

if that fish didn't land right in the nest of a grouse, an' the minute the hook an' bait let go from the fish, the ol' grouse hen grabbed it! 'Course then that ol' grouse hen started to fly, an' she hit me square in the back an' knocked me in the water. That ol' grouse hen was caught good an' plenty on my hook, an' I hung on tight to my fish pole. By and by, when the line give out, I floundered out to where the grouse was in some rushes, an' I got the grouse and brung her in. An' then I pulled off my boots to get the water out. An' when I emptied the water out, derned if I didn't empty out 13 fish that had got caught in my boots goin' after that grouse. Yep, I al'ays thought that a perty lucky fishin' trip, when you figger that with one cast an' one bait I got 14 fish (countin' the first one), one grouse hen an' the nine grouse eggs that was in the nest.

The Biggest Catch

Cannon Beach was where Peter Lindsey recorded this story from seventy-three-year old Emmett Wallace in May 1971. Lindsey notes that this story was prompted by his own tale about a Tennessee mountain man who always put salt in his black powder "to keep the game he shot from spoiling, since his long rifle shot so far, he often had to walk for days before he caught up to it." (RVMA, Lindsey, 1971)

[That's just like] a fisherman up here at Astoria. Two old fishermen were tellin' how big a fish they caught. This one ol' fisherman said he caught a Chinook salmon weighed over a hundred and forty pounds. The other old fisherman set there and spit out a gobbet of snoose. He says, "I don't believe that."

"Well, I did."

He says, "That's nothin'." He says, "I was fishing here the other day, caught onto somethin'," says, "I drug it around, and brought it up, and it was an old ship's light."

"An old ship's light?"

"Yeah."

"Well, what's that? What's an old ship's light? Heck, that could have been near ever'thing."

"But," he says, "the light was still burning in it."

"Oh, the light was not burnin'."

"Well," he says, "Tell you what you do. You knock about a hundred pounds off the fish, and I'll blow the light out a the lantern."