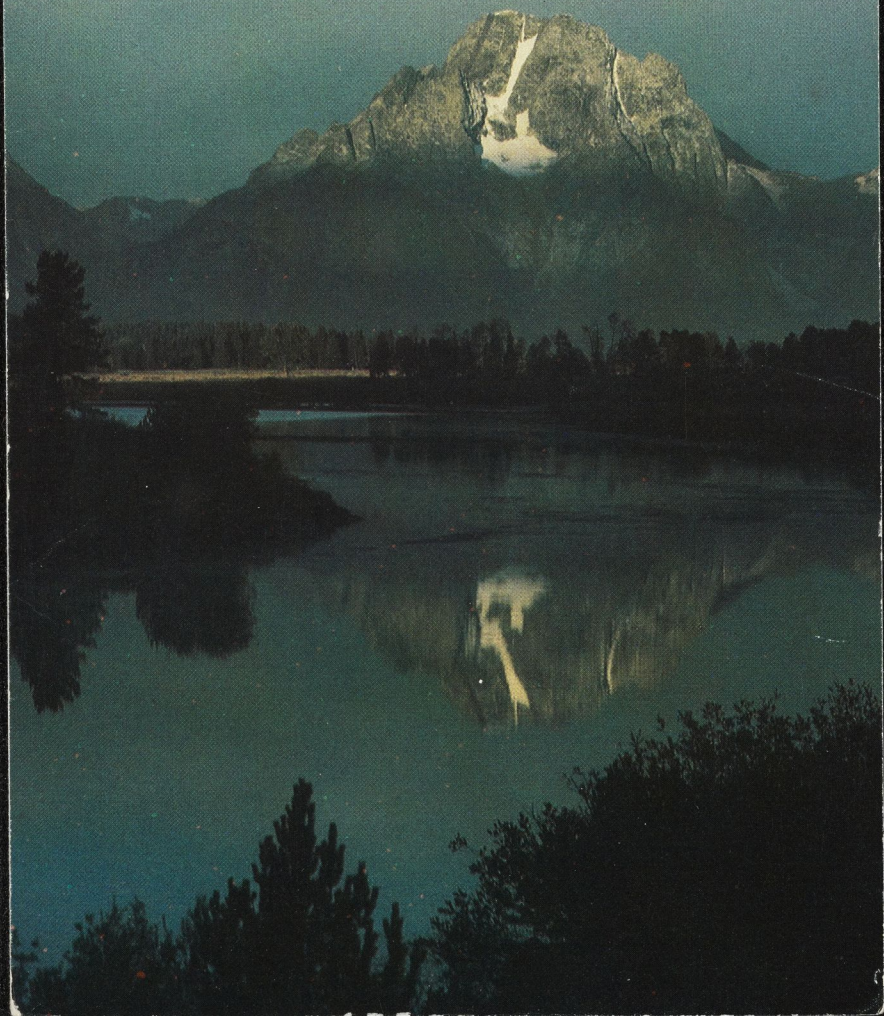


For OUR SON
On His Birthday



4 April '82

The cover scene brings back memories—
1928 when my brother Bob and I first
saw the tetra on an early September
morning having arrived from Yellowstone
after Lark- and then again about 1947
when our jeep station wagon was new
and we all drove down to Moran from
Yellowstone and saw, among other special
views, a family of woodpecker young
with a couple birds thrust through the
hole in a large aspen chosen for
their home. That was your last year
before boarding school and subsequent
pregnancies. My first view of the
Gallatin Valley between West Yellowstone
and Bozeman came in 1931 when
my brother Char and I drove to

Washington State and down the west
coast to L.A., looking for a new
home site and employment opportunity.
He settled in Monterey two years later
as a consequence of that trip. You

This comes with proud
and loving thoughts,
with special memories, too
And our wishes for a birthday
that's a happy one for you!

Have a
Happy Birthday, Son

may be locating in that valley in a
few more years.

We will be thinking of you especially
on the 18th. Hope you have a lovely
day. Mom may want to add a
note. Dad.

We will be looking for you and Anna and
Scott this summer. Love Mom



AMERICAN GREETINGS
Americard

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

#26164 Lake Hotel

Located on Yellowstone Lake, this hotel opened its door to guests in 1891. It went through an extensive renovation and remodeling in the 1980's and today it remains one of the oldest and largest wooden structured hotels in the United States.

Photographer-John Elk III



0 45622 93766 2

Dear Mom + Dad,

You'll remember Yellowstone
Lake, + it's a pretty ~~a~~ Heaven
over, + I caught 2 pretty
brook trout today.

