



Jan 4 87

Dear Dad,

Many thanks
for your card. The cabin &
its selling reminds me of the
one I built on Rock Creek on
my grandfather's farm.

just back from
NZ (again!). Good weather &
excellent fishing - in places.
Many rivers - most of the big

ones - out of order from
snow melt!

We plan a
trip to US next summer
when Montana will be
a priority. So I do
hope we can get together
at last & do some
fishing together.

With best
wishes for 1987
yours

George Bragg

Première édition à 3 000 ex. à l'occasion
de la « Fête de la Truite » à BOEN-sur-LIGNON

Juillet 1984



Hope this reaches you before Easter - the book
of truite was procured up every thing worth

Fly Rod & Reel

THE MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN FLY-FISHING

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Lee Wulff

BY NOW, all of you must know that Lee Wulff died back in April, on Sunday the 28th. And you know that he did it in style, too—in a way that perfectly rounds out the Lee Wulff legend. That afternoon, between sessions at his and Joan's fly-fishing school in the Catskills, he slipped out, as he often did, to go flying. This time, however, he would have as his passenger Max Francisco, a friend who is a flight instructor. Wulff was setting off to re-certify his pilot's license, an annual routine that he'd gone through many times—in his 86 years.

Lee didn't come back. The school ended without him. As they left, students asked that their good-byes be passed on to him. Joan tried not to worry. He'd done this before, and flying is an unpredictable thing. Once he'd called late from a motel to say he was fogged in, far from home. Lee, you'll remember, was the man who first explored Labrador by light plane—this same one, 102 Lima Whiskey, his Piper SuperCub—though the experts said it couldn't be done, the weather was too fierce. And a SuperCub is one of the most stable and forgiving of airplanes. It glides like the proverbial homesick angel and has a stall speed a decent sprinter could match.

But no plane can survive a direct impact. Eventually searchers flew out and found it crumpled on the ground near the airfield in Hancock. Francisco was trying to walk out. Lee was dead in the wreckage. They'd been on final approach to land, probably just a couple of hundred feet up; Lee suffered a heart attack at the controls and there simply wasn't room or time for Francisco to pull it up.

Lee was probably dead before the impact. His friend lost an eye and smashed his face and the toes of one foot. He still can't talk as I write this, because his jaw is wired together after surgery, but he can nod yes or no to questions.

There was no formal service. Lee was cremated. In his will, he left some money to the Angler's Club of New York, with instructions to spend it on a "happy party celebrating my long and pleasant stay on earth."

I AM very sorry that Lee is no longer just a phone call away. My feelings go out to Joan and Doug and the rest of the family. I was shocked by the suddenness of his departure, like a gate slamming shut upon an era. But I'd be lying if I didn't tell you I can't help but smile at the thought of how he went. That the toughest, busiest, most active 86-year-old I ever knew should die at the controls of his own bush plane seems, all in all, about perfect. "Went out with his boots on, didn't he?" said one friend, admiringly. Yeah, it beats the hell out of lingering in a hospital bed with tubes up your nose.

It is amazing that Lee was with us for so long and that he never backed off, never stopped writing and traveling, never retreated to the comparative calm of elder-statesman status. He brought us the fishing vest, the rim-control reel, modern fly rods, the Wulff flies, even the catch-and-release ethic, and to the end he was raising Cain with narrow-minded conservation groups, inventing new goodies, plotting new adventures, thinking, testing, poking and trying. Back in the fall he shot a big whitetail and this spring he took a sailfish on a dry fly. (Fittingly, that's his column in this issue.)

Joan and her son, Doug Cummings, asked me to thank you for the great outpouring of love and sympathy so many of you sent their way. They are carrying on with the school and the tackle business, both of which Lee intended would support them after he was gone. Joan will keep writing her fly-casting column. We have several of Lee's columns stockpiled, so we can take our time in naming a suitable replacement.

In the next issue, in the fall, we will take a long and loving look at Lee's life. In this issue, we must say good-bye to John Voelker.

Silvio Calabi



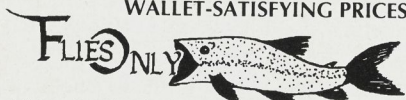
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'Best' flies

I LIKED the March article about quill-bodied dry flies by A.K. Best. I favor them over standard dubbed-body dries, and the Olive/Dun Quill has recently gained some local fame. It was great to see the recipe in print, and I'm anxious to put them to the test.

I do have one small quarrel with the instructions, however. The illustrations show the hen-hackle wings tied in with the butts facing the rear of the hook. Not only would this be tough to do (the tier would have to grasp the wings by the butts to tie them in), but A.K. describes the process the opposite way (hackle points to the rear) in his book *Production Fly Tying*.

Mike Rosol
Boulder, Colorado

Our mistake, and, uh, thanks so much for finding it.

THANKS for A.K. Best's article on the Olive/Dun and Melon Quills, but good ideas in tying are seldom new and dyed hackle quills are no exception. Alexander Wanless's *The Modern Practical Angler* (London: Herbert Jenkins Ltd., 1931) is best known for the controversy it provoked over "threadline" (spin) fishing; his chapters on fly-fishing and tying, based on correspondence with Andrew Holmes, who died in 1919, have been largely overlooked. A.K. would find them interesting and relevant.

Holmes used a variety of quills for bodies, including white and red cock hackles, white duck quills pared from the inside of the longer feathers of the wing (much valued for their translucence), and quills from the black-headed gull, tern and pickmaw. There are four color plates of dyed hackles, quills and dry flies, some of which reveal the same two-quill technique now applied by A.K. in his Melon Quill.

Please let us have some more "Best" ideas.
Andy Unwin
Nandi Hills, Kenya

A-pawl-ing

IN "What a Drag" (April), discussing sprocket-and-pawl drags, Bill Hunter says the angles on the sides of pawl are not the same. In fact, the angles are equal. What determines the difference in resistance, with direction of rotation, is where the corners of the pawl push against the pawl spring. The ageless, proven adjustable pawl and gear (not sprocket), sometimes called Hardy's compensating check, is often misunderstood. As the pawl pivots on one end only, it is a lever; and when the corner of the pawl pushes at a point farthest from the spring pivot, there is less resistance.

Also, no mention was made of one of the best drags, the rim-control or "palming" spool—no maintenance and no fumbling

with knobs, just instant, on-off drag control.

Bill Adams
West Haven, Connecticut

Enviro-feedback

TED Williams' "The Dirty Dozens," in April, is excellent and I couldn't agree more with most of what he said. As a member of every enviro-group mentioned in his article (and others) I am familiar with the mistrust that sportsmen and environmentalists cast upon each other. There are several reasons for it.

First, many politicians who score highly on conservation issues score very low on gun rights, and in many cases we're forced to choose between these two issues at the polls. Second, after spending much of the last 30 years outdoors I can safely say that many, if not most, of us are "slob" hunters and fishermen. We never learned—or maybe totally forgot—our manners and respect for the resource. No wonder environmental organizations do not court us. Third, most of us complain about problems and do nothing; few of us spend our dollars to support groups that further our causes. Many environmental organizations would take a much more "pro" attitude if they had more "pro" members. There is strength in numbers and dollars.

It truly amazes me how so many of us fail to see the forest for the trees. Hopefully we will all realize we're on the same side before it is too late!

Ronald McNay
Acton, California

THOROUGH research and thoughtful commentary make Ted William's column a joy to read. His writing is simply splendid.

Jim Smith
Brookline, Massachusetts

PS: You may get some flack for endorsing Planned Parenthood. Ignore it. It's good to see you plugging this worthy non-profit—even if your writer did it for the wrong reasons.

TED Williams posed the question, "What is it about sportsmen that, for the most part, isolates them from the environmental movement and makes them distrustful of environmental activists—the very people who are doing the most to save the wildlife habitat?"

I think I can answer that. I'm enclosing page 43 from the March/April *E, The Environmental Magazine*. Note the item headed "Vegetation Conference." Now look at the item headed "Saboteurs Thwart Bighorn Sheep Hunters." The vegetarians are even against sportfishing (see the '91 Annual Review of PETA—People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) and the "Saboteurs" are obviously against hunting. At least part of the enviro-movement has taken the anti-fishing and -hunting vegetarians under its umbrella.

HAND OR REEL?

I AM OFTEN ASKED whether, on hooking a trout, the angler should attempt to wind in any slack line that he has retrieved, so as to play the fish on the reel, or whether it is preferable to control the line by hand, recovering line when possible by pulling it in through the rod rings and yielding line when necessary by letting it slip through one's fingers.

I don't think it is possible to lay down inflexible rules about this, but I can explain what I do myself.

There is a risk, an undeniable risk, that line dropped on the ground may tangle, or catch in herbage or stones, or projections inside a boat. This risk can be eliminated only by using a line-basket, and that I use only when wading. There is a case for using such a device even when standing on dry land or fishing from a boat, but I find it cumbersome in such circumstances.

If I have slack line, produced by retrieving, when I hook a fish, even if the line is in a basket, I don't try to wind that line on to the reel. If the fish runs it out, that's fine. If I am so placed as to allow me to walk away from the fish, letting the line slip out through my fingers until all the slack is taken up, I do so. If neither means of taking up the slack is possible, I control the line by hand.

I do not use automatic reels, with which slack can be taken up without undue risk, because they are much too heavy for use on modern lightweight rods.

