

Sports / Outdoors

Smart bet pays off with fishing trip

Our first great-grandson's birth in 2005 has resulted in my collecting a bet from his grandmother, my daughter, Nancy Kellner.

She was sure the baby would be a girl, but I knew he would be a boy, based on a scientific study conducted many years ago by a major university.

(Sorry, I can't reveal these findings for fear of bodily harm by someone who might violently disagree.)

Nancy bet me a fishing trip, and I called her bet.

Having me as a father, she fished a lot when she was growing up, but hasn't had many opportunities to "wet a hook" in recent years.

However, she still likes to fish, and she knew that I lived near some of the best fishing waters in the world.

She knew that as an outdoors columnist, I might possibly be able to arrange

Tom
Evans

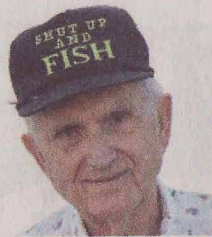
Reflections of Outdoors

a good trip for her to pay off her bet.

It so happens that I have recently been contacting fishing guides and resort owners to get fishing stories from them to put in the paper.

Also, it's good for me to become acquainted with them so I might have some small part in helping their businesses and the area's economy, especially since some of them have been hard-hit by low lake levels.

Last week Nancy, and



my wife Judy and I went out on a beautiful Friday morning with Jackie Headrick of Empty Pockets Fishing Guide Service.

We met him at Lake Point Resort, where he launches his fishing boat. We got somewhat of a late start because Nancy had to drive from her home at Blanco, but we had plenty of time to catch all the fish we wanted.

We headed toward the middle of Lake Buchanan and stopped near Flag Island, where our guide knows of some humps on the lake bottom.

"This is where I've been having my best luck," Jackie said.

He found the spot he wanted by reading his sonar screen, and we anchored.

We baited up seven lines with live shad, dropped them, down near the lake bottom, and put our rods in holders. We didn't have

to wait long before Judy landed a striper that was just under the 18-inch size limit. Jackie removed it from the hook and released it.

A couple of minutes later, Judy caught a "keeper" that gave her a good battle.

Almost immediately Nancy hooked and landed a good striper; then I finally caught one. This fun lasted about two hours, but the fish suddenly stopped biting. We tried two other spots on the lake, with no success, and we headed to shore.

Despite not catching our limits, we had a great time.

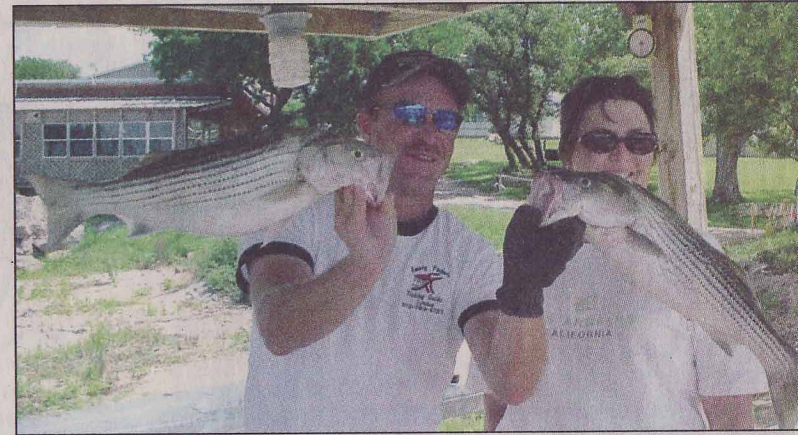


PHOTO BY JUDY
Jackie Headrick helps Nancy Kellner show two of the stripers she caught May 11 during her first trip to Lake Buchanan.

My daughter went home with a good supply of boneless filets, and Judy and I kept a few for us.

Our guide said that it was unusual not to "limit it out," but I have fished enough to know that sometimes this happens. Nevertheless, we had a

great time and would have had a great time with enough fish to make the trip worthwhile. If you are interested in submitting an article or contacting Empty Pockets for more information, you may contact Jackie Headrick at 512.793.1111 or look up one of the other reliable fishing guides on Lake Buchanan. We will be writing about some of our experiences with them later.