

### Introduction

The term, soft hackled fly, is used generically throughout this book, and applies to a class of wingless, sub-aqueous flies, the hackles of which come mostly from birds such as partridge, woodcock, grouse, snipe and starling.

No dry fly fisherman has challenged me to write it. It is being written because the soft hackled fly and the mending method of fishing it, outlined in the book, are rarely, if ever, discussed in magazines or in angling literature published in America.

The author has never seen the soft hackled fly used by any other fisherman. This observation has been made on many of the finest and most famous trout waters of the country. And although mending is now popular with some steelhead fishermen in the west, it is not generally used by trout fisherman using the sunk fly.

The soft hackled fly is not to be easily found in even the best stocked fly shops in the country. Yet, the flies are easy and quick to tie from easily obtainable materials. And the mending method of fishing the fly is so simple that a beginner can learn it immediately...and a dry fly purist, depending on how dry he is, a little longer.

The book is also written for many of the older, dry fly fishermen



Question

Question? How does one mend with the line laying on the water?

Answer: "The line should be removed from the surface of the water by raising the rod almost horizontally and keeping the arm stiff." (I said earlier that I held the rod parallel to the water, but as high as I could off the water. I still think this is the best way with singled handed short rods we use for trout fishing today. A. H. E. Wood mixed his salmon fishing with single-handed rod of 12 feet and longer, two-handed rods up to 14 feet long. The longer rod will help in mending, however.)

Question: What's wrong with drag?

Answer: "As there is little a fish does not see, the fly ought to behave naturally all the time, as an insect or other live creature would do in the water, and try to let the fly move with all the eddies it meets, as will any living thing that is trying to move in the water with the stream and across."

Question? What is leading?

Answer! "By moving the rod in advance of the line---but not of course dragging it---you help the fly to swim more downstream than across."

Question? How will I know when I'm doing it right?

Answer: "The greased line, if fished properly (and this is by no means the case every time,) has no drag and often is all sleek and crooked."



The last answer brings to mind the classic photograph of the expert dry fly fisherman, having just cast his line in loose "S" curves.

The question must come to the mind of the reader, as it did to mine when I first started reading about the greased line, what to do when the line eventually swings clear around to the fisherman's side as it must do in any kind of current?

The answer is nothing because it's time to recast. The lower part of the cast in greased line fishing with the soft hackles is the least important. Lawrie said Scotch and border fishermen never even let their spiders or other soft hackles go that far, but that they were fishing just the upper part of the cast, without drag, casting short and frequently.

"Greased Line Fishing for Salmon," by Jock Scott, is one of the finest books on instruction of fly fishing I have ever read. Even if you never fish for salmon, or get a chance to try the system for steelhead, the lessons there will serve you well in the fishing of the soft hackles, or other kinds of nymphs and wet flies, as it did for me.

Two other books, "Salmon Fishing," Frederick Hill, 1948, and "The Floating Line for Salmon and Sea-Trout," Anthony Crossley, 1939, also treat of the floating, mended line.



## Chapter XII

There is a little, light mark more than half way up the butt section of my 7 and 1/2 foot rod which measures just over 22 inches from the butt of the reel seat. The mark will be there forever to remind me of my big fish, because I never keep big fish, and rarely keep a small one or two for a camp supper.

I don't believe in mounting fish and even though I am and have been for many years an avid duck hunter, I also don't believe in mounting birds, or other animals, big or small. The memory should be enough, and always has been for me without staring at some dusty specimen on the wall of the den or the office.

The memory can be pulled out of the mind, or hear, whenever I want to, to dwell on for how so ever long I want to. I dwell on this one quite often during the quiet, winter months, and will now display it, in this, the last chapter of this little book.

I was photographing big crawler tracotrs in Idaho and Montana six years ago in the early part of September. I finished my work near Butte on a Friday and drove to Ennis to fish the Madison there on the weekend.

When I saw the river in and near that town the next morning, I realized why this was a great mecca for the fly fisherman. At Ennis, and below, the Madison splits up into several small streamlets, and I fished a couple of these, taking a few small



fish.

There was a regional retriever trial near town and I watched the labs, Goldens and a few Chesapeakes perform for a few hours in the afternoon.

I wanted to try the river upstream and was told there was a ranch about two miles up where ~~other~~ men were permitted to cross the private land to get to the river. This was on the western side of the stream.

I liked this part of the Madison much more than the downstream part. It was big, strong water with long, thin islands dividing it into smaller water. You could fish close to your bank or venture out near the islands without going too far out in the main and treacherous part of the river. The current was very strong with a nice, broken surface, and even on the "lee" side of the islands, wading was difficult.

It was good water for the soft hackles, and I was having fun with frequent takes from smaller fish.

