

THE CAPE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY



Telephone:
24-7725

JOURNAL
"PISCATOR"

Secretary and Editor
Westminster House
122 Longmarket Street
CAPE TOWN, 8001, R.S.A.

Dear Mr Proper

While reading your article on braided leaders in the May/June issue of 'Rod & Reel' I noted your partiality to silk lines and accordingly thought I would send you some information on the new Phoenix silk line which has had a very good reception from the British angling Press and which you might not know about.

The fact that is available in dark colours is an interesting option. The Cape has a Mediterranean climate (rain in Winter) and in the long, hot summer months our mountain streams get pretty thin. There is a growing belief here that in such conditions fluorescent lines, when aerialised, spook fish.

Your mention of 8/0 silk tying thread in your book is interesting and I would like to find out where I could buy some. I notice that such thread is mentioned in an old Thomas & Thomas catalogue I have and that 6/0 silk thread is mentioned by Kaufmanns. I shall be writing to them but if you know of another source I would be grateful for the information.

While I know you prefer fur to herl for fly bodies, I have enclosed some herl which I hope you will find interesting. The feathers, obtained from a zoo-keeper friend, come from our national bird, the Blue Crane and are, I imagine, similar to the now-banned heron. I find that covering the hook shank slightly with head cement before winding on the herl (untwisted so as to preserve the nap) and then counter-winding with midge thread as a rib makes such a body fairly durable. You might try a single strand as an alternative to mole for Trico patterns. If you want any more do let me know.

I would be interested to hear which of the braided leaders now on the market you consider best and also your opinion of microfibre as a tailing material.

Yours sincerely

ED HERBST
ASSOCIATE EDITOR : PISCATOR

P.S. I thought your rebuttal of Borger's crit of your book was well-reasoned, sincere and accordingly successful.

Datus C. Proper
1914 N. Johnson St.
Arlington, VA 22207

October 4, 1985

Dear Mr. Herbst,

Thanks for your letter. South Africa has been one of the gaps in my fly-fishing mafia. I have (very faint) hopes of getting there some day. Developed an interest during my very first tour of duty, in Angola. After a year there, I felt that I just had to have some trout fishing and got together some info South Africa, which sounded very pleasant. But air connections were very roundabout and expensive, and in the end I just couldn't afford it. Did get a tarpon ~~well~~ over 200 pounds in Angola, but found it poor consolation.

The Blue Crane looks like a good feather -- maybe better than European Heron, with heavier fibers and more range of color. I intend to try the crane for black gnats and such; the tail (presumably) fibers are longer than crow.

For your comparison, I'm sending a small piece of Irish heron and hoping it gets through. I've tried it dyed olive in picric acid, as well as natural. It works, of course, but is fragile. I do still use a lot of pheasant tail fibers, which I spin around waxed silk and ~~wind~~ then rib with gold wire. That slows down deterioration for a while, but the fibers never seem to last as long as dubbing. (PT does make my favorite Trico dun.)

For fishing with light lines in thin water, I guess the best braided butt is the Spanish-made one being marketed by Orvis. Believe there are others on the market now which may be similar. The Orvis model -- if you get it in the fine sizes -- comes with a very fine tip. You can use it profitably even with a silk line. Floats fairly well and stretches a bit. For slightly heavier fishing, I might prefer the twisted butts.

I have not tried the Phoenix lines and am glad to have your comments on them. Fortunately, I still have three old Hardy silks, and they would be pretty hard to beat. Wish I had one of the old Ashaway ~~braided~~ braided, oil-dressed nylon lines, which some people liked even better.

Incidentally, the Orvis #2 line is tapered to a fine tip and might work well for you -- if you can find a rod to cast it well. (But it's pretty bright.)

Please let me know if you ever decide to visit Montana. I have a small piece of stream there that would probably make you feel at home, if you are accustomed to spooky trout.

Yours,

Datus Proper

Answered 4/26/92

1992/04/07

Neil Hayes-Hill Artist
509 Sanlam Musgrave Centre
115 Musgrave Road
DURBAN - 4001
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Datus Proper
1085 Hamilton Road
Belgrade
MONTANA
59714
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Sir

AFRICAN WILDLIFE PAINTINGS BY NEIL HAYES-HILL

I have been given your details by Quentin Austin, who was the person who took my paintings to your country, where they were mislaid, during the first half of 1991.

