

Old fishermen ^{reluctantly} seldom die;
instead they ^{first} lapse into a sort of
tottering second childhood, more
and more taking on the traits they
used to exhibit when they were first
learning to fish. "We're only young
twice," becomes their giddy motto

Old fishermen ^{seldom}
give up the pursuit of trout
reluctantly, generally first giving up
wading the tougher stretches, then giving
up wading anywhere and ^{finally} donating the
waters to the Boy Scouts. But they still
go fishing, perhaps not as often or
staying quite as long as they used to, but
often they can be found ^{often} casting while
returning on boiling stews

Sometimes they even catch a trout

They're rarely ^{ever} ready ~~to~~ share even
a bit of the ~~guilt~~ blame,
To frankly suggest it only tends
to inflame

The c

A torrent of

Into a torrent of bites 'em
and begins 'em ^{and} ^{at} in finitum

I've fished for so long that I can
recall when there was no limit on
brook trout; then a limit of thirty; then
down to fifteen; then down to ten and,
in some places, none to keep.

In fact I've fished so long that
I can ^{well} quote my second childhood of fishing;
we only limit trout.

Old fishermen, ^{when they are lucky,} do not so much die as lapse into a sort of second child. ^{And} since they ~~are~~ start ^{again} learning to fish all over again; they work fewer steams

As their aches and pains increase they

Old fishermen hate to give
up the ~~possession~~^{chasing} of the quarry they have
pursued for years, and this circumstance

I presumed to speak with some
authority on this abstruse subject
because, after all, I first started
bringing around the turn of the century
and have in this time probably waded
from the equivalent of from here to
Las Vegas and back ^{at least} several times,
and mostly upstream

My authority to speak may
be debated by some when I compare that
of late years &

Work, it took me far too many
years to ^{learn} discover, takes one hell of a lot of
the fun out of fishing. For I say this
became to fish with the freedom ^{of spirit} that
does not spoil all the fun in it,
fishing, the fisherman needs must have
both leisure and repose. And if the
fisherman has to ^{go to} work when ---

that the pursuit deserves both
~~two things~~. Leisure requires both
leisure and repose.

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Work and Fishing

Since I seem never to have kept a diary when I was a boy I can only guess that I must have ^{only} been ^{a lad of} ~~only~~ six or seven when my father first took me out to see the South ^{paper and without} Camp in the old ^{drawn by our boy more fully} backboard, and corrupted me permanently into the lifelong pursuit of the elusive trout.

And since I was born around the turn of the century my abacus tells me that I have been pursuing those trout ^{for a mighty long} ~~one hell of a~~ long time. And since ^{more often} of late years I seem to get turned around ^{more often} about precisely which century ^{that was} my birth occurred, ^{which} century my abacus ^{settles on} me as I've been ^{trout for} being one hell of a long time.

1. vi. '87
Mar. 12,

Since I never kept a diary when I was a boy, I can only guess that I must have been only six or seven ^{years old} when my father first corrupted me into the life-long pursuit of trout, ^{our native & Upper Peninsula of Michigan} and since I was born around the turn of the century, that means that the pursuit has gone on for ^{a good} many years, and since of late years I ^{seem to} get more and more turned around about ⁱⁿ precisely which century that ~~was~~ ^{it} further means birth occurred, that probably means I've fished for far too many years.

#2

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Back in those days trout were so plentiful they seemed to run out of our very water taps. For many years there were no limits in catching them; the first one was thick; and, needless to say, ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~received~~ ^{received} trout were often on the menu in our house. In fact I seem to recall that before I attended grammar school I had devoured so many trout that one day ^{my mother} ~~my mother~~ ^{put} me on a restricted diet when ^{I got a sore throat} she ^{thought} she detected signs of developing ^{gill} ~~gill~~ ^{slit}.

Those were among ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{most} carefree days of fishing I ever had, ^{going} ~~going~~ ^{with my} ~~with my~~ ^{father} ~~father~~ ^{nearly every weekend} ~~nearly every weekend~~ ^{all summer long} ~~all summer long and varying the pattern by ^{going} ~~going~~ ^{with my} ~~with my ^{school chum} ~~school chum~~ ^{nearly every day in between.}~~~~

The first effect of success on my fishing came when

I must have been about twelve when ^{let} ~~let~~ ^{their} ~~their ^{first} ~~first~~ ^{assistance} ~~assistance~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{material} ~~material~~ ^{aid} ~~aid~~ ^{entered} ~~entered upon my fishing career. Not only was I earning more money than I ever had before but I could go to the movies at the local Opera House~~~~