Fifty yards upstream there were two islands, a very long one on the left, near the center of the stream, and a shorter one on the right. Between them there was a beautiful scour that was sure to be four feet deep. I waded straight up in line with the smaller island and intended to go all the way up and fish the scour down. I was about half way up the length of it, still wading and not yet fishing, when I saw my big fish.



He rose just once, in the middle of the scour, not more than 8 or 10 feet away from me. The rise was slow and deliberate, head first, then the big, vermiculated body curling over and going in. There were no signs of a hatch or a single fly on the water, and I didn't know what he took.

Showing himself to me, so close, the fish ~~must~~ have seen me, I felt, and I slacked off back downstream. I was not going to fish him now. I'll give him plenty of rest so that he might forget me, if, indeed, he did see me. We can make an appointment for tomorrow night at the same time.

The next day, I returned to the field trials. Being a regional trial, there were many good dogs and their classy retrievers kept me pre-occupied. They finished about five, and I went back to the motel to get the Orvis, waders and flies. In the motel room, I ~~ed~~ and greased check the line and tied on a new leader.

It was six by the time I waded out to the edge of the scour. I stayed wider this time, however, and kept looking for any signs of my friend. I saw none. Now, I was at the head of the scour, just below the smaller Island, and I put on a Tups.

I was above the spot where I saw him, but I intended for it to be this way. I didn't want to undershoot him, I wanted to put the Tups right where he lived.

I cast several times, throwing nice slack line and moving down very slowly. Something welled up inside me. The fly was



running down the center of the scour. He had to see it, if he were there. He did!

The rise was almost the same. He didn't come so far out of the water as he did 24 hours earlier, but ther he was, and I had him.

I looked at my watch. It was 6:05.

What a difference a big fish makes. He moves hardly at all at the beginning. The feeling is of authority. The heaviness is inviolable. You know this is not going to be easy and you feel a little outclassed.

Things started to happen slowly. At first, no big runs, no curving leaps high in the air, just the fish lying there, jerking his head like a dog. When is he goingto go, when is he going to realize this could be the fight of his life?

He started upstream taking line off the reel, the handle spinning wildlly under my hand. He was going fast and could have kept right on going up around the island and down on the other side that that would have been it. But he turned and came back down and we started to slug it out in the scour.

Now we settled down to allong series of runs up and down and over against the bank of the Island. More sulking and holding and jerking of the head. He never relented. I never slacked off. I just wanted to tire him out, to pull him by my feet and see what he looked like close up.



Really, I overplayed him, and I'm sure that a more eager fisherman could have played him out much sooner. But finally he was at my feet on his side and it was 6:35,

I never took him out of the water, but set the Orvis over him, the butt of the rod at the tip of his tail. I pinched the rod with my thumb and forefinger right over the end of his nose to measure him, and held it ~~tight~~ tight so as not to lose it. Then with my left hand, I unhooked the Tups. I turned the big fish over to right him and gave him a little shove upstream and he was gone. I scratched the light mark on the rod with my fly scissors where my thumb and forefinger were and started in.

A yellow cow dog was on the bank and apparently was watching me the whole time. Before I got to the shore, he was in the water swimming out to me, struggling hard against the current. Now he was up to me and turned to follow me in. We got to the shore and started up the bank. I walked slowly across the meadow, the yellow cow dog following and he seemed as happy as I was.



feature which distinguishes this school: more attention is paid to light, to the clearness of the water, and to the sky, than to the insect. Stewart has many followers to this day."



Addition A continued

to modern times, when it is dressed with a body of orange silk and hackled either with partridge, grouse, or woodcock, according to the fancy of the writer. It is the same fly throughout. There can be no doubt about the identification. It is the first fly given ~~in~~ the list in the Treatise and it is the first fly which greets the fisherman when the inhospitable winter is over. The earliest French list also gives a fly not dissimilar for the month of April: body of red silk, head green, and wings from a red hen."



Describing further the characteristics of the "fancy flies", Hills says,  
"he  
"they have many redoubtable advocates, drawn in modern times chiefly  
from Scotland. Stewart pinned his faith to his three famous hackles, his  
black, red and dun spider. ; No doubt each of those could with a little  
laxity, be identified with a specific insect; but he did not imitate such,  
and chose his flies with an eye rather to weather and water. This, in  
fact, is the feature which



IN THE SAME CHAPTER OF THIS BOOK, HILLS DIVIDED THE ~~FLY TIERS~~ WORK OF ALL fly tiers and fly fishing writers into three groups: "fancy flies", "general flies", and "actual copy". He says, "Of course these three schools merag into ~~each~~ each other. A fly can be more or less general, or it can be on the borderland of fancy and general, or of general and individual. Take the Partridge and Orange as an example. It is fished in the north all the year around, and may be called a fancy fly. But it is possibly the best ;imitation of the February Red, and when so used it is specific. And besides the February red it also kills as an imitation of the nymph of the Blue Winged Olive, and as such is general."