Love,

THIS AREA FOR OFFICIAL POSTAL USE ONLY

Dustin

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Yellowstone
NATIONAL PARK





AMERICA'S OLDEST MAIL ORDER COMPANY
A SPORTING TRADITION SINCE 1856

Answer sent 10/19/90

October 2, 1990

Mr. Datus Proper
1085 Hamilton Road
Belgrade, MT 59714

Dear Datus:

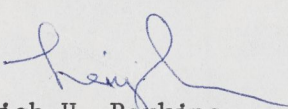
Thanks so much for the two wonderful days on Thompson Spring Creek and the most delicious lunches. I very much enjoyed visiting with you. On my arrival home, your book "Pheasants of the Mind" had already arrived. I look forward to reading it on my next trip. I also noticed that it was prominently displayed in the main book store in Bozeman and, much to my surprise, my wife's cookbook "Game in Season" was right behind it. I hope it does well for you, and I look forward to reading it.

In the next day or so, we will be sending you an 8-1/2 for 2 weight rod with reel and a weight forward 3 weight line. The line will have a braided front loop on it, and I am sending a packet of braided leaders for light lines 3, 4, 5 with it. I am also sending you a leader without a loop on it which is designed for 1 and 2 weight lines. It needs to be PermaBonded onto the end of the line. I suggest you might try your 3 weight line with a loop-to-loop splice on the standard light line braided leader first. The loops, when properly mated, tend to slip through the rod quite easily. If that doesn't work, try the 1 and 2 weight braid on your 3 weight line, or use that for your 2 weight line.

Anyway, I hope you have a chance to use it before the season is over, and I sure look forward to seeing you next season. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

THE ORVIS COMPANY INC.



