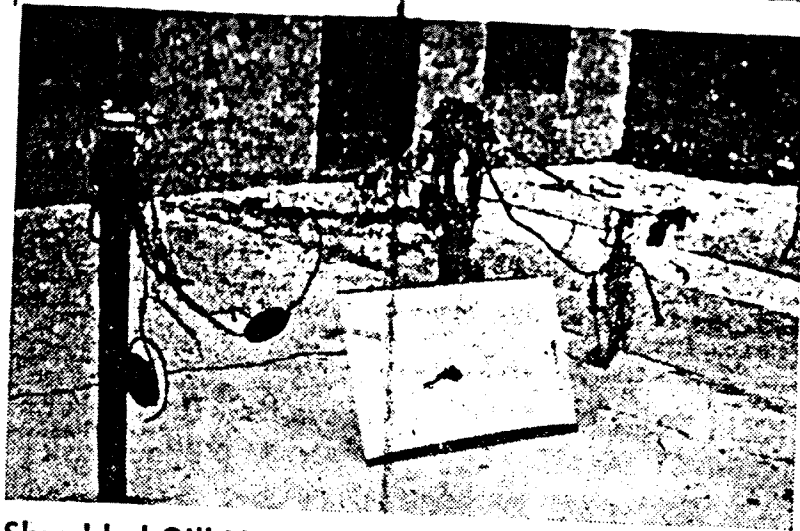


# THE CONCRETE HERALD

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CONCRETE, SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 8, 1962.



## Shredded Gill Net Draped At City Hall Monday Morning Warns Of Battle Over River Fishing

It remained for colorful Concrete to provide the incident in the present controversy over Indians gill netting steelhead in the Skagit. As the town awoke Monday morning those going by City Hall found the above display—one badly cut and shredded gill net and the sign: "Fix Them All Like This." In small letters at the bottom of the sign the initials (U. S. R. S.) were added.

The resulting publicity in the daily papers brought TV reporter Howard Shuman to town Tuesday morning to tape the story. In the pictures were Mayor Peterson, Ray Ross, Jerry Hoover and Rudy Johnson, who were all interviewed "on camera" about how local people felt about the gill netting.

In the broadcast that evening all but the mayor's remarks were cut out, but a complete story was made up with shots of Lawrence Joe at his gill net, interviews with Ole Eide, district supervisor of game; some of the river steelhead guides

and Judge Stafford, whose decision on an Indian fishing case prompted the others to resume netting without restriction.

Game Man Ole Eide said that at present there are eight Indians setting nets between Sedro-Woolley and Loretta Creek and that last week they landed 256 fish. They are selling the fish for about 25¢ a pound. Until the rights of the Indian to fish freely is changed by federal laws, Eide says nothing can be done to stop the netting. The Indians say they plan to fish for salmon in the fall in the same way.

Other Indians are now testing the legality of their case by fishing on the Puyallup, Samish, Nooksack and other steelhead streams.

The big complaint on the Skagit is that this year the steelhead run is 30 per cent above normal due to an extended planting program paid for by game fishing licenses, and there is a belief that the run

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## Gill Net Slashing May Cause Extra Trouble

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can be killed completely in a few years if the river is fished commercially with nets.

In their visit here the Game Department officials warned the local sportsmen not to create an out-and-out war against the nets—a evidenced by the city hall display as this could only make negotiations more difficult.

They suggest that each sportsman contact his congressman to ask for immediate federal action to clear up the treaty rights for all time.