Describing further the characteristics of the "fancy flies", Hills says, "They have many redoubtable advocates, drawn in modern times chiefly from Scotland. Stewart pinned his faith to his three famous hackles, his black, red and dun spider. No doubt each of those could with a little laxity, be identified with a specific insect; but he did not set out imitate such, and chose his flies with an eye rather to weather and water. This, in fact, is the feature which distinguishes this school: more attention is paid to light, to the clearness of the water, and to the sky, than to the insect. Stewart has many followers to this day."

More about Stewart later.



Addition A continued

to modern times, when it is dressed with a body of orange silk and hackled either with partridge, grouse, or woodcock, according to the fancy of the writer. It is the same fly throughout. There can be no doubt about the identification. Is the first fly given in the list in the Treatise and it is the first fly which greets the fisherman when the inhospitable winter is over. The earliest French list also gives a fly not dissimilar for the month of April: body of red silk, head green, and wings from a red hen."

In the same chapter of this book, Hills divided the work of all fly tiers and fly fishing writers into three groups: "fancy flies", "general flies", and "actual copy". He says, "Of course these three schools merge into each other. A fly can be more or less general, or it can be on the borderland of fancy and general, or of general and individual. Take the Partridge and Orange as an example. It is fished in the north all the year round, and may be called a fancy fly. But it is possibly the best imitation of the February Red, and when so used it is specific. And besides the February Red, ~~it~~ also kills as an imitation of the nymph of the Blue Winged Olive, and as such is general."

Describing further the characteristics of the "fancy flies", Hills says, "They have many redoubtable advocates, drawn in modern times chiefly from Scotland. Stewart pinned his faith to his three famous hackles, his black, red and dun spider. No doubt each of those could with a little laxity, be identified with a specific insect; but he did not set out to imitate such, and chose his flies with an eye rather to weather and water. This, in fact, is the



Addition A continued

to modern times, when it is dressed with a body of orange silk and hackled either with partridge, grouse, or woodcock, according to the fancy of the writer. It is the same fly throughout. There can be no doubt about the identification. It is the first fly given in the list in the Treatise and it is the first fly which greets the fisherman when the inhospitable winter is over. The earliest French list also gives a fly not dissimilar for the month of April: body of red silk, head green, and wings from a red hen."



Addition A continued

to modern times, when it is dressed with a body of orange silk and hackled either with partridge, grouse, or woodcock, according to the fancy of the writer. It is the same fly throughout. There can be no doubt about the identification. It is the first fly given ~~in~~ the list in the Treatise and it is the first fly which greets the fisherman when the inhospitable winter is over. The earliest French list also gives a fly not dissimilar for the month of April: body of red silk, head green, and wings from a red hen."

Describing further the characteristics of the "fancy flies", Hills says, "The  
"they have many redoubtable advocates, drawn in modern times chiefly from Scotland. Stewart pinned his faith to his three famous hackles, his black, red and dun spider.; No doubt each of those could with a little laxity, be identified with a specific insect; but he did not imitate such, and chose his flies with an eye rather to weather and water. This, in fact, is the feature which



Review of two books: Western Trout Fly Tying Manual and Trout and Salmon Fly Index.

The marvel of macrophotography has spawned several good books lately on fly tying, materials, artificials and insects themselves. Some of the books to capitalize on the new, through-the-lens, compact systems of macro shooting have been "Fly Tying Material", "Dressing Flies for Fresh and Salt Water", "How to tie Freshwater Flies", "Selective Trout", and many others.

Now we have two more: "Western Trout Fly Tying Manual", by Jack Dennis and "Trout and Salmon Fly Index", by Dick Surette. Thanks to modern, 35mm and 2 and 1/4 square single lens reflex cameras and special macro lenses, we have seen illustrations of subjects to do with fly fishing as we have never seen them before.

In both Western Trout Fly Tying Manual and Trout and Salmon Fly Index, we have good examples of the art of this kind of photography. The tying sequences of "Western Flies" are clear, well lighted and close enough to see exactly what is going on. "The Index", too, even though it does not show tying sequences, offers beautiful, color closeups of individual streamers, bucktails, wets, nymphs, dries, salmon hair wings and special flies.

Both books are different in format and style than most books on fly fishing. "Western Trout" is a thick, oversize paperback. "Index" is an attractive three ring loose leaf note book, with color plates, histories, origins and dressings of 49 salmon and trout flies.



In "Western Trout", Mr. Dennis maintains that literature on the making of artificial flies for use in the West has been neglected. Hence, the purpose of the book. And he also notes in his preface that there are distinct difference in western flies and eastern flies. It would seem to be the further purpose of the book to show these differences. Mr. Dennis has accomplished both purposes with an honest, straight forward style of writing, and as has already been mentioned, with excellent black and white macrophotography to back up the purposes.

