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Outdoors

A glance back before looking toward '76

AS THE OLD YEAR PASSES into the vast timelessness where old years go, a glance back through the calendar may give us some prospective for next year.

It was early in the spring that a unique advisory Board to the Niagara County Legislature was officially sworn in. A first of its kind, to promote the opportunities to fish, to enlighten those in office unfamiliar with the benefits, and to instruct those wishing to land a lunker.

A complement was paid the Board when it was under fire by some individuals. It is a measure of success when there is a call for reorganization; it means they recognize the value and wish to get on the bandwagon, thanks for the pat on the back.

WHAT DID SURPRISE the board was the lack of response by the anglers, after putting on several programs attracting hundreds of fishermen and endorsing an outdoor telephone hotline that resulted in thousands of calls. Plus numerous meetings coaxing the Olcott Harbor breakwall issue to be forwarded to Washington after it laid around for years getting nowhere.

Then there were the Krull Park proposals, the Burt Dam discussions and the suggestion to level the Newfane dump to use it to park fisherman cars. But, somehow, no one was willing to step forward when the chips were down to voice appreciation. At times I wonder if fishermen are the big outdoor rugged type he-men.

Well, this coming year maybe some ground work can be laid for a Great Lakes Anglers Association, someone with guts to help do it.

ONE OF THE IMPORTANT POINTS of such a group is to fight for cleaner waters. Those three letters, P.C.B., really gave us a stinging blow this past year. Of all the events in 1975 this probably was the biggest shock. At first there were scattered bits of information, but now the news coming from studies show it to be a real concern. To what degree and for how long it will be around depends on how the people react. To be more emphatic, it means how much can you be counted on for help?

LAST YEAR my columns were much more to the point than in years past. I feel there is an urgency to equip you with facts, be it the pheasant decline, P.C.B., or the anti-hunting epidemic.

Tell the politicians and the press that you are proud members in the legion of outdoor men and outdoor women, conducting yourself so that future generations can follow your example.

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