

# Utah Builds Duck Hotels To Prevent Extinction

Aug. 17  
1937

Strange terminology, such as "duck hotels," "room and board" for trout and game birds, and other wild life references unusual to the layman's ear, were heard yesterday as more than 100 of the nation's best known wild life conservationists met at the Brown Palace Hotel to open the 17th annual convention of the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners.

In addition to official delegates from Western and Mountain states, nearly every other section of the country is represented by visitors and delegates.

Two speakers at yesterday afternoon's sessions of the three-day meeting favored restoration of natural "cover" for game birds and the regulation of water supplies in fish streams as a better method of protecting the sportsman's interests than artificial breeding and propagation.

## OVER-ALKALINITY FOUGHT

Newell B. Cook of Salt Lake City, Utah game and fish commissioner, outlined that state's program in the construction, under considerable financial struggle, of about 10 "duck hotels."

These "hotels" seek to restore natural conditions of breeding and feeding grounds and are a great aid in fighting "Western duck sickness," induced by the intensely alkaline water in duck swamps throughout the Western area, he told the meeting. The disease annually reduces Western game flocks by several million birds.

The "hotels" in Utah have been artificially created thru the draining of salt marshes and the impounding of fresh water, and are strategically placed along migration routes in order that the ducks may be induced to stay as long as possible within the state, Mr. Cook said.

A similar program of providing "room and board" for fish and game—especially trout, ducks and quail—was advocated by Herbert C. Davis, executive officer of the Division of Fish and Game of California, who also favored the reconstruction program and denounced artificial propagation as both costly and inefficient.

He warned, however, that several years of study of peculiar state problems and conditions by competent biologists should precede any attempt to embark on a large scale reconstruction program.

## GOVERNOR SPEAKS

Welcoming addresses by Governor Ammons and Mayor Stapleton opened the conference. The meeting will continue thru tomorrow afternoon, when business sessions and the election of officers will wind up the convention. This afternoon and evening the delegates will be guests of the Wigwam Club on the Platte River for a barbecue.

In the morning session yesterday, delegates heard Ira N. Gabrielson of Washington, D. C., chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, estimate that the cost of saving the wild duck from extinction would approach 50 million dollars. He told the meeting the solution lay in limiting the hunter's bag,

in strict regulation and in the restoration of natural breeding areas.

R. G. Parvin, Colorado state game and fish commissioner and incumbent president of the association, charged, in his address, that there are "too many U. S. bureaus who seek to regulate the actions of the states in handling their fish and game problems."

Other speakers were Elliott S. Barker, New Mexico state game warden; Frank B. O'Connell, director of the Nebraska Fish and Game Commission; Irvin J. McCrary, consultant to the Colorado State Planning Commission; John Huntington, vice president of More Game Birds of America, New York; Bernard T. McCauley, director, Washington State Game Department; Fred Foster, regional director, U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, Seattle, and David H. Madsen, National Park Service, Salt Lake City.

*Champion Aug. 14-37*  
From Mr. Averill

To the Editor: In The Sunday Oregonian, Former Governor West sought to slay those who had criticized Governor Martin and members of the game commission for failure to attend the Izaak Walton league convention. That two of his three shots went wide of the mark bothers him not at all.

"Os" is right in that the governor and commissioners did not merit criticism. The survey of game commission properties was planned long before the commission date was announced and the inspection tour was of far greater benefit to the sportsmen of Oregon than convention attendance could possibly have been. It is extremely fortunate that Governor Martin was sufficiently interested to make the journey at great personal inconvenience. Interviews granted, various points evidenced a desire to improve conditions. Such trips enable commissioners to more efficiently administer the affairs of the game department.

Sportsmen foot the bills and want their savants, the commissioners, to have first-hand knowledge of conditions. They should be doubly pleased to have a governor sympathetic enough to seek this information. They could not ask for a commission—as a whole—more willing to co-operate with all individuals, organizations and agencies unselfishly interested in conserving our wildlife.

Had Os troubled himself to verify his information he would have found these views are shared by Mr. Finley. He would also have found that neither Mr. Finley nor the writer criticized the governor or commissioners for making the tour or for failing to attend the convention. Only two persons did. The commission was ably represented by Miss Margaret Whipple, who contributed a worthwhile address.

Furthermore it might interest Os to know that under no circumstances could or would Ed Averill accept the position of state game supervisor. The position is now held by a better man. He should be retained as long as he is willing to serve a fickle and unreasonable public.

ED F. AVERILL,  
President, Oregon Wildlife Federation.

## Os on Sports Politicians

To the Editor: At a meeting of the Izaak Walton league at McMinnville last week a few political sharpshooters in attendance attempted to secure adoption of resolutions censuring the governor and state game commission because they were out inspecting hatcheries instead of attending a meeting of the league, to which, I understand, they had not been invited.

The league carries on its membership roll but a small part of the licensed hunters and fishermen of the state. Its membership is made up very largely of those who are sincerely interested in the protection and propagation of fish and game, but, like so many well-intended organizations, it carries a few political pap suckers who, having once tasted public pap, will never rest until they can make their bed in the treasury of the commission.

Brother Chester McCarty garnered \$9000 bucks in attorney's fees from a former commission. The present body has not spent a cent for such purposes. It has had free legal advice from two members of the board.

Brother Averill, once upon a time, was state game warden and enjoyed a good salary and a liberal expense account covering his goings and comings. He, of course, thinks things are going to the demdition howwows unless he is put back on the job.

When on the commission, or while state game warden, Brother Finley secured, at state expense, a fine set of pictures for use on his lecture tours and may need some fresh ones. Finley blames the governor for polluting the Willamette river—through his veto of the Carney bill. That measure had merit when it was introduced, but when the legislative representatives of industries located along the river got through emasculating it it was worthless. Had it been permitted to become a law it would have been about as effective as the work of Finley, while state game warden, in protecting the game fund license money against thieves.

OSWALD WEST.

*Oregonian*  
Aug. 8, 1937

(Picture on following page)