Let us examine of the these differences. First, we have what Mr. Dennis calls "over hackling" on dry flies to permit them greater bouyancy on the more rugged rivers of the West. Western wet flies and streamers are generally larger and more havily dressed than eastern styles. There is the greater use of hair materials such as are obtained from moose, elk and deer. And there is the preference to use hackle tips for wings instead of paired wing quills. Hook sytels and sizes, too, are generally heavier and larger than hooks used elsewhere, for two reasons: "First, the fish are usually larger, and can break off the tip or snap the hook at its bend. Second, most Western rivers have gravel banks with a great deal of prush and rocks behind them".

The inclusion of many indelgatus Western patterns makes the book very worthwhile to anglers want to fish Western waters. We can see exactly how to tie the Spruce Fly, Rio Grande King, Renegade, Fall River Special, Bird's Stone Fly, Sofa Pillow, Hornberg, King River Caddis, Joe's Hopper, Goofus Bugs, Muddlers and Spuldrlers and famous Western nymphs such as the Montana, Stone Fly and Zug Bug.



As a professional fly tyer, guide and tack shop owner in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Mr. Dennis spills most of what he has learned from a young lifetime of western fly fishing in this book, all for the benefit of non-professional anglers everywhere.

Surette's "Trout and Salmon Fly Index" is unique in that individual pages of it can be purchased individually, five at a time. Each page is printed on one side of a 5 and 1/2 by 7 and 3/4 inch, heavy, glossy card stock, three hole punched to fit a standard loose leaf binder. Each page is on a single fly and includes the fly in color, its history and origin and the dressing required to tie the fly. Because of the nature of the loose leaf style, "this index will never be out of date as new plates will be available each and every year".

The entire 49 pages presently available include such famous flies as Gray and Black Ghost, Mickey Finn, Professor, Atherton Dark Nymph, Adams, Quill Gordon, Blue Charm, Cosseboom, Rusty Rat, Durham Ranger, Jock Scott, Rat Face Macdougall, Black Ant and Jassid.

Any angler wishing to tie any of the flies in the book, would appreciate having in front of him the pages of these flies. It is always easier to tie a new or strange fly, when one has the exact copy in front of him. The next best and cheaper way, however, is an accurate color photograph of the fly as it was tied by the originator.

Looking through the "Index", it occurred to us, too, that any part or



---4---Review of Western Tying and Index

the entire collection of the publication would make beautiful framed prints  
for a den, office or fly tying room.



Cited Bibliography---continued

Leisenring, James E. and Hidy, Vernon S. The Art of Tying the Wet Fly. New York: Crown Publishers, 1971.

McDonald, John. Quill Gordon. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1972.

Pritt, T. E. Yorkshire Trout Flies. Leeds: Goodall and Suddick, 1885.

-----An Angler's Basket. London: Simpkin, Marshall Hamilton, Kent and Co, 1896.

Schwiebert, Ernest. Nymphs. New York: Winchester Press, 1973.

"Scott, Jock". Greased Line Fishing for Salmon. London: Seeley Service, N. D.

Skues, G. E. M. Minor Tactics of the Chalkstream. London: Adam & Charles Black, Second Edition, 1914.

-----The Way of a Trout with a Fly. Ibid. Fourth Edition, 1967.

Stewart, W. C. The Practical Angler. London: Adam & Charles Blacks, Reprint. 1961.

Tavener, Eric. Trout Fishing from all Angles. The Lonsdale Library, Volume II. London: Seeley, Service, 1933.

Webster, David. The Angler and the Loop Rod. Edinburgh: Blackwood, 1885.

Young, Pauh H. Ideas for Fishermen. Southfield, Michigan: Advertising catalog. N. D.



~~(Introduction to Nemes' Soft-Hackled Fly)~~

Foreword

(A)

18 Palatino Ital.

upper & lower case  
centered

initial  
18

Palatino Bold Cap.  
centered under  
in first text line

set Text 11/15 Palatino by 24 picas

Some of our best friends are dry flies and nymphs, and we do hope that the arrival of The Soft-Hackled Fly on the angling scene will not cause these worthies to fall into total disuse. They certainly have their place, which is in the mouths of trout, and this is the exact spot in which Sylvester Nemes has regularly positioned his "amazing new discovery"--the soft-hackled fly.

We are being facetious, of course. From the time of that famed--and possibly fabled--fishing nun, Dame Juliana Berners, the wet fly was the fly--the only artificial fly. It wasn't until the mid-19th century that anglers in England began to float their flies, first by accident, then by intent, and finally by specific design. It soon became a cult, then a philosophy of life, and eventually a religion, and F. M. Halford was its prophet.

