This has been a difficult week for me. My Dad, David Lane Graybill, passed away at age 82, and much of my time has been spent with my family. It has been a time of reflection. We gathered information for the obituary and photographs for the service. It is a sad time, but we all were able to share fond memories of very happy times that we spent with my father.

My Dad was a busy guy. He worked at the Wenatchee Daily Word for 46 years, earning six different titles as he moved from the pressroom to the head of the distribution department, purchasing and finally building manager. While working for the World he also did picture framing for Wenatchee Paint and Glass for 15 years. Between these two jobs he built three homes. Always full of energy he never failed our family. When he married my Mom, Ellen, he adopted me, my sister Betty Jo and bother Rick. Later on my Mom and Dad adopted my sister Amy and a year later my brother Lane. In spite of the long hours he dedicated to his work he always found time to take us on many adventures. We traveled all over the western states by car and train and got in more that our share of camping trips.

Dad loved fishing, and introduced me and my brother Rick to the sport at an early age. We spent many an opening day of trout season at a variety of lakes in Eastern Washington. He taught us to tie our first knots and tried his best to keep our early casts out of the bushes and us out of the water. The love for fishing he passed on was firmly embedded in our lives. Rick became a full-time fishing guide and took hundreds of people



fishing for walleye, salmon and steelhead. My first real job out of college was with Fishing and Hunting News in Seattle. Started in the mailing department and wound up as a writer/photographer. Although I had a variety of different jobs after leaving that newspaper I always kept an interest in the outdoor writing, and wrote stories for different publications off an on over the years. Dad was always willing to help when I was researching an article and would travel with me to take photos, and be the extra rod. When I started doing the Kids Fishing Days at the Leavenworth Hatchery he soon had some of his cronies from the church spend the day showing the kids an ever expanding display of fishing gear. He and his friends loved having the kids show off their catches on their way to the cleaning station.

One of our favorite traditions was the Fathers Day fishing trips. For years my brother Rick and I would take Dad to Moses Lake for walleye, Rufus Woods for triploids or Lake Chelan for kokanee. It didn't matter if we caught a lot of fish we just always had a great time. We were invariably late getting back to town for big family gathering, but we were forgiven for being tardy. Everyone knew that these were special times for him, and they ended much too soon. Looking at the photos from Fathers Days past it reminds me that you can never spend too much time fishing with family and friends. You never know when those days may end. I learned a lot from my Dad, but I suppose that the passion for fishing and outdoors is the one I can thank him for most. I miss him dearly.

If you were wondering how the Quincy Valley Tourism Association's Tagged Trout Derby at Burke Lake turned out, here are the official results. There were 326 entries and 83 of them were kids under the age of 15. Winner in the biggest fish category for adults was Troy Stephens of Wenatchee. His fish weighed 4.36 pounds. He got a check for \$100.00 for biggest fish and another check for \$100.00 for the highest overall catch weight. Nathan Blakney of Wenatchee won the prize for biggest fish in the youth division. The seven-year-old turned in a trout that weighed 4.4 pounds. The fish also got him the heaviest overall weight for the youth division, so he took home \$200.00. Two tagged fish were caught. Nells Humphries got one of them and a check for \$100.00 and Isayah Stephens got the other one and also got paid \$100.00. Last year Nells Humphries caught a tagged trout that was

worth \$1000.00. Remember, if you catch a tagged trout prior to June 1st, take it to the Quincy Chamber office. It may be worth \$500.00! Fishing continues to be very good at Burke Lake.

Several of the popular lakes in the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge will not have catchable rainbow in them for the April 1st opener. Many lakes will open on the first but Upper and Lower Hampton lakes, Sago, Hourglass and Widgeon were treated to remove pumpkinseed sunfish last October. The lakes are located within the refuge, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the agency doesn't allow the planting of catchable trout. These lakes will be planted with trout fry this spring and will have rainbow ranging in size from 10 to 13 inches by next year's opener. There are many other lakes in the refuge that will offer good trout fishing on the April 1st opener, though. Some of the lakes that anglers will want to try including: Pillar, Snipe, Cattail, Gadwall, Poacher, Shoveler and Lemna. Fishing should be particularly good this year at North and South Teal lakes. In the mean time anglers can expect to find good action for trout at Burke and Quincy lakes near Quincy and at Caliche Lake near George. Our early spring weather has fish especially hungry this year.

I got a call from Bob Feil Boats and Motors saying they are starting to rig the new Kingfisher 2025 Discovery. It won't be long before you will be seeing me out on the water in this great new boat!

Reach Dave at: www.FishingMagician.com or Fishboy@nwi.net



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