in shallow, gravel-bottomed headwaters of streams and occasionally in lakes. The adults construct a shallow depression in clean gravel. The eggs are deposited and fertilized and then covered with gravel. The young, after hatching, live during the winter on the nutrients absorbed from the yolk sac. When the yolk is absorbed, they begin to feed on microscopic organisms.

By the time he is seven inches in length—the legal limit—the trout is an adult fish. Then he is prey for everyone in the district who wants to try.

In this neck of the woods, where opening day usually attracts far more anglers than fish, there are creeks and rivers within easy reach

of even the laziest fisherman. The best places? They're a secret to even the mother-in-law and the secretive habits of fishermen are well known.

But there are spots where fish are plentiful that are common knowledge. Take Everton, for instance. The big brown trout with their tremendous fight can be had at Horntop's mill pond and further down the river in Rockwood.

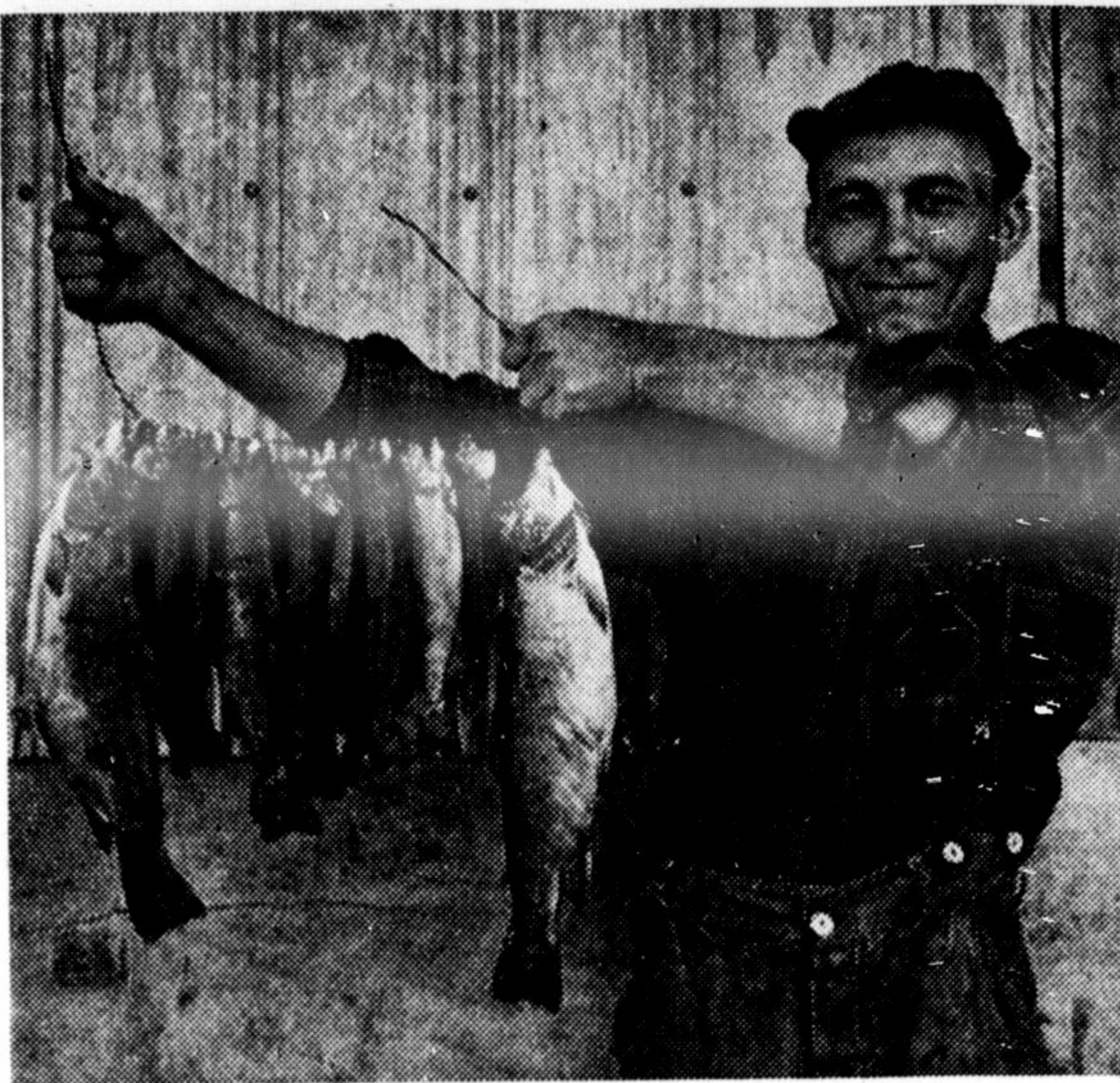
Further up the river in its smaller tributaries, many speckleds have been planted by the government.