He has informed me that the paintings were found, and were last known to be in your possession. He had enquired about using an express delivery service to return them to South Africa, but there was a problem in obtaining insurance. Since that time nothing further has been done.

I have therefore written now to enquire if the above is correct, and whether you are still in possession of these paintings, and if not, can you inform me of where they are and who I should contact?

Once I have established the whereabouts of these paintings, I will then make arrangements from here, for their return, or other suitable action if such return is difficult or impossible.

Please could you reply either by letter to my above address, or if you wish you can telephone me at South Africa 031-217717 (working hours) or 031-2026310 (after hours), we are \pm 8 hours ahead of you.

Can you please also confirm that your telephone number is 406-388-3345. I do not know if it is a business or after-hours number, and further enquire if you would at all mind if I phoned you, (after your return communication) and when the best time would be to phone you.

I look forward to your reply, and thank you for your help so far.

Yours faithfully


NEIL HAYES-HILL mia

FIELD & STREAM®

Field & Stream

3C Ranch, Mt. Lemmon Road
P.O. Box 1239
Oracle, AZ 85623
(602) 896-2787

11/28/94

Gene Hill

Contributing Editor

Dear Datus:

Delighted to hear from you! I yearned for a Woodward for years and finally, about ten or so years ago, found just what I wanted and it is by far the thing I own that I treasure most--best of all when I shoot it things fall to the ground. Mine is the #2 of a pair and I despair of ever finding the #1--not that it matters much since I'd rarely, if ever use it. Now, since my surgery it looks like I might not be shooting at all unless I learn to be a lefty.

I bought a copy of your book and thinkly most highly of it as I do of all your wrok; however I' love a signed copy and I will pass mone on to my grandson, Angus.

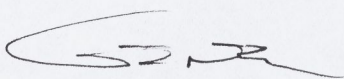
The locals tell me that the Gambels are down a bit but they seem plentiful to my bird starved Eastern eyes. Texas has no birds anywhere I hear and the south in general seems in for a lean season.



This is my first day with an electric typewriter--so please be a bit charitable if I prac tise on you.] can't get a ribbon easily for my old manuals much less anyone to tinker with one when it coughs/

My Wood ward was made around 1912, 31" barrels and bored IC in both which is fine by me sine the pattern is a bit tighter than you'd expect and I'm old fash ioned or cranky or whatever but I like a bit of concentration being a touch slow or deliberate and more than a touch hard of hearing which give a flushed bird a little jump.

Off to Yucatan shortly for bonefish (smallish) and dreams of the first permit--or even a couple of fair casts to one.

All my best...



 Times Mirror
 Magazines



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

July 24, 1992

Mr. Datus C. Proper
1085 Hamilton Road
Belgrade, Montana 59714

Dear Datus:

Please find enclosed a small token of my appreciation for your gracious hospitality to Bill Horn and me. I enjoyed very much the chance to spend a few moments on your Spring Creek. The aquatic restoration work you have done was most impressive, and I'm looking forward to reading the revised version of What the Trout Said.

Please don't hesitate to write or call if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

MIKE HAYDEN
Assistant Secretary
Fish & Wildlife & Parks

Wayne Hoshal
6268 Alicia Place
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
April 27, 1988

Dear Datus,

Your recent article in TROUT struck a responsive chord with me. I can't relate to foregoing Montana trout fishing --yet--, but I don't have to. The Char-family gems of the Shenandoah park can and do stand on their own.

Now that I'll not ever fish there again regularly, I'll pass along "my" favorite park streams to you and Bill Horn. Like you, I found hike upward from the lower reaches to be the best way to go.