If a fish runs towards me at a speed greater than that at which I can reel in the line, I revert to recovering line by pulling it through the rings by hand. It is sometimes possible to avoid having to do this by moving back or along the bank, and I do that if I can. It is wise to take stock of the hinterland before starting to cast, so as to avoid walking backwards into a ditch or a bramble thicket. Such traps for the unwary can usually be observed as part of the backward glance that tells one whether there are obstructions to the back-cast.

In circumstances where line has to be controlled by hand, I find flat or oval nylon monofil backing preferable to round-section monofil or braided backing. The ordinary monofil slips rather too easily when it is wet, and a braided material can burn fingers very easily and painfully when a heavy fish opens the throttle fully.

Multiplying fly-reels offer less advantage than seems generally to be supposed in dealing with the fish that runs towards the angler. None of the reels currently available allows the line to be recovered nearly fast enough to deal with the situation, and there are serious drawbacks if much higher gear ratios are introduced. That is not to say that there is no advantage at all in a multiplying fly-reel with a modest gear ratio; it does enable one to use a smaller, lighter reel without sacrificing recovery rate. Fish do

**On the reel . . .
This angler
was taking no
chances with
loose line
tangling in the
coarse grass at
his feet.**



not often run at full speed straight towards the angler, and a modest gearing incorporated in a reel of $3\frac{1}{4}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter allows an angler to keep in touch with a fish without having to revert to hand control quite often, where hand control would have been necessary with a single-action reel.

A modest ratio of 1.75 to 1 gives a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch reel a recovery rate equivalent to that of a single-action reel of about 6

provides strong evidence that proper hook penetration has not been effected.

Provided the line is kept taut and some pull exerted on the fish, the hook works its way in over the barb in the next twenty or thirty seconds; after that, there is far less likelihood of the hook coming away if the line is allowed to slacken. If after a minute a fish runs fast towards the angler, it is not usually imperative to keep the line taut; even if it slackens, winding in will more often than not reveal that the fish is still on. After all, the fish will not usually run aground; it might save trouble if it did. In practice, it most commonly turns and runs parallel to the bank, and provided the angler remembers the probability of its being still attached, and anticipates the sudden re-tightening of the line, the fish will probably be brought eventually to the net. It is a sensible rule never to assume that the fish has got off until you can see the fly.

I confess that I have lost count of how often, on feeling the line slacken, I have said, "Oh, he's off!", only to find that the fish was still there; but I have learned to avoid lowering the rod at such times. That is a very likely way of losing the fish by breakage, when the line comes suddenly tight and there is no spring in the rod to cushion the shock.

Breakage is equally likely if one continues to wind the reel frantically after the line has slackened. Then, it is better to revert to recovery by hand, but there is not always time to do so. If there is not, one must stop winding directly, and release the handle of the reel. These measures become instinctive after a few sharp lessons that will emphasise their necessity.

RICHARD WALKER **considers the options** **in playing trout**

inches diameter, and that suffices to avoid the need for reverting to hand control in all but the most extreme and unusual cases.

There can be no doubt that any attempt to wind in slack line directly a fish is hooked involves a greater risk of losing the fish than does using hand control. It is extremely difficult, even for an experienced angler, to avoid looking down at the reel and, in doing so, lowering the rod-point and giving slack line. In my opinion, a trout is seldom properly hooked when an angler strikes or tightens. All that happens at that moment is that some of the hook-point penetrates; the hook is not yet in over the barb. I am sure that the frequency with which fish are lost if slack is given at this stage,

NET REALITIES

DAVID SHAW looks at
the North Esk — and finds
reality there is a
netsman's dream come true

THE NORTH ESK is a river about which we hear very little. Yet, to my mind, it is one of the most varied, challenging and attractive waters in the Scottish Highlands. It is a river of many moods and constantly changing character. But there is a problem. Normally very few fish are in the river!

Now anyone familiar with angling literature on these Scottish Highland rivers is aware of the reputation of the North Esk. Briefly, it has been regarded as a netsman's dream, and an angler's nightmare.

Back in the late 1860s and 1870s, for instance, when all of Scotland's rivers were just beginning to recuperate from the ravages of pre-Salmon Acts (1862) days, the North Esk still managed to yield average annual catches of 25,000 to 30,000 fish — very few of these, needless to say, taken on rod-and-line. By way of comparison, these figures represent rather more than double the annual yield of the Aberdeenshire Dee, and more than half the annual yield of the Duke of Gordon and Richmond's lower water on the mighty Spey during the same period! It is an impressive record for a small river.

On the basis of such evidence as this, Calderwood had no reservations in stating that the North Esk had "great possibilities" in its yield of salmon "at all seasons of the years". But, of course the obstacle to realising this potential was the same in Calderwood's day (he wrote these words in the early 1900s) as it is in our own: the nets! Due to the "rich harvests" taken by the nets from its lower waters, Calderwood stated bluntly that "rod fishing in Spring and Summer is here not thought of".

The netting interests, however, have not always had it their own way. There have been occasions when the rod-angler has managed to secure a piece of the netsman's dream. As on all Highland rivers, heavy spates can result in heavy

"escapements" — the term used by netsmen to refer to those fish which either manage to evade the nets, or are intentionally let through to ensure maintenance of an adequate spawning stock. The North Esk, from time to time, has enjoyed — or, from the point of view of the netsman, "suffered" — such escapements, the rod interests benefiting accordingly. Then there have been seasons when abnormally large runs have entered the river, a substantial number of fish in these runs managing to evade the nets and ascend the river, bringing the prospect of glorious sport. Two years ago (1978) saw such runs, although in this instance rod-catches failed to measure up to the promise apparent.

And so the tale of the North Esk goes.

Part 3

When by some accident of fate a substantial head of fish has been able to ascend into the upper waters, the river has proven itself to be a most productive angling water. And today, even allowing for the overall decline in absolute numbers of fish, there is every reason to believe that this fine little river, almost certainly Great Britain's most prolific water, relative to its volume and length, could with ease match the excellent angling potential envisaged for it by Calderwood more than 70 years ago.

Now all these harsh facts of angling reality I have been aware of for many years. To a greater or lesser extent, all salmon-fishers are confronted with a

similar reality; it is the cross we have become accustomed to bear. However, it is one thing to be aware of these realities in principle — that is through one's readings, hearsay, reports — about one's favourite waters. It is quite another to be confronted with these realities in practice — that is to go to see for oneself.

☆ ☆ ☆

It was one August afternoon that my friend James, a local angler, conducted me on a tour of the river's coastal and lower reaches. Our first stop was at a lookout on the high cliffs behind the village of St Cyrus, a small community a few miles north of Montrose.

"This is where we start, then," said James. "You see those?" And he pointed to the beach below.

And now I saw them.

Rank upon rank of fixed stake-nets set at about 150-200 yd intervals running out into the sea at right-angles to the shore. I looked south along the coast. Through my binoculars I could see the bristle of stakes fading into the haze of distance. To the north this stake-bristle came to an apparent end where beach gave way to the rocky headland of the bay.

My first reaction was one of numbed shock, of disbelief. Then, gradually, the reality of what I was viewing started to filter through. By comparison the Solway nets were a random exercise.

For a few minutes James and I looked on in silence. And as I contemplated the scene below and tried to put my surging feelings back into some kind of order, the



TACKLE BAG

Beginning in this issue, FLY FISHERMAN has re-introduced an old friend—the Tackle Bag department. The facelift we've given it should prove of great practical value to our readers. Henceforth, the Tackle Bag will include not only items on equipment modification, care, cleaning and special uses but also a variety of practical hints from fly fishermen worldwide. The Tackle Bag should help all of us do our sport more easily and with more fun. What one fly fisherman is doing to improve his sport in Pennsylvania or Vermont may help the fraternity in California or Michigan. We can all learn from this exchange of innovative ideas.

THE EDITORS

Ultra-light Drag for Hardy

YOU HAVE HOOKED THE FISH OF THE SEASON on a tiny fly with a super-fine tippet. The fish bolts but your Hardy-type reel drag is too tight, even on its lightest setting. If you're lucky, you may land him; if not, don't fret. The drag on that expensive reel can be adjusted for the most delicate tippet, easily and quickly. Here's how:

The Hardy-type drag consists of an off-center-slotted cam held under tension by a leaf spring. The point of the cam rides against a cogwheel that is mounted centrally on the back side of the reel spool. Some reels have two cams, other reels only one. A lever or screw allows the angler to increase or decrease pressure on the spring, which increases or decreases drag against the spool.

This style of drag mechanism produces a click when the reel spool is turned in either direction. However, when set in its normal position, the eccentrically-slotted cam puts drag pressure against the spool only when line is being pulled from the reel.

In current reels, the spring always holds some tension on the cam, even when the mechanism is adjusted to its lightest drag setting. With the cam in its normal position, the drag cannot be adjusted light enough to prevent a running fish from breaking a 7X or 8X tippet. The following method of arranging the cams will allow for an entire range of drag settings, including those light enough to protect .004- and

.003-inch diameter tippets. These settings can be made at streamside without tools.

The accompanying photos are of the Hardy Lightweight reel series, but other reels with the eccentric-cam drag can be similarly adjusted. Cam positions shown in the photos are for a reel that is cranked with the *left hand*. Settings would be reversed for reels that are cranked with the right hand. The large, white arrows point to the cams which are labelled A and B. The small black arrows next to the labels indicate the directions in which the spool turns: at A, when line is being wound onto the spool; at B, when line is being pulled from the reel.

