



Trout

► WHIRRRRRRRRR! The reel sings out, the rod's tip bends, a silver flash, another, another—the battle is on, Trout versus Angler. And may the better wit and the greater alertness, by no means definitely the Angler's, win the day.

For the time has come when the city dweller who is not too far from where swift, cold water flows will take a day on his week-end to slip out and try his luck with a rod in his favorite stream. And in a multitude of other places, the sons of Izaak Walton are piously conning their breviaries—to wit, their fly-hooks—and counting the days until they get their summer vacations.

Of all the finny gods in their calendar, they bow lowest, and most frequently, before the image of the trout. The bass may run him close, and the vicious pike or muskellunge claim devotion in moments of craving for a big fight with heavy weapons. But, in the end, the True Believer returns to the trout.

Slim and beautiful whether in the water or safely landed, swift with a speed that would seem to belong properly only to the birds of the air, water-wise and hook-wise with an intelligence that seems a shade supernatural in a mere fish, he is the prince and primate of all things that live in fresh water.

The various species of trout, home-biding fellows for all their adventurous disposition, have wandering brothers in the salmon. The salmon most sought after as game fish, indeed, are placed by naturalists in the same genus with trout, who even give them their own scientific name, "*Salmo*." The big salmon of the commercial fisheries are also rated as close relatives, but ranked in a separate genus.

Even though it does dwell permanently in fresh water, the trout can on occasion do some vigorous traveling on his own account. The Yellowstone trout used to be a good deal of a puzzle, because it was found in the headwaters of the Snake

River which drains to the Pacific, and also in Yellowstone Lake, on the Atlantic side of the divide. But the divide between the lake and upper rills of the river is in places a flat, wet meadow, and here in rainy seasons trout have actually been seen working their way over "the top of the world" through shallow pools.

Science News Letter, June 2, 1951

GENERAL SCIENCE

May Betray Atomic Secrets

► "WE MUST still keep our fingers crossed" about the possibility that Communist spies are even now in position to betray atomic secrets.

This is the opinion expressed by Dr. Eugene Rabinowitch, editor, in the BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS (May).

Pointing out that since civilians took over from the military control of Atomic Energy Commission security matters there has been no known case of betrayal, Dr. Rabinowitch declares that nevertheless "the AEC should hesitate to take pride in this record before the Soviet archives are open to history."

The editor charges that the system of security now being used cannot guarantee that a disloyal scientist or worker has not or will not be able to penetrate into the innermost recesses of our atomic projects. We are trying to check too many thousands of people for loyalty and security, he declares, and thus the overburdened F. B. I. does not have the time to concentrate on the really important secrets and the really

● RADIO

Saturday, June 9, 1951, 3:15-3:30 p.m. EDT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. Selman A. Waksman, professor of microbiology at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., will discuss "Chemicals from the Soil that Cure."

important scientists who work with them.

With mass checking, he points out, we can only reduce, but cannot destroy altogether the possibilities of spies being able to do their work.

In commenting on the recent spy trials of the Julius Rosenbergs and David Greenglass, Dr. Rabinowitch declared that it is doubtful if the elaborate secrecy precautions which existed during the war did much good. He recalls that Maj. Gen. Leslie R. Groves claimed that the A-bomb was the best-kept secret in the world, with only half a dozen top people actually "in the know" as to what was being constructed.

Actually, Dr. Rabinowitch declared, most scientists worth their college degrees knew during the war that this country was constructing an A-bomb and that the effort was probably going to be successful. These facts were easy to deduce when nuclear physicists began disappearing in ever-increasing numbers from their laboratories.

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MEDICINE

Avoid Food Poisoning

► THE PICNIC season will soon be in full swing. This calls for a reminder of health dangers to be avoided at these otherwise pleasant gatherings. One of these is food poisoning. Your grandparents called it ptomaine poisoning. Your doctor today will probably call it gastroenteritis. It is caused by germs which get into foods and produce their poisons, or toxins, in the food. The germs usually are members of the staphylococcus family which also cause boils. These germs thrive especially well in such foods as cream filled pastries, ham or other meat preparations, chicken, fish, eggs, and salad sandwich mixes made with mayonnaise. The germs also thrive well at room temperature. They get into the food when someone preparing or otherwise handling it has a boil or an infected cut finger, or who may have a cold or diarrhea.

If such food is kept clean, handled only by healthy persons and kept cold until eaten, it is not likely to cause food poisoning.

Another kind of food poisoning comes from eating germs themselves in food. These germs are mostly members of the Salmonella family. Rats and mice can spread them or they can get into the food from a person with the infection. Cooking kills these germs and chilling keeps them from growing.

Food poisoning is not the only picnic hazard. The water as well as the food can cause trouble. Wells, springs and streams in the country and even on some picnic grounds are not always safe to drink from. To be safe, look for a health department inspection sign saying the water is safe before you drink from such sources.

Science News Letter, June 2, 1951

A new dry mix for a chocolate-flavored milk dessert, that needs water but no heating, contains citrus fruit pectin, skim milk powder, cocoa, sugar and salt; it is a government product not yet on the market.