Then came the siren call of the nymphs, the Loreleis which lured unwary anglers from the comfort and intimacy of the stream surface and into the depths. For nearly half a century G. E. M. Skues and his fellow nymphers were barred from the chalkstreams of southern England, heretics after the manner of the early Christians; and it is perhaps ironic that the symbol of those persecuted zealots took the form of a fish! Even today, nymphs are frowned upon in England on many waters--and even here, in the land of the free.

During this adventurous period, the wet fly never fell into disuse--only into disrepute. It was a "good way to start a youngster," or a



Sal.  
46  
desperation measure when all else failed. But, it is our feeling, and obviously that of Syl Nemes, that it has not been the fault of technique alone that has led to the current nadir of the wet fly in America. Just as the pressing social need for basketball centers has delivered a generation of young giants to center court, so has the quest for the Holy Grail of stiff hackles filled the roosts and the fly-tying benches with the distillation of 50 years of in-bred fighting gamecocks. The sophisticated angler would not leave a fly shop satisfied until his lips were literally punctured by the ultimate stiff-hackle test.

It became difficult to tell a wet fly from a dry, except for the position of the wings. Actually, as Syl points out in this book, the proper wet hackle can be as difficult to procure as stiff, surface-riding dry-fly hackle--but it is available. We commend his patterns, his philosophy and his techniques to you.

( )  
We have fished with Syl Nemes in Michigan and in Colorado, and we have seen him deliver fish when other anglers of quality were flushed with defeat.

We have also benefited from the good works of this streamside Samaritan who lurks behind trees and steps out at the propitious moment to offer his aqua regia to the deflated angler. On our second trip together, while on the Frying Pan near Aspen, he crossed my palm with three soft-hackles which I accepted with a smile and deposited in my fly box.

It wasn't until a year later that I was driven to their use--and I still can't be certain that the fantastic results I had with them were not due primarily to my consummate skill as an angler! But, in truth,



Plastic  
saw

Spula mt  
Bools

60 for smaller  
mint

no spinal



I feel in retrospect that it was the fly and not the fly fisher who triumphed that memorable afternoon. (A fresh shipment of one dozen soft-hackles has recently arrived from Nemes' bench, and I shall once more test them against the declining desk-dulled reflexes of a flabby fly fisherman who needs all the help he can get.)

I will fish these soft-hackles with love, with confidence and with little else. I will drift them with the current, letting the hackles reflect the action of the tiny mini-currents of the stream, and with no jerks. A jerk at one end of the line is enough.

( )

Without making any forecasts--for I am at heart a coward and content to record the past--I will be interested to see what happens when the hard facts of soft hackles reach more and more anglers. Nor shall I go so far as to suggest that any name such as "Sylvester Nemes" could ever become a household word--unless it be used by an irate wife in condemnation of an absent angler.

The soft-hackled fly offers the versatility, the utility and little of the futility of other flies in general day-to-day application. It offers the novice a definite leg-up, and as much challenge to the experienced angler as his expertise can summon. For the skillful use of the wet fly has long been considered by older and wiser heads to be the most artful of all angling techniques; the soft-hackle fly merely brings the wet fly out of the mists of history and into the mainstream of the difficult and challenging waters we fish today.

#

Don Zahner →  
Dorset, Vermont  
July 21, 1975 >





Where and when did the soft hackled fly originate. Why, in the beginning, of course. It, or one of its breed, the orange and partridge, was the first fly in the list of 12 set down by the fishing Sister named Juliana Berns in England in 1496, making this the first written work in English on fly fishing or any other kind of fishing. The orange and partridge was then called the ~~Donne~~ Fly. J. W. Hills thought it to be the same fly as the orange and partridge of today, that is with the ~~par~~ hackle wound around the front part of the hook. John McDonald disagreed with him and thought the partridge hackle was tied upright like the wings on modern trout flies.

The <sup>e</sup>~~Dam's~~ list including the Donne Fly, according to Hills was pirated by Markham, Cotton, Chetham, Bolwker, Aldam and many others. Hills; thought the fly miraculous, imitating or representing not only a ~~sotne~~ fly, but the nymph of the blue winged olive, a mayfly, as well. Fed up with dry fly only a la F. M. Halford, Hills, when he turned to sunk fly fishing upstream on the Test around 1930, said, "One of the softest, most compressible patterns is the partridge hackle, and whether this be the reason or not, I consider it the best sunk fly on the Test. Its body of silk can be of ~~any color~~ many colours. I find the old Cumberland patter, the orange partridge, best, and next to that the red."

But; even before Hills and before the concrete codification of the dry fly by F. M. Halford, the soft hackled fly was probably the most written about fly in <sup>the</sup> North and South <sup>of</sup> England and Scotland. during the 19th century, ~~for many 20 fly fishing authors~~ I can name 16 fly fishing authors of that period who include the grouse ~~and~~ partridge hackles flies in their lists of the most killing patterns. One author like the <sup>partridge</sup> fly so well, he tied it with 11 different colored silk floss bodies.