When both cams are set in the normal

drag position (Figure 1), adjustments to tension on the spring will produce heavy to moderate drag pressure. If only one cam is set in the normal drag position and the other cam is turned out of the way (Figure 2), moderate to light drag pressures can be achieved. At its lightest spring tension, this arrangement will protect tippets as fine as 6X. By setting the cams as in Figure 3 an ultra-light drag is produced. It will allow fish taken on 7X or 8X tippets to pull line freely from the reel. Note that at this setting the fish is taking out line against the click mechanism only but angler is actually cranking in line against the drag. Therefore, when setting the cams to produce this ultra-light drag, loosen the tension on the leaf spring to a minimum.

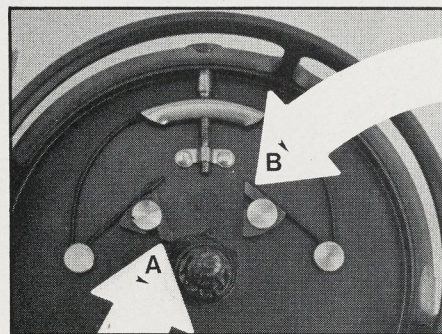
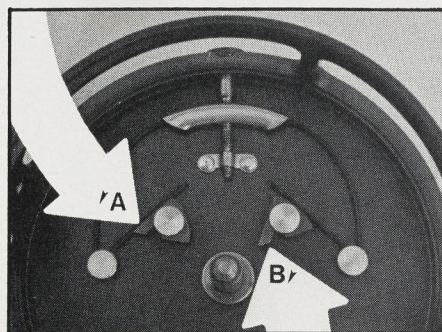
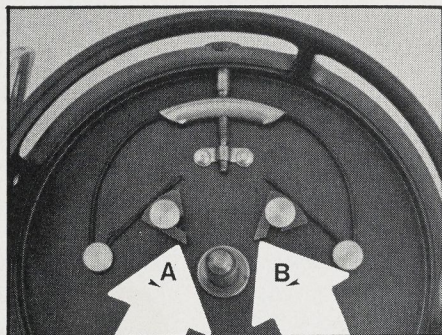
Adjusting the cams to achieve these various drag alternatives has become an integral part of my angling strategy, allowing me to use the reel to its fullest potential when playing a fish.

GARY A. BORGER

A Magnetic Fly Box

SOME FLY FISHERMEN carry too many flies on the water. At the beginning of a trip their flies are preened and stowed in categorized boxes and special pockets that supposedly can be reached quickly as the need arises. However, when the fish start rising (and especially if the wind is up) this carefully organized system begins to break down—especially as you weigh your own judgments on hatches against the confusing comments of nearby fishermen. Under the best of conditions and intentions, a well-ordered fly box can be a junkyard at the end of a day of fishing. Even the nimblest fingers grow clumsy when cold or hurried.

My device helps to circumvent some of these difficulties and frustrations. To make my box I glue magnets to the bottom of an ordinary transparent-plastic fly box, using both disc magnets (diameter 13mm, thickness 6mm) and small pieces cut from self-adhesive magnetic strip material. The discs are thick enough to provide substantial clearance above the bottom of the box and avoid crushing hackles and wings. The pieces cut from magnetic strips are built up from the bottom of the box with small pieces of styrofoam or cork. Gluing the magnets in is simple. Allow plenty of room between the magnets and the sides of the box and between rows of magnets. An adhesive that



PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

it today. If you are a fly fisherman, they will measure your casting distance, stake the boat out precisely at that length, and then toll the bonefish within range using chum.

These men, along with Capt. Lee Baker, Capt. Floyd Landon, and Capt. John Emery will also pole you for tailing or cruising fish if you desire. The five guides who work the Bay regularly are among the best you'll find anywhere. They charge from \$180 to \$200 per day, two anglers per skiff.

Miami International Airport is the gateway to this exciting sport and there are countless hotels in the area. Make your own arrangements with the guides by calling or writing them. Here's the vital data in alphabetical order:

Capt. Lee Baker
296 Santander Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305) 743-5803

Capt. John Emery
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Miami, FL 33143
(305) 279-7969

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(305) 361-2973

Capt. Frank Garisto
360 Harbor Court
Key Biscayne, FL 33149
(305) 361-5040

Capt. Floyd Landon
7830 S.W. 54th Avenue
Miami, FL 33143
(305) 667-0972

ISLAMORADA

Islamorada sits in the center of bonefish country stretching from Key Largo to Marathon and beyond. There are many flats just off U.S. 1 where a visiting angler can wade and find fish. The easiest way to learn these and to be certain you are there on the proper stage of the tide is to stop in any one of the many tackle shops and ask. The local experts can help you to pinpoint fish.

The waters right around Islamorada harbor some of the biggest bonefish you'll see anywhere. Each guide has his own favorite locations on both the ocean side and in the backcountry. Flats are everywhere and the bonefish feed regularly on these fertile banks.

Although the days of massive bonefish schools are history, pods of fish are abundant and at times you may see 25 to 50 fish together. Small flies are preferred and you should have some specifically for tailing fish.

Bud 'n' Mary's (P.O. Box 628, Islamorada, FL 33036; (305) 664-2461) boasts 30 skiff guides. Additional guides also work out of Islamorada Yacht Basin (Islamorada, FL 33036; (305) 664-4656). Just about every shallow water guide caters to fly fishermen and most keep excellent tackle on board just in case you didn't bring yours or don't own adequate gear. Rates vary from \$160 to \$200.

The easiest way to reach Islamorada is to fly to Miami and rent a car. There is air service to Marathon and Key West from Miami if you prefer that route. You will find many lodging and dining facilities starting with Cheeca Lodge and several other places to fit every preference and pocketbook. Cheeca, by the way, has its own nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, beach, and a full slate of activities.

(Next: The Honduras and Mexico)

at the east end of grand bahama island the DEEP WATER CAY CLUB

has flats fishing for bonefish and permit in a setting of extraordinary natural beauty.



Information and reservations:

P.O. BOX 1145, PALM BEACH, FL 33480
(305) 684-3958

Air-conditioned accommodations and lounge, self-service bar, vastly experienced Bahamian skiff guides. Easily reached by twice-weekly scheduled flights, charter or private plane to our own strip.



In 1981, Rodon introduced the Borkast fly line. Design received the creative emphasis in producing a product that achieved a higher degree of performance. Borkast lines are used by the majority of professionals from Norway to New Zealand simply because they "work better" than any other lines available today.

See your local Rodon dealer, or write for details.

RODON RODON MANUFACTURING
123 Sylvan Ave., Newark, N.J. 07104
THE CUSTOM SOURCE (201) 481-0027

Per Ashby Hewitt

Bearings made of some special
metals.

all metals chosen to be
non-ox. dyng. [and note
there is no oxydation after
all these years.] Thinks
there's some magnesium + other
metals.

[Probably one of his early ones,
judging from heavy weight
+ single action.]

Signed +
numbers 2

Hewitt Reel #7

wt $7\frac{1}{2}$ oz. empty.

Spool $2\frac{3}{4}$ " dia.

frame 3" (not including pillars)

Would be about $3\frac{1}{2}$ "
except for pillar design.

Spool = 4 oz

frame = $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz incl. spool screws

Heavy wt. apparently accounted for
by massive brass bushing in
spool. Perhaps he found a way
to lighten this in later model.

w/ lighter spool, this one should
be only about 5 oz.

oil hole in bottom ~~of~~ spindle
+ perhaps in click mechanism.

- Click -
Single "drag", beautifully made,
w/ outside lever.

No play in spool, handle,
or line-roller, though reel
has obviously seen some use.

Spool-to-spindle fit most
impressive I've seen. No play.

~~set~~ up-&-down play at
edge of spool almost nil too,
~~because of size of lever~~

Only ^{by} reel I've seen as
smooth as Hardy Perfect.

made to reel right-handed,
judging from:

- Spool screws (rt. hand. thread)
- Click (lighter in than out,
+ non revers: fls.)

But see position of line pillar.
While under way, reel app. made
to be reeled backwards le/ft
hand. While playing fish, guide
up + reeled right handed in
usual direction

Reels

Their main function ^{was} [has been] to allow the use of short rods (Hills, p. 85)

Have now evolved a lot, but are still best important part of our gear.
Clarify by features.

Easy rewind (large spool also avoids linking line)
multiplier / automatic or other mechanism.

light weight

resist shocks and wear [including from line-stripping].

non-glare finish

Don't slide line.

- stripping protection.

- no large holes.