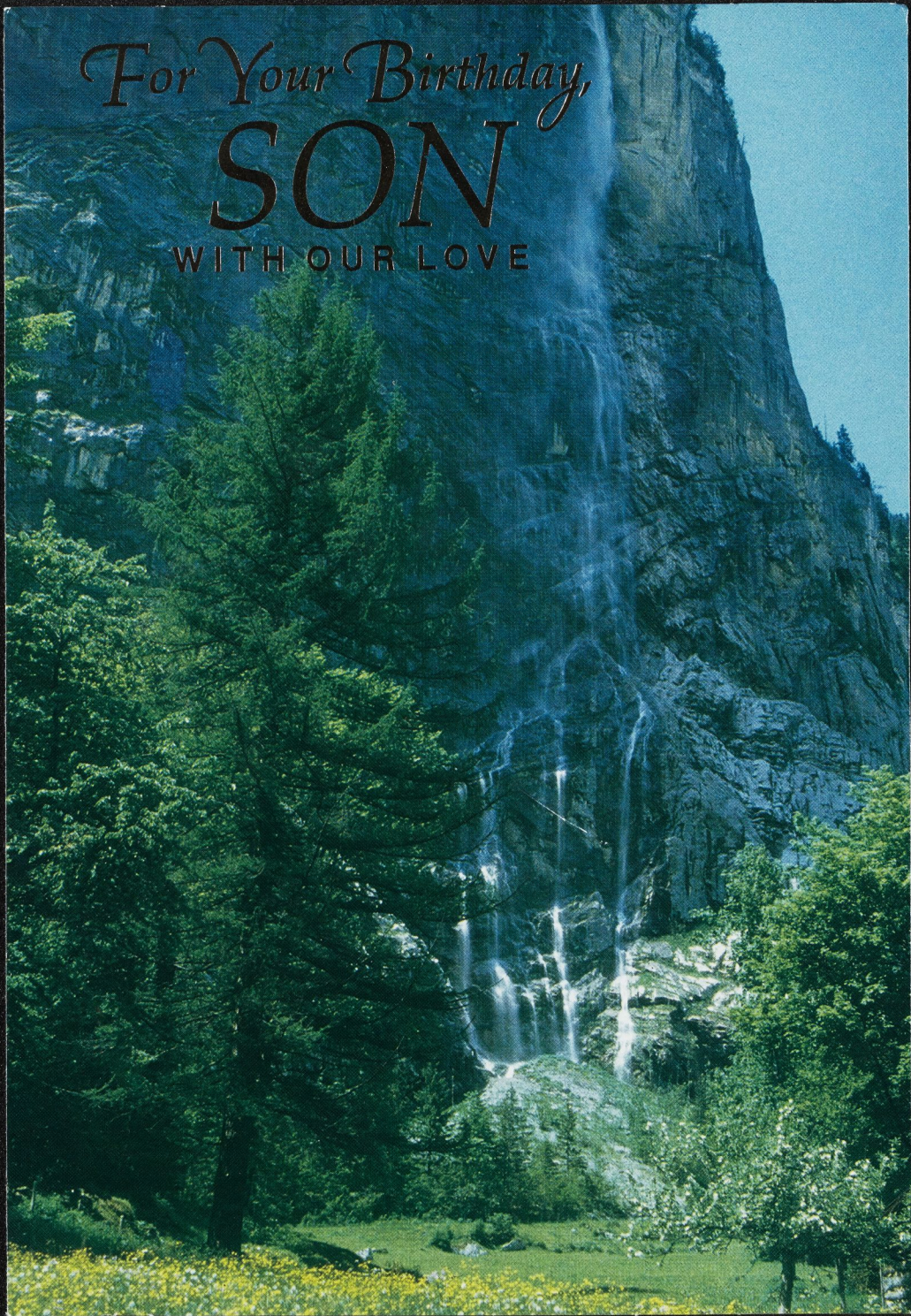
Leigh H. Perkins
President

LHP/vf

For Your Birthday,

SON

WITH OUR LOVE



Radia is reporting snow in
midwest out in Montana - Red Lodge
in particular. We're getting some.

I just got back from shopping
and they tell me my parking lights
are on!

Hope the manuscript is reaching
its final portions & will be
well received. Finished your
pleasant book while on my trip
to visit children & first day or two
back here. Liked it.

Datus

18 April 1991

It really means a lot to us
to have a son like you,
And, naturally, it means a lot
to know you're happy, too,
So this has come with wishes
for the nicest kind of day
And a special year to follow
that brings life's best your way.

and ~~she~~ she will always be part of me. I include her name as I'm sure she would want to be included.

I'm remembering 6:30 a.m. CST
at 1215-34th St. Des Moines, April
18, 1934 - Margie's and her first
son. I greatly miss her - she was a
very special lady! and gave us some
very special children.

Love to you all - Mom & Dad

Ambassador



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EHJH/VEB

AIR MAIL

8th July, 1958.

Datus C. Proper, Esq.,
American Vice Consul,
American Consulate,
Luanda,
Angola,
AFRICA.

Sir,

We are obliged for your letter of the 2nd July and have sent you, under separate cover, a copy of our latest Catalogue giving all the details and prices of the weapons of our manufacture.

We need hardly say how pleased we should be to build you a gun suitable for shooting in all parts of the world - with a set of extra barrels.

The export price ruling at to-day's date for a new best 12 bore Hammerless Ejector Single Trigger Side-by-Side gun, chambered for 2-3/4 inch cartridges, with our standard fine engraving and beavertail forepart with selective ejectors and India rubber anti-recoil heelplate is £570.0.0d. Sterling. An extra pair of barrels for this gun would be £130.0.0d. Sterling for export.

The gun could be supplied either in a new best single oak and leather case, complete with cleaning fittings, which now costs £45.1.0d. Sterling for export, or in a new best single leather lightweight "Motor" case, complete with cleaning fittings, which now costs £30.16.0d. Sterling for export.

/over.....

-2-

Our terms for a new gun with an extra pair of barrels are a deposit of £250.0.0d. Sterling when the order is placed and the balance before shipment, which would be about 8 to 9 months from the date of the receipt of the order and the deposit.

Trusting that we may be favoured with your order which, we can assure you, would have the very best care and personal attention of our Managing Director, Mr. C.H. Lawrence.

We are, Sir,
Your obedient Servants,
JAMES PURDEY & SONS LTD.

H. M. Jones
Secretary.

February 15, 1988

Mr. Leigh Perkins
The Orvis Company, Inc.
10 River Road
Manchester, Vermont 05254

Dear Leigh,

The enclosure explains itself. Thought you might have an interest.

Hoping to see you folks again next summer. Would like to show you my shorthair puppy. He figured out what to do about pheasants before he was six months old -- I just took him out hunting. Sort of a triumph of genes over training.

Yours,

Enclosed: copy of letter to John Harder

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

Feb. 1, 1987

Mr. Thomas R. Pero
Editor, Trout magazine
Box 5225
Bend, Oregon 97708

Dear Tom,

I've been reviewing my notes to figure out the best time for a photo project in Shenandoah. On about May 7, the first faint green should be showing on trees at the bottom end of the Park, and the flowers should be good (dogwoods and trilliums). If you want more green, you could come in late May. By that time there won't be many flowers and there is a chance (depending on the spring rains) that the creeks will start running low. I guess you know the way it works: when the leaves are fully out, they suck up a lot of water. Some of the best pictures are taken when we happen to hit both high water and lots of green. I also like the first faint green of the year, but at that time the streams don't seem as intimate -- photos taken in Shenandoah in April look much like the Catskills. Anyhow, this will allow you to think about the effect you want and plan accordingly.