Like the song from my fair lady, where in America ~~the~~ Americans hadn't used English for years, American fly fishers had ~~not~~ used soft hackled flies hardly at all. Liesenring was on to them. Paul Young <sup>in Michigan</sup> was on to them too. He called them PHY partridge spides and sold them for about 15 cents each <sup>with</sup> in green, yellow and orange bodies. His "less fussing...more fishing" brochure said, "Fished like any nymph. This is one of the best all around wet flies ~~ever~~ ever used. Fish down and across stream, and take trout. Hackles lay back along the hook when wet, and crawl or work in the current."

There has been recently, a gathering re-discovery of the soft hackled fly in American angling literature. McDonald probably helped when he took the Dame's 12 flies apart in Quill Gordon. ~~But~~ The western angling writer, Brooks ~~talks about the flies~~ in his new book, "" "", <sup>said</sup> wrote the soft hackles best imitated caddis pupae, ~~as does Schweibert~~ ~~in Nymphs~~ And Schwiebert in Nymphs agrees with him and paints of the pupae beautiful colored specimens in the book. When I first saw those pictures slim bodies of of the caddis pupae ...the green, gold, yellow brown and orange and the small drooping wings, and long floppy, ~~hanging~~ dangling legs, extending beyond the end of the bodies, I ~~said~~ thought they were the closest thing I had ever seen in print ~~of~~ to the soft hackled flies I had been using so well for so long.

Well, I fished "down and across stream" as Young directed. And trout. But I was making the same mistake the average sunk fly

And I took trout. But I was making the same mistake the average sunk fly fisherman makes when he jerks ~~xxx~~ the fly through the water ~~with~~ and gives it "the strength and agility of an otter".

With advancing age, I stopped advancing the fly. This improved its performance. I cast higher into the stream, threw more slack, let out line when the fly got below me. But I still needed something. I found that something in the famous book on greased line fishing for salmon. It was called mending.

Mending, as many anglers of long line fishing for migratory fish, know is the lifting of the

Mending, as many long line anglers of migratory fish, know is; the



brochure said, "Fished like any nymph. This is one of the best all around wet flies ~~I have~~ ever used. Fish down and across stream, and take trout. Hackles lay back along the hook when wet, and crawl or work in the current."

There has been recently, a gathering re-discovery of the soft hackle d fly in American angling literature. McDonald probably helped when he took the Dame's 12 flies apart in Quill Gordon. ~~But~~ The western angling writer, Brooks ~~talks about the flies~~ in his new book, "" "", ~~wrote the soft hackles best imitated caddis pupae, as does Schwiebert~~ ~~in Nymphs~~ And Schwiebert in Nymphs agrees with him and paints of the pupae beautiful colored specimens in the book. When I first saw those pictures slim bodies of the caddis pupae ...the green, gold, yellow brown and orange and the small drooping wings, and long floppy, ~~hanging~~ dangling legs, extending beyond the end of the bodies, ~~I said~~ I thought they were the closest thing I had ever seen in print ~~xxxx~~ to the soft hackled flies I had been using so well for so long.

Well, I fished "down and across stream" as Young directed. And trout. ~~But I was making the same mistake the average sunk fly~~ And I took trout. But I was making the same mistake the average sunk fly fisherman makes when he jerks ~~xxxx~~ the fly through the water ~~with~~ and gives it "the strength and agility of an otter".

With advancing age, I stopped advancing the fly. This improved its performance. I cast higher into the stream, threw more slack, let out line when the fly got below me. But I still needed something. I found that something in the famous book on greased line fishing for salmon. It was called mending.

Mending, as many anglers of long line fishing for migratory fish, know is the lifting of the

Mending, as many long line anglers of migratory fish, know is; the lifting of the dragging or bellying part of the line between the angler and the fly, and; turning the line up stream or down, to correct the fault.

Downstream bellying of the line is more prevalent than upstream because, generally there is more fast water between the fly and the angler. If the current is all in a sheet, that is with the same velocity from bank to bank, then mending is not required.

The soft hackled fly and mending make this system the most deadly

I believe the soft hackled fly ~~fisher~~ handled and manipulated by the mending method to be the ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup> deadly way to fish for trout.

Earlier, I said the soft hackled fly produces more fun than any other kind. If one thinks that "fun" is at its highest at the moment of

contact with the fish, then he must agree with me. For the take is extremely physical, almost violent. There is no nibbling. The fish has the fly or it doesn't. Nothing matches it, and I would rather take one trout with this method than I would five with either dry fly or weighted or unweighted upstream nymph.