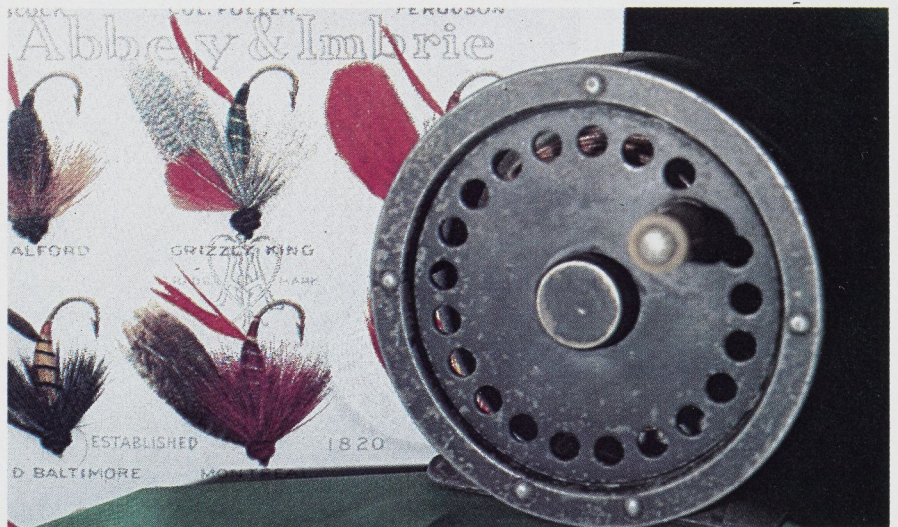
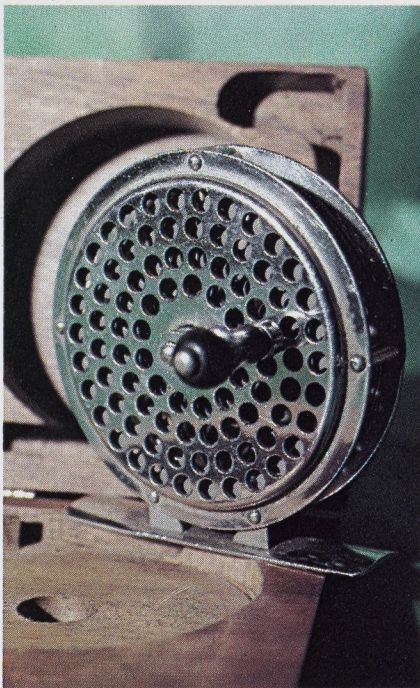
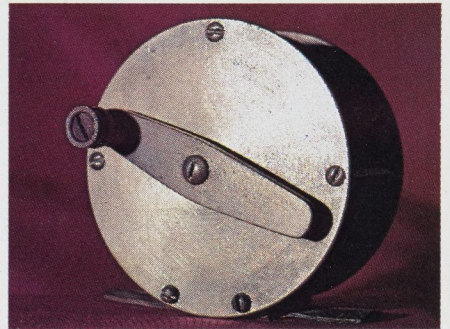
1980

Reels

While I have a conventional preference for a light, manually-wound reel of fairly large diameter ($3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches), the choice of reel affects little more than personal satisfaction. A well-made reel with a solid frame gives less trouble than a cheaper one with screws that can fall out. The drag should be just tight enough to avoid over-runs. A left-handed reel is most efficient for a right-handed angler, but the point is a fine one.

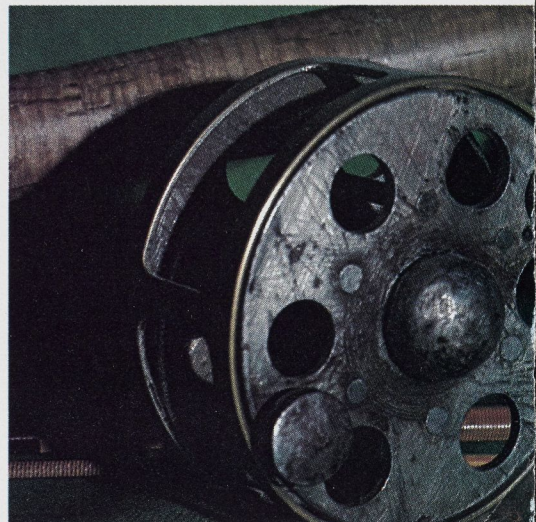
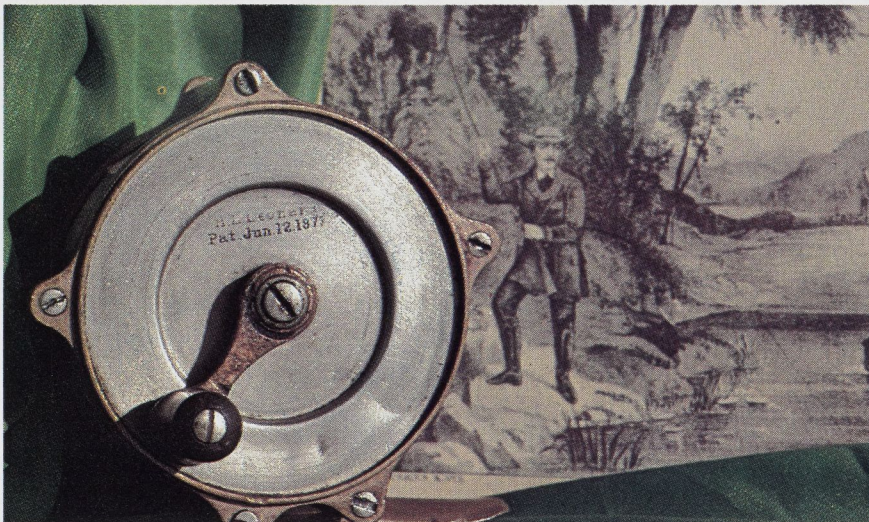
REELS WITH A HISTORY

by Warren Shepard



C. F. Orvis reel (left) patterned after British models was patented in 1874. Retail price then was \$2.25, now \$500. Leonard raised pillar reel (below), patented 1876, is made of bronze and nickel silver. \$500.

Abbey and Imbrie manufactured this English-type reel (above) early in this century. \$40. Two models of "Expert" reels, circa 1880 and 1886 (below) were very popular for half a century. \$60.



Last year some 1.5 million woodcock fell as hunters in 23 states answered the call of the leafy bottomland coverts and crisp autumn days of the upland gunning season.

found during their autumn flights.

For ten years the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has requested funds to carry out major research studies and surveys that would make it possible to protect the woodcock from overshooting at times when the population is threatened. In 1967, Congress did appropriate \$250,000 for research and management of shore and upland migratory birds (of which the woodcock is only one). That initial appropriation was subsequently to be increased to \$1.3 million per year—however, the funding level has remained at \$250,000 and efforts to increase the amount have failed. Only a fraction of this amount can be spent on woodcock. Hence, the major research that needs to be done before effective woodcock management can be realized is at a standstill.

How many woodcock hunters are there? How many woodcock do they shoot? How many woodcock survive the perils of migration and those of the hunting season and are capable of breeding the next spring? How much suitable woodcock habitat exists? Is this habitat being destroyed by increased land use in critical areas? What effects are pesticides having on the worm- and insect-eating woodcock? These are questions that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cannot answer accurately today.

Because it is migratory, breeding extensively in Canada and across the northern tier of states, and wintering exclusively in the southern United States, the woodcock is exposed to hunting pressure along the entire length of its migratory route. Under current regulations woodcock may be shot from before they finish molting in the North in September until their

spring breeding season begins in February in the South, after which the birds start migrating north to the nesting grounds.

Almost all states along the woodcock's migratory route report that habitat is decreasing. This is particularly true in the South, where greater agricultural land use combined with stream channelization projects conducted by the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers and the Soil Conservation Service are reducing the amount of suitable woodcock habitat in the wintering grounds.

Because woodcock are migratory they are a federal responsibility. Throughout most of the South, where the quail is king, sportsmen have little interest in woodcock, and the state game agencies reflect this apathy by ignoring the woodcock in game-management planning. Yet, woodcock need both suitable nesting habitat in the North and wintering habitat in the South. Throughout its range, the continental woodcock population is affected by habitat changes.

In order to manage woodcock effectively, the Fish and Wildlife Service believes that the time has come to issue a federal migratory-bird permit that would be required of all who hunt migratory game—woodcock, ducks, geese, doves, snipe, rails, cranes, gallinules, band-tailed pigeons and coots.

Issuing this permit would enable the service to pinpoint how many woodcock hunters there are. A sampling of these hunters could then be surveyed to gather accurate data on the number of woodcock that are being killed. Fluctuations in the annual harvest could be accurately assessed, as is currently being done with the kill of ducks and geese, and bag limits could be set according to the estimated strength of the breeding population.

Hunters in Canada buy one migratory-bird permit that covers all migratory species, and this has enabled Canadian biologists to accurately measure the extent to which each species is being hunted and harvested.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now drafting a bill that will be presented to the current session of Congress requesting that such a permit be established in the United States.

Over the years, woodcock hunters have shown an outstanding eagerness to join programs that benefit woodcock research, and as a group they have been quick to respond to questionnaires and surveys. From their past record, woodcock hunters can be expected to accept the proposal to establish a Federal Migratory Bird Permit. However, opposition to the special migratory

Suitable habitat and carefully managed bag limits are the key to quality woodcock hunting in the future. State and federal wildlife agencies must have accurate information if the fluctuating annual woodcock population is to continue to thrive.



More than 2000 hunters contribute woodcock wings to a federal population survey. Game managers hope this cooperation will assure the acceptance of a needed migratory-bird stamp in the near future.

bird permit is expected from other groups.