The fishing is best when the water is fairly high. Perhaps the weekend of May 9/10 would be the safest bet from that angle. But you may be more interested in the photos than the fishing. By the way, be sure to bring felt-sole hip boots. I've already given my OM-4 one bath.

I'll try to be available any time in May if you give me some notice. We'll be selling our house then, but Anna will let me sneak off for a while. Weekends are best for me, but I can also try to get a day off work during the week.

I've already started to write something about the Park fishing, to discuss when you're here. I like the streams so much that I've considered doing a book on them, and could make it fairly meaty.

Will ask Bill Horn to put me in touch with Park people for their latest stream research. He might even sneak off and go fishing with us himself, and he looks good in photos.

Yours,

(Date)

Mr. Tom Pero, Editor
Trout Magazine
Box 6225
Bend, Oregon 97708

Dear Tom,

Here's the article on flies over the last thirty years. It's different, at least. Hope I haven't upset too many of the Famous Fly Tyers by failing to push their creations. There just isn't space. This turns out to be a big topic.

Statistics are dull, but they seemed necessary to anchor the piece. It's a case of fact being stranger than fiction. Without the figures, no one (including me) would have believed some of this stuff. Anyhow, I tried to weave the figures into the text, and then for consistency used numerals rather than words for most of them. Hope this doesn't look too odd. If it does we could revert to the custom of spelling out "six" but using numerals for 6,000.

I've had some other letters on our Shenandoah piece, one from a friend in Field & Stream; and that reminds me that Gene Hill wrote about the Marinaro piece. It's interesting that the stuff in Trout seems to get more notice than most of what I publish elsewhere. I work equally hard on everything. The difference, I think, must be that you're willing to run longer articles, and you do your planning in time to allow research. That helps a lot.

Yours,

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

Dear Tom,

Enclosed, if you have any use for them, are copies of replies I've sent to a couple of the letters from readers of the Marinaro story. These aren't for publication, obviously. You might like to know that I also got notes from Herbert Wellington and Gene Hill, both of which made me happy. Gene sent me an old salmon fly tied by Vince.

The following is something you can use, if you like, should you publish Dr. Knoch's letter on the real "discoverer" of the trico. Tried to make it shorter but the point seems more complicated than I thought. I sure failed to make myself clear to Dr. K the first time around.

.

Point well taken: Dr. Knoch was there and his information is more complete than mine. Let's give Pfeiffer and Knoch the credit they deserve.

I should have made clear that Marinaro did not claim to have been the first to fish the Tricorythodes hatch. In his 1969 article, he credited Fox with the term "hidden hatch" and cited three other sources. Pfeiffer wasn't one of them, but then I doubt that Vince knew who was the very first human to spot the trico or catch a fish on its imitation. I'm sure I don't know. I won't be amazed if some researcher turns up a probable 19th-century reference. In a sport as old as ours, it's usually impossible to be certain that anyone was absolutely first at anything.

"Discover," however, has more than one meaning, and I tried to make mine clear when I said that Vince's 1969 article "was the angling equivalent of Columbus's discovery of 1492." Marinaro did, I guess, put trico fishing on the map.

.

Yours,

Enclosed: copies of letters

Aug, 28, 1979

Good morning Peter -

Thanks for your letter of July 1, and I must ^{have} mention
to apologize for not answering sooner - I had ^{been} away for two
months fishing and camping in the Adirondacks (West Branch of
the Ausable and Saranac, and the Withowence - Beardskill in the
Catskills. Your letter came, while the mail was on hold, during the
^(my wife and I)
two weeks we were in North Carolina. But - now we are on our way.

I do not, myself, have any copies left - therefore I'm
forwarding your letter to #

Hackle and Tackle

Central Square

N.Y. USA

as they are the only source now available. I'm also sending
them a few inserts, and will ask them to include them catalog.
H&T are very fine people, with an excellent reputation for
^{integrity}
~~integrity~~, service, and quality.

I will make notes on the inserts - (may help explain
a little more technically)

Please let me know how the "manual" strikes
you. I will appreciate your feedback.

With best regards

Bill Phillips

396 Woodsworth Rd, #62
Willowdale, Ont.

Canada M2L-2T9