There are many average fly fishermen fishing 15 years or more who have never taken a trout over 16 inches. Fewer anglers have taken trout over 20 inches. If they had been using soft hackled flies during that time they might have done as well as I with a 22 inch from the Madison at Ennis, with several sixteen inches from the Madison, <sup>in the park</sup> with one sixteen inch from the south fork of the Au Sauble, <sup>and</sup> one from the fly only water of the Pere Marquette/ ~~and one fish not taken on the Madison in the park~~ One fish from the Madison in early October 1973 was in the 7 or 8 pound class with <sup>siz 12</sup> ~~got~~ knows how many inches, but broke the tip of the barb of the pheasant tail I was using. That same evening I entered a very famous riffle or pool on; the Madison just inside the <sup>just past</sup> park. It was 6:30 p.m. Two men climbed up the bank from the pool. "It's all yours they said; leaving the pool deserted. The next 45 minutes were the most exciting fishing moments I ever had in my life. Using the partridge and green I landed and release two browns; and a rainbow between 18 and 20 inches. After; releasing the first fish, the soft hackle resembled hardly anything at all. It was then too dark to change. After the second fish, the floss was torn to shreds with just; a couple of barbules of the partridge hackle still hanging on. After the third fish, the hook was practically bare, yet I think I could have taken another had not total darkness and night; me