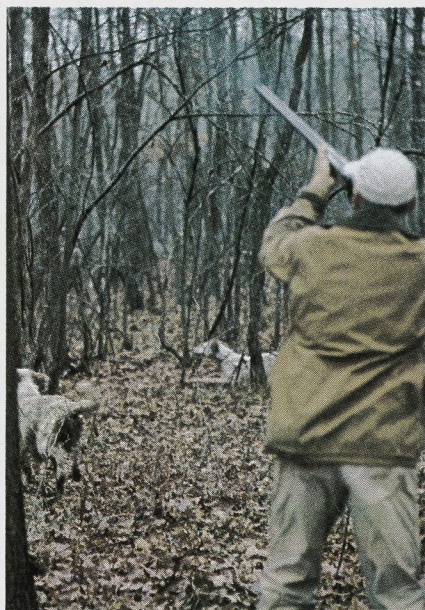
In the past ten years, four attempts to establish a special non-webfoot migratory-bird permit have been blocked by groups who oppose further federal licensing on the basis that it is an additional inconvenience and expense to the hunter. Others opposed the move fearing the permit might jeopardize some state efforts to obtain needed increased license fees. Some states that conduct their own game harvest surveys felt that federal surveys are unnecessary. (Unfortunately, the state surveys differ in scope and procedure so that their findings cannot be combined in a conclusive manner.)

Woodcock population levels are currently estimated on the basis of two federally conducted surveys, a spring singing-ground count and a fall collection and study of woodcock wings from more than 2000 hunters who participate in the program.

Each spring biologists in woodcock states are sent out to check randomly selected spots across the principal breeding range to listen for male woodcock making courtship calls and to watch for flights. Comparison of these surveys from one year to the next gives an indication of increases or decreases in the number of birds that have survived the previous hunting season and the perils of migration, and have returned to breed.

In the fall, participating hunters send one wing from each woodcock they shoot, together with a completed questionnaire, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Migratory Bird Management. In 1976, more than 21,000 wings were examined

(Continued on page 82)



Shiners

The Golden Way For Big Bass

by Frank Sargeant



Photography by Frank Sargeant, underwater photos by M. Timothy O'Keefe

Although it's still controversial, experts have turned shiner fishing into an art, with success dependent upon skillful angling techniques.

The eagle cocks his head and hunkers down, like a football player ready to plunge into the line. Locked to a dead cypress 100 yards from the boat, he marks the gold flashing at the end of my line. The big Florida shiner gleams, flickers like a candle in the dark waters of Rodman Reservoir, then winks out; he has disappeared under the chartreuse carpet of floating weeds. The eagle straightens up, disappointed.

"Now, *think* that bait where you want him to go," the grizzled bear of a man in the bow seat tells me. "Let him be your eyes." Dave Dunsmoor watches the strand of fluorescent mono slide under the water lettuce.

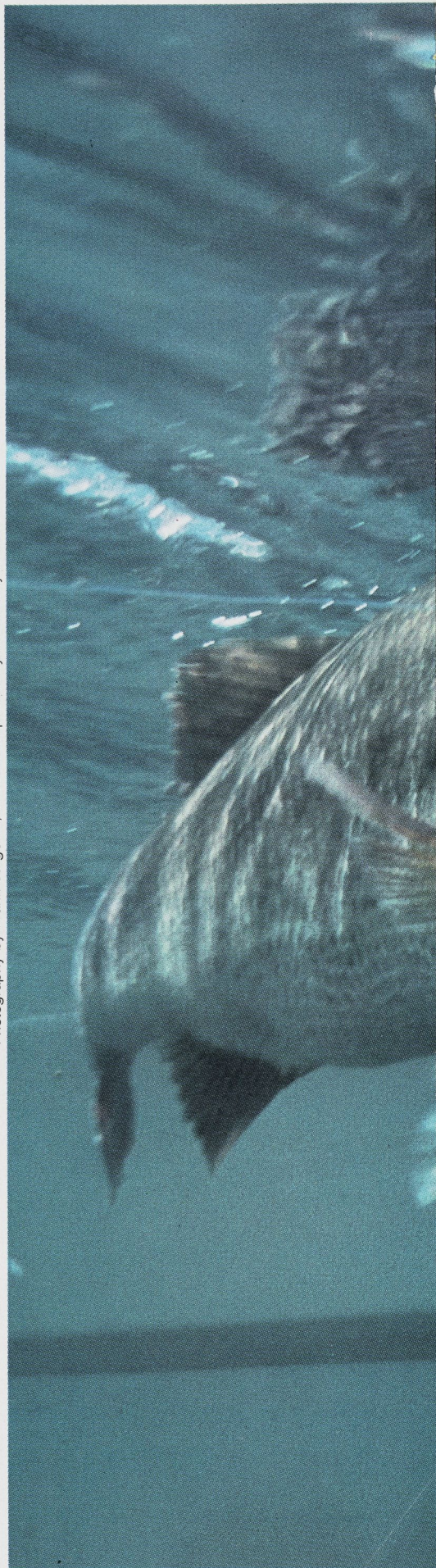
"There . . ." he raises an admonishing

index, "see him stop? The little beggar's seen something. 'What do I do now,' he's thinking, 'run or hide?'"

The big guide sits still for a time, waiting. The only sound is the incessant whir of the bait aerator, pumping oxygen to the three-dozen big minnows in the live well. Finally the line begins to move again.

"He thinks he's safe now; he'll go on in until he's comfortable. A shiner is the best oxygen and temperature meter in the world.

Guides on the national forest lakes prefer visitors to use heavy gear, including 30-pound line, but even then many of these huge bass escape by sheer weight and by diving into cover.



Flyfishing began to come of age in the 1850s. Soon after, careful craftsmen began to turn out fine reels that are now rare treasures.

Fishing reels probably came into general use in Britain about 1700 and in America by 1750. These first reels were simple wooden spools on metal or wood carriages. However, a recently discovered ancient tapestry indicates the reel may have been invented long before that by the Chinese.

The earliest known written record of a

This all-brass click reel of the type used about 1850 (left) is inscribed "Wilhelm Jaeger, Bamberg, S.C. \$150."

reel (a "wind") is in Barker's *Art of Angling* (London, 1651).

In the first edition of Sir Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler* (London, 1653) there is no mention of a reel. In the second edition (1657), however, he does speak of a "wheel" used by certain salmon anglers.

The first American click reel of record was made by J. L. Sage at Frankfort, Kentucky, about 1848.

By 1850, or a little later, the sport of

flyfishing in America was coming of age and single-action reels were being custom-made in numerous local shops or manufactured by pioneer tackle firms such as Andrew Clerk and John Conroy, both of New York City. In the 1870s and 80s fine reels were produced by C. F. Orvis, Hiram L. Leonard and Julius Vom Hofe.

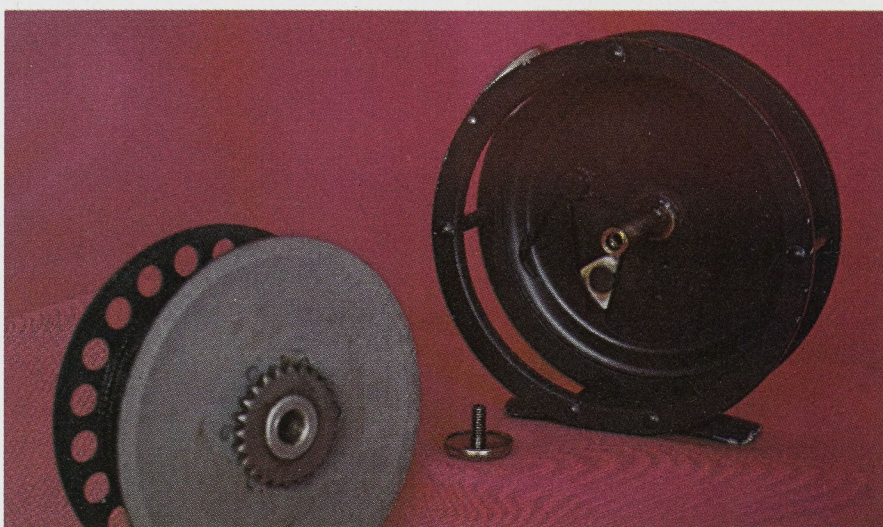
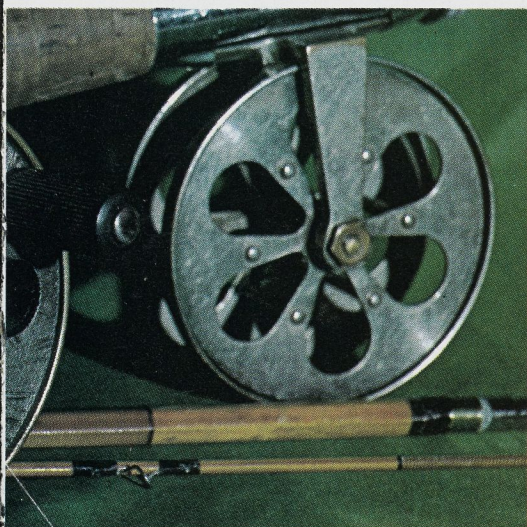
We present here a glimpse of early American fly reels, forerunners of today's precision products, with an estimate of current collectors' prices. ■



The Horton Manufacturing Company of Bristol, Connecticut, inventors and manufacturers of steel fishing rods, marketed the "Bristol" fly reel (above). Though inexpensive, the reel was deservedly popular. \$20.



The single-action Vom Hofe reel (right) was patented in 1889. It was one of the first to feature an overhanging, anti-foul rim. \$100. The "Oreno" reel (below) was introduced by South Bend Tackle in 1925. \$25.