- Nicholson Hollow run of the Hughes. Climb at least a mile from the fork near the Rag mountain parking lot.
- Jeremy's run. On more than one late October afternoon, I've watched 14/15 inch brookies at their spawning activities, but I was never able to hook one in season. I believe I was far enough up for them to have been natives. No? (Say hello to Mr. Deaver for me if he is still extant and if you cross his place.)
- Ivy run. It was scoured, probably at the same time as Big run and later channeled (channelized ain't a word.) in the lower reaches, but it may be back by now. If you go in early July, you may not catch many fish, but you'll be able to fill your hat with lush, wild blackberries that hang over the stream.
- Conway river. It is good for an occasional, hold-over brown below the natural barrier and brookies on up. Devil's ditch, which flows into the Conway, will hold brookies, too, but water level is usually a problem.
- St Mary's river. South of and out of Shenandoah park near Waynesboro. Jerry Schuder recommended it to me for its fishing up high and beauty when wild rhododendron and mountain laurel bloom. He was right on both counts.
- Rapidan. But, you know about it...

Here in the land of Walleye baiters, I've been traveling to the Straight and Blackhoof rivers, an hour drive west and east respectively. The hold Straight (anything but) has a good head of hold-over stocked browns with some natural reproduction. The Blackhoof has stocked rainbows and a Spring steelhead (from Lake Superior) run.

I'll be switching my emphasis, in this my third retirement summer, however, to the native brook^{trout} streams along Lake Superior's shore between Duluth and the Canadian border. I "found" them late last summer and the streams and their fish are every bit as appealing as those of the Shenandoah. The ~~bro~~ streams and the fish are a bit bigger. High above the lake, where the terrain flattens out, the streams are brush choked. A spy's stealth and a magicians wand are often necessary to put a careful cast in place. Down the slopes, they brawl and tumble just like the Shenandoah park's waters below the Skyline drive. And, there is Trillium in season. You'd be right at home. Come see.

Petri heil,

February 15, 1988

Mr. John Harder
The Orvis Company, Inc.
10 River Road
Manchester, Vermont 05254

Dear John,

Tom Pero has asked me to do a story on trends in flies 1959-1989. The idea is to run this in Trout as part of an issue on TU's thirtieth anniversary. The subject sounds like a good one to me: I was tying flies in the 1950's and have seen changes worth noting. One of them is that fly-fishing has become a real business. Orvis led the way.

Anyhow, I'm sending you a sort of questionnaire on which I'd welcome any comments you have time to make. I'd especially appreciate it if you could send me photocopied pages from your 1959 catalog, which I'll compare to the 1988 catalog. (I already have that one.)

I'll be sending this kind of request to a few other firms, too -- very few, because I can't think of many who were important in 1959 and still are.

I don't know how you folks divide up this kind of thing so will drop a copy to Leigh Perkins and Tom Rosenbauer too.

Thanks.

Yours,

Enclosed: questionnaire

cc. Leigh Perkins & Tom Rosenbauer

Philip Hanyok
Associate Editor

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FLY FISHERMAN

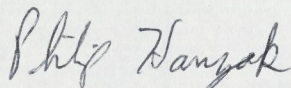
May 11, 1989

Datus C. Proper
1085 Hamilton Rd.
Belgrade, MT 59714

Dear Datus,

Here is a copy of the final Trico article. We made the corrections that you and I and John talked about. I hope this looks good you you. We think it is a fine article and our readers will enjoy it. Unfortunately, we can not make any more changes to the piece. It is about to go to our prep house and then off to the presses.

Sincerely,



Philip Hanyok

David L. Hughes

8/22/90

Dear Peter -

dis-own a piece or two, admitted
to write you a time or two, in praise.
But I didn't get around to it and just
finished "where the Road Ends" in the
last 7+5.

It's gorgeous - sentence after sentence
and thought after thought so good you
can't separate out one or two
and say these were great because
they just kept on.

In that length most of us fall
down along the way, but you just
kept it on rising like your path
up to the Blue Green Ridge in the
antile.

Beautiful.

Just want to see a book like it.

Best,
Dave

John Holt
660 Armory Road
Whitefish, MT 59937
(406) 862-7988

Answered Jan. 28/91

January 14, 1991

Dear Datus,

I wanted to tell that I have enjoyed reading *Pheasants On The Mind* and *What The Trout Said*.

Both works showed a good deal of emotion and concern for their subjects along with plenty of information - to strike an entertaining balance with this troublesome combination takes skill and discipline - effort all too few writers make these days.

I look forward to your next book and perhaps someday we can hunt a brown or two and chase some birds.

Best,

John S Holt

John Holt