Two beautiful spots with a continent-wide reputation for the fish that have been pulled out of their waters are the Forks of the Credit and Belfountain. There the Credit River crashes down through the Caledon hills providing sanctuary for many a "whopper" including even the odd rainbow trout.

Many a fisherman has also disturbed the equanimity of some of the district fishermen and is constant the Credit's smaller tributaries in search of trout with some success.

The Blue Springs creek that has its source south of Acton and is fed by smaller freshets along the way is another favorite stream for trout. Some places are signed up along its route but there are still spots left that yield fish year after year.

The escarpment which very nearly succeeds in cutting Halton in two has many famed fishing places on its heights and down lower within its shadow. Twelve Mile creek has long been the haunt of Milton and district fishermen and is constantly improving under the restocking program being conducted by Game Warden Dudley Hitchcox.



ALL SPECKLED TROUT made up this batch of 19 caught by Mel Whitney. His biggest measuring 17 inches, and weighing two pounds, one and a half ounces, won him the annual Champion award in 1952. He caught the string in the Sixteen Mile Creek north of Milton.

Where reforestation and conservation work are bringing streams back to crystal clearness, the fishing is improving. The beaver dam in Nasagaweya is a good example of what can be done in this regard. Some of the biggest trout caught in the county have come from these waters adjacent to the dam.

There are numerous small grass-lined creeks that vary in depth from six inches to a foot that everyone knows of and is content to keep the secret to himself. They have oodles of medium-sized speckles and are particularly suited for dangling worms into.

Economically, perhaps the fisherman would be better off buying his fish at the neighborhood store, but those words wouldn't have much effect on anyone afflicted with fishing fever—a widespread disease at this season of the year.

May Get Hooked On Fishing Trip

The average angler is a careful individual, but millions of fish-hooks are used each summer by thousands of anglers. Accidents will sometimes occur and the angler instead of the fish will be the one to "get hooked".

A fish-hook is well designed for the purpose of quickly penetrating a fish's flesh... and staying there. Fish don't have so many live nerves as humans. Having learned that fact, we remove the hook from a fish with little concern.

But when a fish-hook is imbedded in human flesh, there's a difference. There are countless nerves yelling for help and relief and human flesh is subject to infection. Trying to remove a fish-hook from the human body by pulling it out backwards when it has penetrated the flesh beyond the barb is at once painful, seldom successful, or will cause an unnecessarily large, jagged wound.

One of the best methods of removing a fish-hook from human flesh, approved by physicians and recommended by Department of Lands and Forests conservation officers, is as follows:

First, study the wound for a moment and decide the best direction to point the hook to force it on through the flesh without striking anything vulnerable, such as a bone or blood vessel.

Carefully and firmly turn the point of the hook to the direction decided upon and force it right through the flesh with a quick, controlled motion. When the barb is free outside the flesh, cut off barbed point with a pair of sharp

CHANGES COURSE

The Missouri river is constantly changing its course. Farmers plowing their fields seven or eight miles from the present river, often turn up great iron rings once used to moor steamboats. Lawsuits are frequent and bitter; the river, legal boundary of a holding of land, will move and put the property into another county or even another state.—The Reader's Digest.



TO WIN THE CONTEST in 1953, Tommy Parker landed this 18-inch brown trout which weighed a pound and three quarters. He caught it on the first Sunday at the season near his home at Campbellville.

side-cutting pliers (a pair of which is a must in every tackle box) and withdraw the remainder of the hook backward the way it went in.

Fish-hook wounds are very likely to become infected. To allow the cut to dry up and close on the surface while possible germs remain imbedded inside is to invite infection. That is bad enough when modern medical aid is available, but is far worse when one is away off in the bush many miles from such care.

The wound should be encouraged to bleed for a while after the fish-hook is removed. This will relieve the wound of some of the dirt and possible germs. It should then be sterilized with alcohol from your first aid kit or a little iodine (but not enough to cause an iodine burn). Never place adhesive over

a fish-hook wound or cover it with greasy ointment. The best treatment after encouraging the wound to bleed for a time, is to cover it with a moist boric dressing. Keep the dressing moist and change it frequently. See a doctor as soon as you can.

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