Reels That Made History

THE art of angling is pursued by many methods, yet of the thousands of reels designed in more than a century only a relatively few have incorporated new principles. The progenitors of many reels we use today were seldom crude; in fact, some, such as Meek's No. 3 Blue Grass casting reel, the Shakespeare Quadruple reel, the Vom Hofe casting reel, the Talbot Meteor casting reel, Meek's No. 25 Blue Grass casting reel, and the Pennell Tournament reel, are still purring over American bass ponds. The perfection of bait-casting reels was a Dixieland development of the early 19th century.

From the ordinary simple reel, which had been in use for many years prior to 1820, a group of Kentucky watch-makers developed silky-smooth multipliers. These reels had light, very-low-inertia spools that made casting a

The WEST'S Forgotten Game Fish

By JAMES W. FREEMAN

Hordes of fighting smallmouths live

a lonely existence in these seven states,

for they rarely see a fisherman's lure

SOMEWHERE in the stream, shrouded by an eerie November mist, a telltale *slurp* sounded, and instinctively I reared back on the long fly rod, although I hadn't actually felt the strike. There was a tremendous splash as the rod arched down with a violence that could only mean a smallmouth on the hook.

The fish raced back and forth on the surface. I couldn't see him in action, but from the way the line ripped off my fly reel in short, strident bursts I knew he was a heavyweight. The thick fog swirled around me as I moved along, following the noisy thrashing of the smallmouth. Suddenly the line stopped jumping and there was a deadweight pull on the other end.

I heard the crunch of footsteps on the gravel behind me as I cursed at the fish that had hung my line on one of the many snags in California's Putah Creek. Chris Higuera loomed out of the mist, grinning. "I doubt if you'll ever get that tree in, buddy. Might as well let it go and break the leader."

I broke off disgustedly and asked, "How many have you got so far?"

"Three," Chris said, holding up a trio of butter-fat smallmouths averaging 3 or 4 pounds. "I've been into another dozen that were smaller, but I put them back so they'd grow up. How about you?"

I held up my own pair that ran about the same weight. "Let's go build a fire and warm up until the sun gets a chance to burn off some of this fog," I suggested.

We got a small fire going and hunched over it, trying to toast some warmth back into our frozen fingers.

"This is spooky," Chris said. "Gives me the creeps."

"You mean the fog? It's like one of those old Sherlock Holmes movies on the moors, where something might be waiting to jump out at you."

"It's not only that," Chris said. "It's spooky to fish for three days and not even see another angler." Then he grinned. "I guess I'm just used to fishing with a lot of company."

Where were all the other fishermen? It was a good question, and I thought I knew the answer. Early November gives western sportsmen plenty to keep them busy. The ducks and geese are down from the north; steelhead and salmon fishing is reaching a firm peak in most of the coastal areas; and upland-bird shooting is just hitting its stride.

But after almost fifteen years of western smallmouthing, I knew that the time of the year actually had little bearing on western bass fishing. I've done it at all seasons in California, Oregon, and Idaho, and on the fringe of Washington. At no time have I found many anglers trying for these fish. The reason is always the same—western fishermen are trout-minded.

Still it seems strange that so much top-drawer fishing is going to waste. Most people in these Western States have moved in from other areas, the fishermen bringing their gear with them. Many had grown up with smallmouths. Those I've talked with keep threatening to "go and see about some smallmouth fishing." But they never do. They're too busy chasing the scales off the trout and salmon populations.

Curious about this situation, I queried officials of western fish and game departments. Here, in essence, are their replies:

IDAHO: "We agree that more attention should be given to bass. We have quite a lot going to waste simply because most fishermen in this part of the country go for trout.

"The Snake River, in the vicinity of Payette and Weiser, has some very good smallmouth-bass fishing, as has the lower part of the Clearwater River. Bass weighing 3 or 4 pounds can be taken quite readily by an experienced fisherman."

WASHINGTON: "During the past several years interest has grown in the smallmouth. Earlier, however, the fishery was practically unused, although bass were available. Now probably the greatest pressure occurs in the early spring, when slough areas begin warming. Then considerable interest is generated, and catches of 2- and 3-pounders are common. Summer brings a lag, although experienced fishermen can take smallmouths then. In the early fall, success picks up and fishermen are found trying the popular areas.

"Smallmouths were introduced into the Yakima River in 1925 and became well established during the next ten years. At present the Yakima River from the town of Prosser downstream to its junction with the Columbia is one of Washington's best smallmouth areas. The Snake River is a top producer, and so are some stretches of the Columbia in Benton County, as well as the shallows of some dam backwaters."

ARIZONA: "Smallmouths planted by California are found in the lower Colorado River. Angler interest is very slight. They were also successfully introduced into the Verde River watershed about twenty years ago, and are found today in the upper Verde and in lower Oak Creek."

NEVADA: "We have no smallmouth bass in any of our waters, but we plan

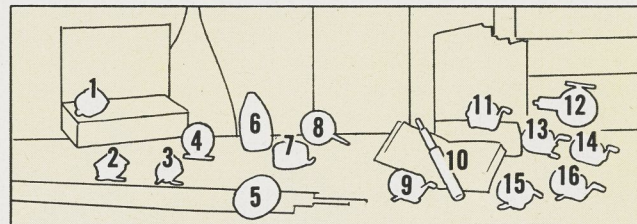
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PHOTOGRAPH BY de ZANGER

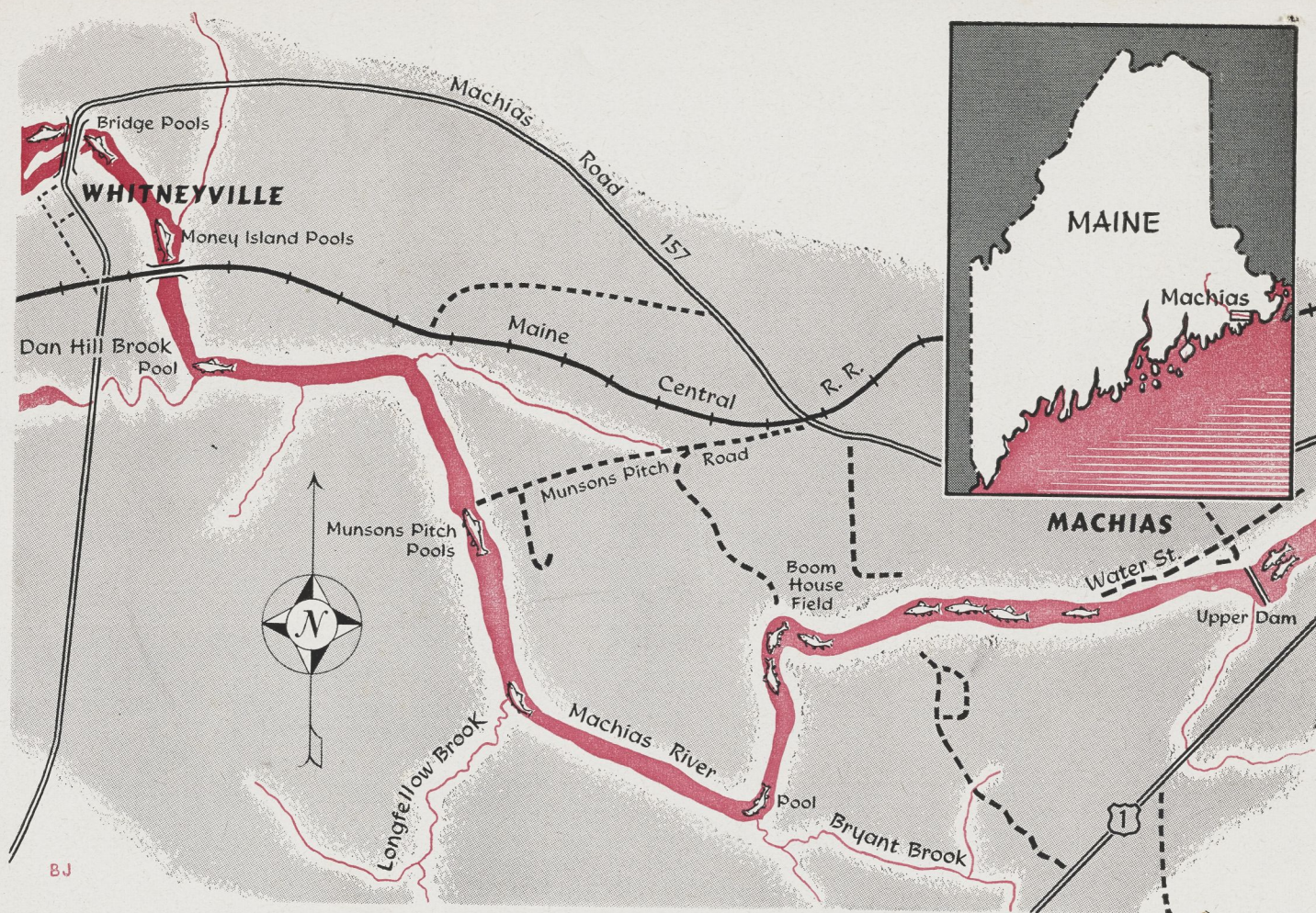
thing of beauty. The turning of their handles was geared to the rotation of the spool in a ratio of 1 to, usually, 4. By the turn of the century both the level-wind device and a hard-braided silk line had been invented and the game of plug casting was under way. But fly-fishing equipment was being technically polished also.