~~Apt. Turner, Lake View~~

~~Return to the Agent~~

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*

~~SECRET~~

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*

~~2000~~

10 ~~20~~ ~~21~~ ~~22~~ ~~23~~ ~~24~~ ~~25~~ ~~26~~ ~~27~~ ~~28~~ ~~29~~ ~~30~~ ~~31~~ ~~32~~ ~~33~~ ~~34~~ ~~35~~ ~~36~~ ~~37~~ ~~38~~ ~~39~~ ~~40~~ ~~41~~ ~~42~~ ~~43~~ ~~44~~ ~~45~~ ~~46~~ ~~47~~ ~~48~~ ~~49~~ ~~50~~ ~~51~~ ~~52~~ ~~53~~ ~~54~~ ~~55~~ ~~56~~ ~~57~~ ~~58~~ ~~59~~ ~~60~~ ~~61~~ ~~62~~ ~~63~~ ~~64~~ ~~65~~ ~~66~~ ~~67~~ ~~68~~ ~~69~~ ~~70~~ ~~71~~ ~~72~~ ~~73~~ ~~74~~ ~~75~~ ~~76~~ ~~77~~ ~~78~~ ~~79~~ ~~80~~ ~~81~~ ~~82~~ ~~83~~ ~~84~~ ~~85~~ ~~86~~ ~~87~~ ~~88~~ ~~89~~ ~~90~~ ~~91~~ ~~92~~ ~~93~~ ~~94~~ ~~95~~ ~~96~~ ~~97~~ ~~98~~ ~~99~~ ~~100~~ ~~101~~ ~~102~~ ~~103~~ ~~104~~ ~~105~~ ~~106~~ ~~107~~ ~~108~~ ~~109~~ ~~110~~ ~~111~~ ~~112~~ ~~113~~ ~~114~~ ~~115~~ ~~116~~ ~~117~~ ~~118~~ ~~119~~ ~~120~~ ~~121~~ ~~122~~ ~~123~~ ~~124~~ ~~125~~ ~~126~~ ~~127~~ ~~128~~ ~~129~~ ~~130~~ ~~131~~ ~~132~~ ~~133~~ ~~134~~ ~~135~~ ~~136~~ ~~137~~ ~~138~~ ~~139~~ ~~140~~ ~~141~~ ~~142~~ ~~143~~ ~~144~~ ~~145~~ ~~146~~ ~~147~~ ~~148~~ ~~149~~ ~~150~~ ~~151~~ ~~152~~ ~~153~~ ~~154~~ ~~155~~ ~~156~~ ~~157~~ ~~158~~ ~~159~~ ~~160~~ ~~161~~ ~~162~~ ~~163~~ ~~164~~ ~~165~~ ~~166~~ ~~167~~ ~~168~~ ~~169~~ ~~170~~ ~~171~~ ~~172~~ ~~173~~ ~~174~~ ~~175~~ ~~176~~ ~~177~~ ~~178~~ ~~179~~ ~~180~~ ~~181~~ ~~182~~ ~~183~~ ~~184~~ ~~185~~ ~~186~~ ~~187~~ ~~188~~ ~~189~~ ~~190~~ ~~191~~ ~~192~~ ~~193~~ ~~194~~ ~~195~~ ~~196~~ ~~197~~ ~~198~~ ~~199~~ ~~200~~ ~~201~~ ~~202~~ ~~203~~ ~~204~~ ~~205~~ ~~206~~ ~~207~~ ~~208~~ ~~209~~ ~~210~~ ~~211~~ ~~212~~ ~~213~~ ~~214~~ ~~215~~ ~~216~~ ~~217~~ ~~218~~ ~~219~~ ~~220~~ ~~221~~ ~~222~~ ~~223~~ ~~224~~ ~~225~~ ~~226~~ ~~227~~ ~~228~~ ~~229~~ ~~230~~ ~~231~~ ~~232~~ ~~233~~ ~~234~~ ~~235~~ ~~236~~ ~~237~~ ~~238~~ ~~239~~ ~~240~~ ~~241~~ ~~242~~ ~~243~~ ~~244~~ ~~245~~ ~~246~~ ~~247~~ ~~248~~ ~~249~~ ~~250~~ ~~251~~ ~~252~~ ~~253~~ ~~254~~ ~~255~~ ~~256~~ ~~257~~ ~~258~~ ~~259~~ ~~260~~ ~~261~~ ~~262~~ ~~263~~ ~~264~~ ~~265~~ ~~266~~ ~~267~~ ~~268~~ ~~269~~ ~~270~~ ~~271~~ ~~272~~ ~~273~~ ~~274~~ ~~275~~ ~~276~~ ~~277~~ ~~278~~ ~~279~~ ~~280~~ ~~281~~ ~~282~~ ~~283~~ ~~284~~ ~~285~~ ~~286~~ ~~287~~ ~~288~~ ~~289~~ ~~290~~ ~~291~~ ~~292~~ ~~293~~ ~~294~~ ~~295~~ ~~296~~ ~~297~~ ~~298~~ ~~299~~ ~~300~~ ~~301~~ ~~302~~ ~~303~~ ~~304~~ ~~305~~ ~~306~~ ~~307~~ ~~308~~ ~~309~~ ~~310~~ ~~311~~ ~~312~~ ~~313~~ ~~314~~ ~~315~~ ~~316~~ ~~317~~ ~~318~~ ~~319~~ ~~320~~ ~~321~~ ~~322~~ ~~323~~ ~~324~~ ~~325~~ ~~326~~ ~~327~~ ~~328~~ ~~329~~ ~~330~~ ~~331~~ ~~332~~ ~~333~~ ~~334~~ ~~335~~ ~~336~~ ~~337~~ ~~338~~ ~~339~~ ~~340~~ ~~341~~ ~~342~~ ~~343~~ ~~344~~ ~~345~~ ~~346~~ ~~347~~ ~~348~~ ~~349~~ ~~350~~ ~~351~~ ~~352~~ ~~353~~ ~~354~~ ~~355~~ ~~356~~ ~~357~~ ~~358~~ ~~359~~ ~~360~~ ~~361~~ ~~362~~ ~~363~~ ~~364~~ ~~365~~ ~~366~~ ~~367~~ ~~368~~ ~~369~~ ~~370~~ ~~371~~ ~~372~~ ~~373~~ ~~374~~ ~~375~~ ~~376~~ ~~377~~ ~~378~~ ~~379~~ ~~380~~ ~~381~~ ~~382~~ ~~383~~ ~~384~~ ~~385~~ ~~386~~ ~~387~~ ~~388~~ ~~389~~ ~~390~~ ~~391~~ ~~392~~ ~~393~~ ~~394~~ ~~395~~ ~~396~~ ~~397~~ ~~398~~ ~~399~~ ~~400~~ ~~401~~ ~~402~~ ~~403~~ ~~404~~ ~~405~~ ~~406~~ ~~407~~ ~~408~~ ~~409~~ ~~410~~ ~~411~~ ~~412~~ ~~413~~ ~~414~~ ~~415~~ ~~416~~ ~~417~~ ~~418~~ ~~419~~ ~~420~~ ~~421~~ ~~422~~ ~~423~~ ~~424~~ ~~425~~ ~~426~~ ~~427~~ ~~428~~ ~~429~~ ~~430~~ ~~431~~ ~~432~~ ~~433~~ ~~434~~ ~~435~~ ~~436~~ ~~437~~ ~~438~~ ~~439~~ ~~440~~ ~~441~~ ~~442~~ ~~443~~ ~~444~~ ~~445~~ ~~446~~ ~~447~~ ~~448~~ ~~449~~ ~~450~~ ~~451~~ ~~452~~ ~~453~~ ~~454~~ ~~455~~ ~~456~~ ~~457~~ ~~458~~ ~~459~~ ~~460~~ ~~461~~ ~~462~~ ~~463~~ ~~464~~ ~~465~~ ~~466~~ ~~467~~ ~~468~~ ~~469~~ ~~470~~ ~~471~~ ~~472~~ ~~473~~ ~~474~~ ~~475~~ ~~476~~ ~~477~~ ~~478~~ ~~479~~ ~~480~~ ~~481~~ ~~482~~ ~~48~~