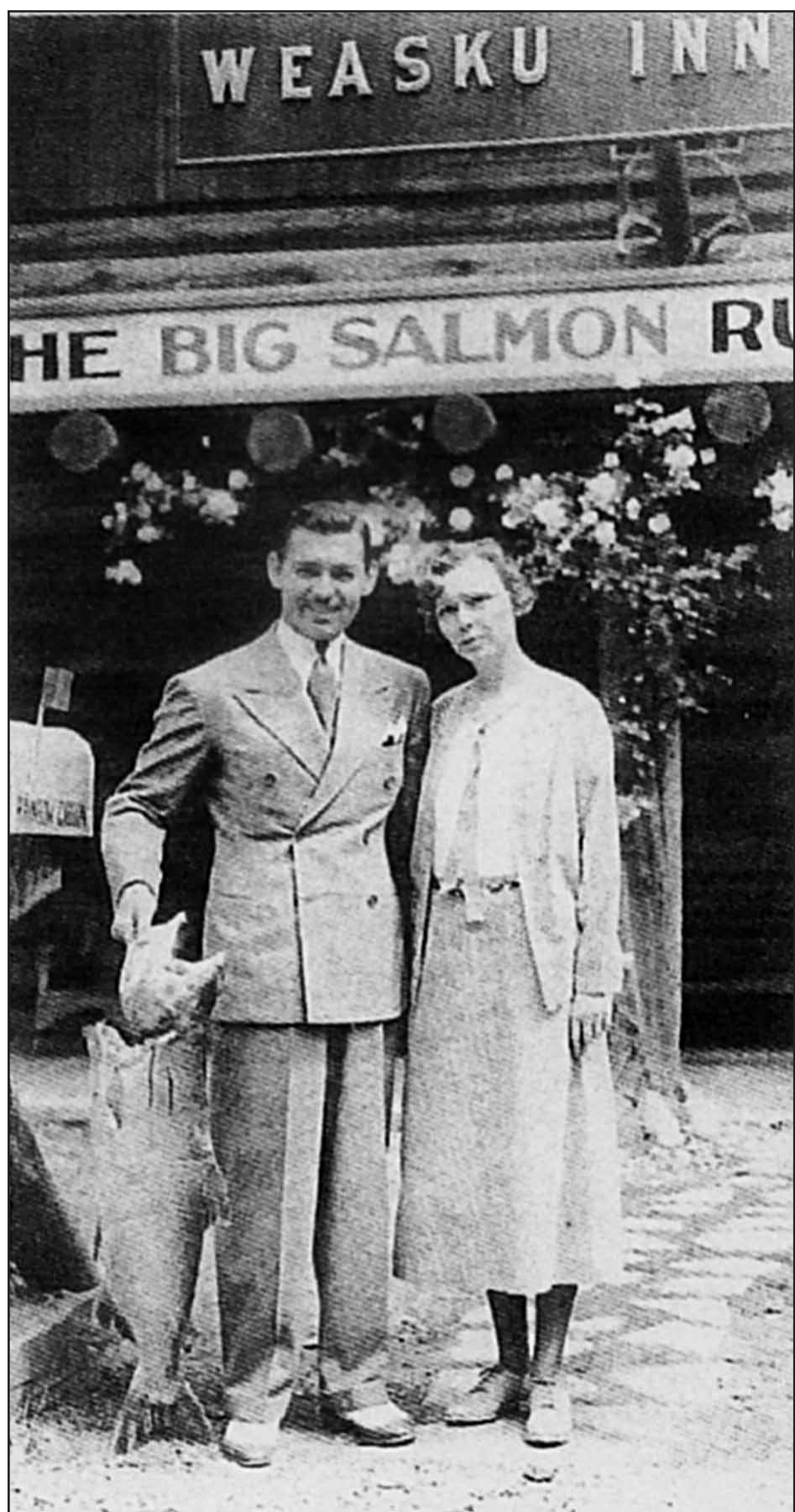


THE ROGUE WILD



Clark Gable, shown with an unidentified woman, said The Weasku Inn on Rogue River Highway was his favorite fishing lodge. Interestingly, Gable is holding a huge salmon while being nattily dressed in a suit and tie.

# The Rogue has attracted its fair share of memorable characters

By Jim Moore  
of the Daily Courier

There's no denying the power and magnetism of the Rogue River. Perhaps that's why it has attracted an impressive cast of memorable characters.

There have been the internationally famous such as Zane Grey and Clark Gable, who brought their fame with them each time they visited the river. And there have been those whose notoriety arose due to their relationship with the Rogue.

Hathaway Jones was one of the latter.

According to multiple accounts, Jones was born in Southern Oregon in 1870 and traversed the remote areas of the Rogue River as a contract mail carrier from 1898 until 1937.

He was most noted for regaling listeners with his far-fetched tall tales. He was so good at it he made people think he actually believed what he was saying.

Were his tales true? You decide.

The culmination of one Jones' tale featured him ferrying two deer and a bear — all of which he had shot — on his back across the river with his mule atop all of them.

In another story, he encountered a rattlesnake so big its scales were the size of a dinner plate.

Many proclaim him to be the creator of more tall tales than any other person — ever.

In his dubious honor, the Curry County Historical Society at one time hosted a Hathaway Jones Tall Tales Festival and Story Telling Contest. The contest faded away about four years ago, but a member of the Gold Beach Chamber of Commerce said there is talk of bringing the event back.

Historic accounts state that Jones' death in 1937 was accidental, but no other details are available.

Meanwhile, the famous author Zane Grey was so enamored of the Rogue and its fishing opportunities that he bought a cabin near the river at Winkle Bar in the wild section of the river.

The cabin still stands and is one of the most visited spots on that part of the river.

Grey not only fished the river, he also wrote about it.

His 1929 novel "Rogue River Feud" isn't one of his best-sellers but many consider one of its chapters to be the finest description of



ZANE GREY MUSEUM/Associated Press

Famous author Zane Grey not only fished the Rogue River, he also wrote about it.

the Rogue River ever written.

Grey also wrote about a drift-boat trip on the lower Rogue in his book "Tales of Fresh Water Fishing," released in 1928.

Another famous Rogue River angler was Hollywood idol Clark Gable, who reportedly declared the Weasku Inn on Rogue River Highway to be his favorite fishing lodge and he even publicly proclaimed the virtues of the Weasku's flapjacks.

Gable made frequent trips to Southern Oregon and was a guest at Wolf Creek Inn several times, in addition to his trips to the Rogue River.

He is unmistakable in an eye-catching photo standing with an unidentified woman in front of the Weasku Inn. What's remarkable about the photo is that Gable is

holding a huge salmon while being nattily dressed in a suit and tie.

Another local legend was Glen Woodriddle, a noted story-teller in his own right but universally known as perhaps the best river runner ever to take on the Rogue River.

Woodriddle's exploits are well documented and he is featured in the book "The Rogue: A River to Run" by Florence Arman.

Woodriddle built his own boat to make the first trip down the Rogue River in 1915 and to this day the Woodriddle Boat company continues to build river boats.

Other well-known celebrities with connections to the Rogue River include Ginger Rogers, Kim Novak, Bing Crosby, Tyrone Power, and Myrna Loy and famous circus clown Emmett Kelly.

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