Although fly reels have always been made in the traditional design, with a spool rotating in the same plane as the rod, and a ratchet check to provide some resistance or drag, oldtime fly fishers used precision-built models, such as the W. W. Mills & Son fly reel made in 1882, the H. L. Leonard fly reel, and the original patent Orvis reel. Some of these are eagerly sought by modern experts. However, it was a clockmaker who conceived the first automatic fly reel, (*Continued on page 82*)



1. W. W. Mills & Son, New York and Canada, 1882, fly reel
2. H. L. Leonard fly reel
3. Unidentified—perhaps a reader will know
4. Original patent model of Orvis reel
5. Follett Patent trout and bass reel on H. L. Leonard rod
6. Original hand-made model of automatic Martin reel
7. Original patent model of automatic Martin reel, dated 1885
8. First production model of Martin Automatic fly reel. Owner's name, G. H. Heacocks, Hlon, N.Y., engraved on side
9. No. 3 Blue Grass casting reel by Meek
10. Harris reel, dated 9/1903
11. Shakespeare Quadruple reel marked "patent applied for"
12. Vom Hofe casting reel dated Nov. 17, 1885
13. Talbot Meteor casting reel
14. Illingworth spinning reel, English made
15. Meek Blue Grass No. 25 casting reel
16. Pennell Tournament model

We are indebted to Abercrombie & Fitch Co., Martin Automatic Reel Co., Orvis Tackle Co., Shakespeare Co., and William Mills & Son for this exhibit of old reels



Jim Fletcher's beat is the Machias. His missionary work takes him up and down the river



Daily bulletin gives tally of fish in the river and the number taken

WANTED!

MORE SALMON FISHERMEN

By A.J. McCLANE

A MAN WHOSE WORKING DAY consists of heaving Atlantic salmon into the Machias River, then driving around the countryside encouraging people to catch them, may seem to the casual observer to be somewhat eccentric. He isn't. Although James S. Fletcher may be likened to Johnny Appleseed, he is an expert biologist and a member of the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission. His sole duty is to manage and restore *Salmo salar* in waters from the Aroostook River in the north of Maine to the Sheepscot in the south.

Within these narrow limits, comprising eight different watersheds, rests the fate of public Atlantic salmon fishing in America. The dream of bringing salmon back to Maine waters in quantity is so close to reality today that Fletcher has had to face another problem: anglers have forgotten how to fish for Salar!

Last July I drove to the town of Machias to learn what

was happening in the largest of the restored salmon streams. Word had spread all over the state that a 40-pound Atlantic salmon had entered the river, and I wanted to meet the optimist who'd said, "The only trouble with our fishing is that we don't have enough fishermen." This was too much to swallow; I figured this bird couldn't locate his nose with both hands.

I found Fletcher patching his waders in the backyard of his home. He is a spare, 170-pound, graying man who speaks softly but with the diamond clarity of the scientist. Except for a hitch in the Air Force during World War II, he has worked and lived in Maine for the greater part of his 42 years.

"I'm going down to the counting station now. You can come along if you'd like," Fletcher said. As we drove through the busy village he recalled how dam building and pollution had brought about the decline of our Atlantic salmon fishery. The Machias River was completely blocked five years after the town was settled in 1763.



THE SPORTS AFIELD ALMANAC

Edited by Ed Murphy

Don't know about this -



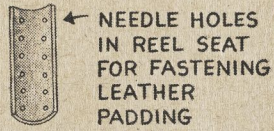
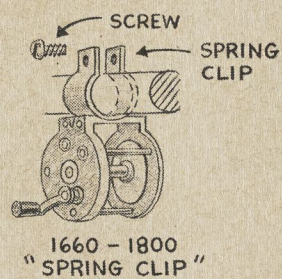
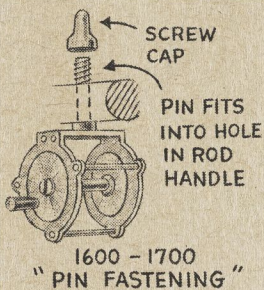
Indian Hunters

American Indians believed that wild animals had much wisdom. They believed the animals were willing to give up their flesh for food if they died honorably, but would inflict disease on the hunter who killed them cruelly or made them suffer. When hunting, they prayed to the animal's spirit and asked forgiveness for having to take the life

of that particular animal. Years ago, when a young Papago Indian was learning to hunt, his tutor would teach him the animal's habits as well as the songs that would make his hunt a success. After his first successful hunt, he would not eat the meat, but would give it to his instructor as payment for the "schooling."—W. Paul Brandt.

HOW TO DATE AN ANTIQUE REEL

by A. J. McClane



MAY

Guide to Best Fishing Days

1982

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 am
2 am	3 am	4 am	5 am	6 am	7 pm	8 pm
9 pm	10 pm	11 pm	12 pm	13 pm	14 pm	15 am
16 am	17 am	18 am	19 am	20 am	21 am	22 pm
23 pm	24 pm	25 pm	26 pm	27 pm	28 pm	29 am
30 am	31 am					

Best Good Fair Poor

CORNY CONFAB

A friend of mine was hunting in the mountains of Kentucky when he saw what he thought might be a deer trail. He followed the narrow trail for over an hour when suddenly he came to a cornfield at the top of a mountain. He saw an old man standing nearby and started talking to him. He noticed that no road led up the mountain and asked the old man how they got the corn down to market. "In jugs," said the old man with a grin.—Jim Goss.



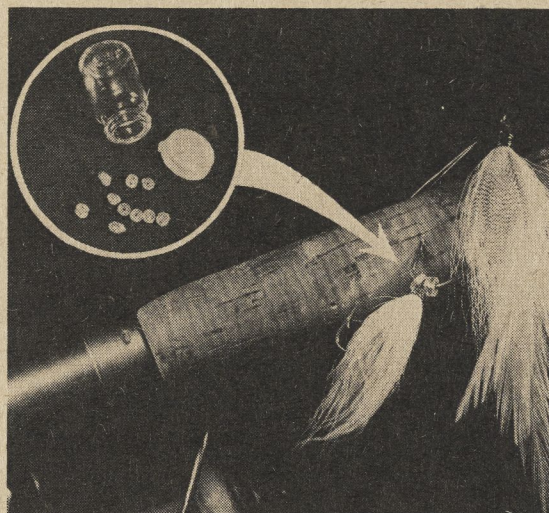
The Sting

Misconceptions about a catfish's barbels, or whiskers, continue. Many fishermen believe that the whiskers have the ability to sting. Not so. Those whiskers are used for smelling—thus the popularity of stink-baits.

Any sting comes from the front spine on the dorsal and pectoral fins, which are pointed and serrated.

Assuming you are right-handed, this is the way to safely grasp a catfish: Flatten the dorsal fin with the palm of your hand. Flare both pectoral fins, placing your thumb behind the left pectoral and tight against the fish. Place your ring finger in the same position on the right pectoral.

This grip will secure the cat and allow you to remove the hook.—Mike Sawyers.



Short-Strike Solution

Bucktails and streamer flies dressed with wings longer than the hook shanks often cause short strikes from bass. This problem of flies with wings too long can be overcome by adding trailer flies, much as bassmen add trailer hooks to spinnerbaits.

Push on flies tied to large ringed-eye hooks over the bucktail hooks. Then slide on "keepers," commercial or those you cut from plastic tubing, to prevent loss of end flies. The tail hooks will catch those short strikers. Bucktails with trailer flies added attract larger bass.

FAVORABLE FISH FATS

A diet of fish may reduce the risk of cholesterol build-up. Research by Dr. William Harris and Dr. William Conner of the University of Oregon found that eating fish decreased the level of harmful cholesterol, which is a factor in hardening of the arteries, and increases the level of beneficial cholesterol that protects people against heart attacks by preventing blood clotting in the circulatory system. They put ten healthy volunteers on a diet of salmon, fruits, vegetables and grains for four weeks and found a significant change in the blood cholesterol that prevents clotting and blood vessel damage.

A significant factor was the calorie restriction in the amount of fats consumed. Fats make up over 40 percent of the total calories in a normal diet, and an ounce of fat contains 270 calories compared to 120 calories in an ounce of carbohydrate or protein.

About 75 percent of the calories in untrimmed sirloin steak or hamburger are fat, compared to 2 percent for cod and perch, 5 percent for catfish and tuna and 9 percent for salmon, trout and sardines. Fish oils are more beneficial than animal fats, with high-quality protein, vitamins A and D.—Russell Beck.



Trout Unlimited's Philosophy

We believe that trout and salmon fishing isn't just fishing for trout and salmon. It's fishing for sport rather than for food, where the true enjoyment of the sport lies in the challenge, the lore and the battle of wits, not necessarily the full creel. It's the feeling of satisfaction that comes from limiting your kill instead of killing your limit. It's communing with nature where the chief reward is a refreshed body and a contented soul, where a license is a permit to use—not abuse—to enjoy—not destroy our cold-water fishery. It's subscribing to the proposition that what's good for trout and salmon is good for the fishermen and that managing trout and salmon for themselves rather than for the fishermen is fundamental to the solution of our trout and salmon problems. It's appreciating our fishery resource, respecting fellow anglers and giving serious thought to tomorrow.



PICKY SQUIRRELS

Squirrels and acorns just naturally seem to go together, but in reality there are significant differences in the animals' use of the acorns from various species of oak trees. Tests indicate that acorns of the white oak and black oak are much preferred to those of the red oak, which contain high amounts of bitter tannin. Knowing these squirrel preferences and the differences among oak trees can mean better hunting.—Paul J. Rundell.

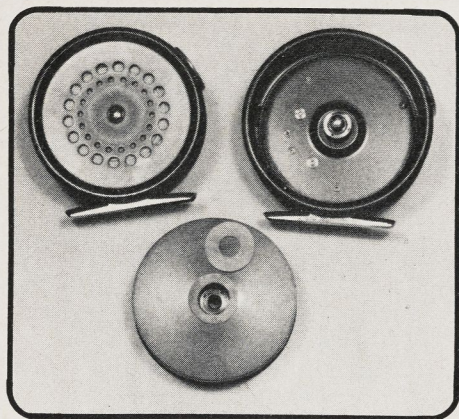


Moles dig tunnels at a rate of ten to 20 feet an hour. This can add up to 160 feet in a night. A man, to equal a mole, would have to dig a tunnel nearly half a mile long, large enough to wriggle through.—George C. Graham.



Pup Sense

When choosing your first hunting dog, pick the middle-of-the-roader. Picking a pup "that picks you," that is, the one that rushes up fearlessly to investigate you, may be choosing a pup that will be overly aggressive and difficult to train. The "wallflower" or runt may be too timid for easy training or may become, under pressure or unfamiliar circumstances, a "fear-biter." The average pup in a litter of good breeding should give you a dog to be proud of.—Joe McDonald.



The Hardy Perfect is one of the most beautiful reels to ever grace a fly rod. It is also an extremely smooth

Fine Tuning the Almost Perfect

and quiet reel, with a nice range of drag adjustment. But some of the Perfects seem to have a small amount of side play between the line spool and the base of the reel housing spindle, possibly discernible only to the perfectionist fly fisherman. As the reel becomes more worn in, this minor imperfection becomes more noticeable.

However, there is a simple and inexpensive solution to this relatively picky irritation. The Mitchell spinning reel incorporates a teflon washer in its spool setup, and these twenty-five cent wash-

ers can be modified to fine-tune the Hardy Perfect. By enlarging the inside diameter of the washer with scissors, it can be made large enough to slip over the spindle that supports the Perfect spool. A teflon washer is the ideal solution because this space age plastic is self lubricating (but works well with reel lube), somewhat yielding to metal contours (non-abrasive), definitely long wearing, and is easily shaped with scissors.

Deke Meyer
Monmouth, Oregon

Vid—Fly

Due to the efforts of Gastown Productions, a video production company in Vancouver, B. C., I am forced to amend my belief that the best instruction is always personal. Gastown's first video cassette program on the basics of fly tying is a 50-minute presentation, divided into six individual segments, which does indeed effectively convey the fundamentals.

This is not to suggest that the classroom teacher is now null and void. Definitely not. With a little time and a lot of Moosehead Lager, a mentor can be persuaded to divulge many a secret and subtle truth. But for straight-forward training (and for those not privy to human tutelage) the college of electronic circuitry is a practical means of matriculation and Gastown Productions is paving (taping) the way.

"Basic Fly Tying Techniques" features

full color, extreme close-up cinematography which takes the viewer by the hand—and eyeball—and leads him detail by detail through the tying procedure. Because of the control afforded by the home video system, the tape can be played backwards, fast forward, freeze framed and repeated at the need and discretion of the viewer. Unlike the typical local, low-budget television studio gambit, this video production is sophisticated and stylish... featuring a concise script, methodically planned scenes, sharp, clear photography and a charming host. John Massey, the on-camera talent, is a "natural" in the role of careful, patient instructor and a personality that *projects*. He is poised, wry, and more than a little mischievous—qualities which merge the *rock* of education and the *roll* of entertainment.

The color and clarity of this videotape is startling. The lens so clearly and candidly magnifies the tying procedure that Massey was required to endure a full manicure before shooting so that his cuticles would not reveal a primitive terrain. Such

technical quality translates to compelling imagery throughout the program.

Without waxing lyrical, we at Amato Publications feel that "Basic Fly Tying Techniques" is such a sensible teaching tool that we have agreed to help with its distribution in the United States (note the advertisement on page 71). While profit would be a welcome wave of gravy, it is not the central motive for bringing consumer and video cassette together. *It is only if this idea proves not to be too far ahead of its time* that further programming can prevail. We would like to see the video industry tackle fly casting, presentation, lake and stream reading, rod building and pure angling escapism—just to name a few subjects ripe for video exploration.

Until appropriately programmed R2-D2's become household companions and holograms replace the Sony, the video cassette system promises to be the best domestic center of higher learning available to the trout and transistor culture.

DVR

Capping Off a Good Idea

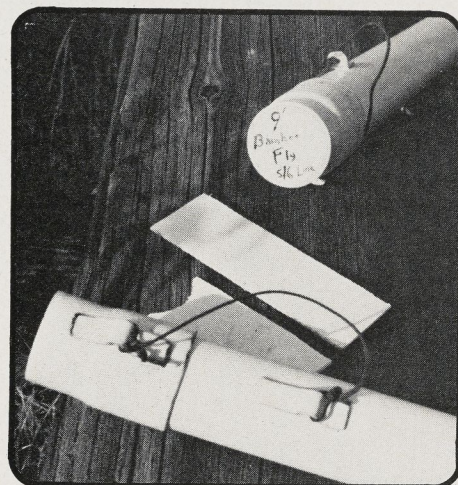
Recent references to methods of constructing rod cases from PVC pipe led me to offer this further suggestion to cut the costs to a bare minimum, and at the same time improve the looks of the finished product.

The properties of this PVC material when exposed to a mild amount of heat from a propane torch allow it to be easily molded and shaped into flat end pieces as well as form-fitting caps. To make the end piece, first cut the desired length of the pipe, then cut down the side of that section. Next apply a soft flame, very gently to the PVC, being careful not to burn it. When it gets too hot to handle bare-handed, it then may be clamped in a wood vise until cool.

Now you have a flat piece which can be sawed and filed to a perfect fit either inside, or over the top of the butt end of the rod case as well as the end of the top cap.

Construction of the cap involves cutting a four-inch length of pipe, heating around one end, and forcing it down over the end of the rod case. This heating and swaging process may have to be repeated a time or two to get the desired two or three-inch overlap. This will result in an excellent slip fit. Tag ends of the material are readily shaped and glued to the case and cap for holding retainer thongs to keep the cap from straying while removed from the case.

Add a little foam padding in the ends



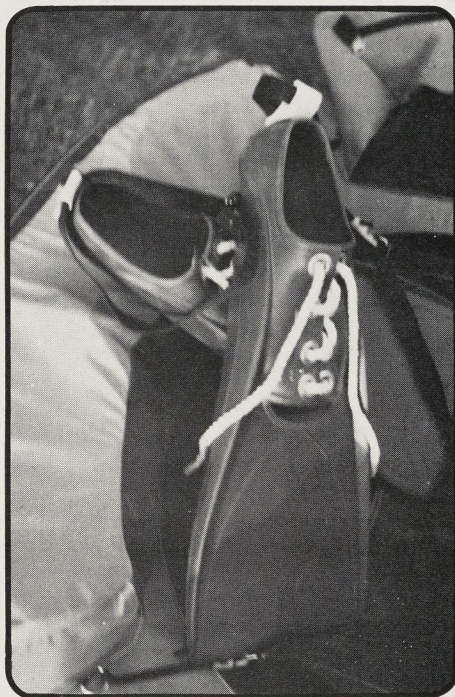
to protect your rod and the job is complete.

James W. Norene
Heppner, Oregon

That Sinking Feeling

As the cash register rang merrily I walked out the door with the first pair of swim fins for my new float tube, the salesperson's assurances still ringing in my ears: "Don't worry. *If* it should come off, it will float right to the top. See, here on the bottom it says, 'floating.'" About 30 minutes and somewhere near the middle of a big arm on Prineville reservoir, "it" came off and neglected to float right to the top. The advantage of fins over feet became apparent on the trip back to the bank.

Of course, it did not take too much investigation to discover that fins are only sold in pairs. A scratch of the old gray head brought birth to the idea that, in addition to grommets and laces, a



little loop and safety strap could be added to the back of the fin, and, sure enough, it works.

An extra plus for the safety strap is that the fins can be used with either stockingfoot or the old heavy-duty insulated waders on those days when the temperature gets low in the tube.

Now, if anyone is in need of half a pair of swim fins. . .

Bill Fuller
Bend, Oregon

Need new fly gear for the new season?
Turn to page 27 for information
about a simple way to obtain rods,
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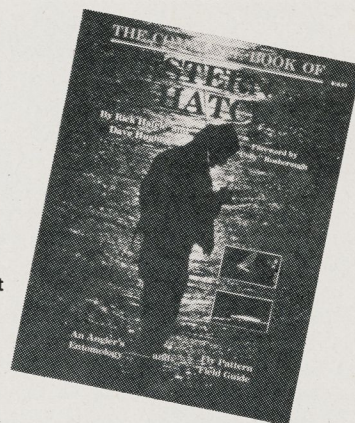
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