

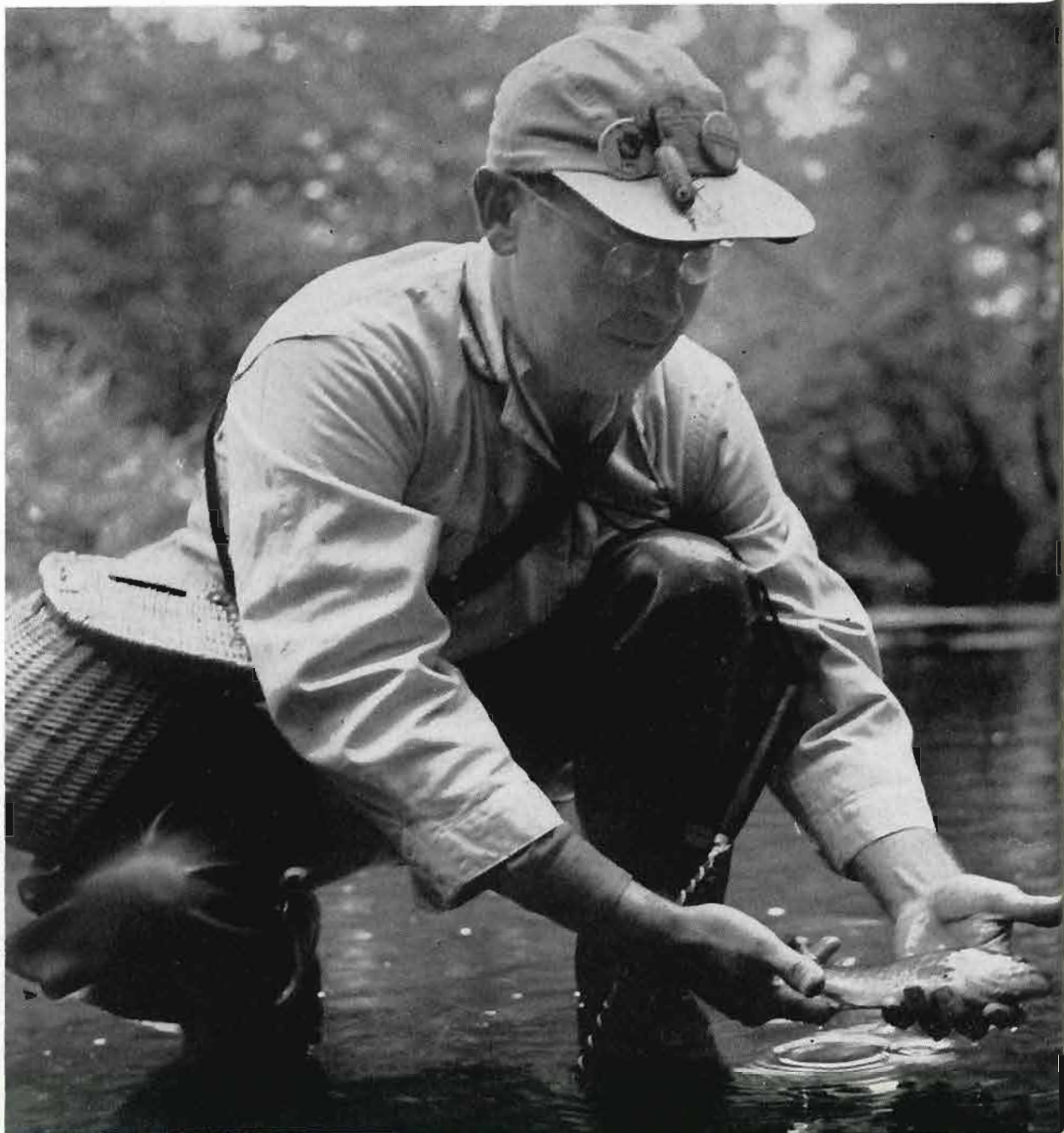
JULY

PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER

1953

PLUG MAKING ■ SPIN FISHING FOR BASS ■ BAITES FOR BASS

HELLGRAMMITE HIGH JINKS ■ PORK CHUNK ■ TYING BASS BUGS



PLEASE! . . . Mr. Angler . . . if you want better bass fishing . . . release that undersized fish the right way. Wet your hands, handle gently, snip snell or leader to hook cleanly close to the mouth, then launch him . . . don't THROW him back! Give that bass a 50-50 chance to grow up!

Lose a Hook—Spare a Bass!

PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER

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THE COVER . . . here's that rip
snortin' bronzeback back again!

BACK COVER—A Forrest-Cypher conserva-
tion cartoon.

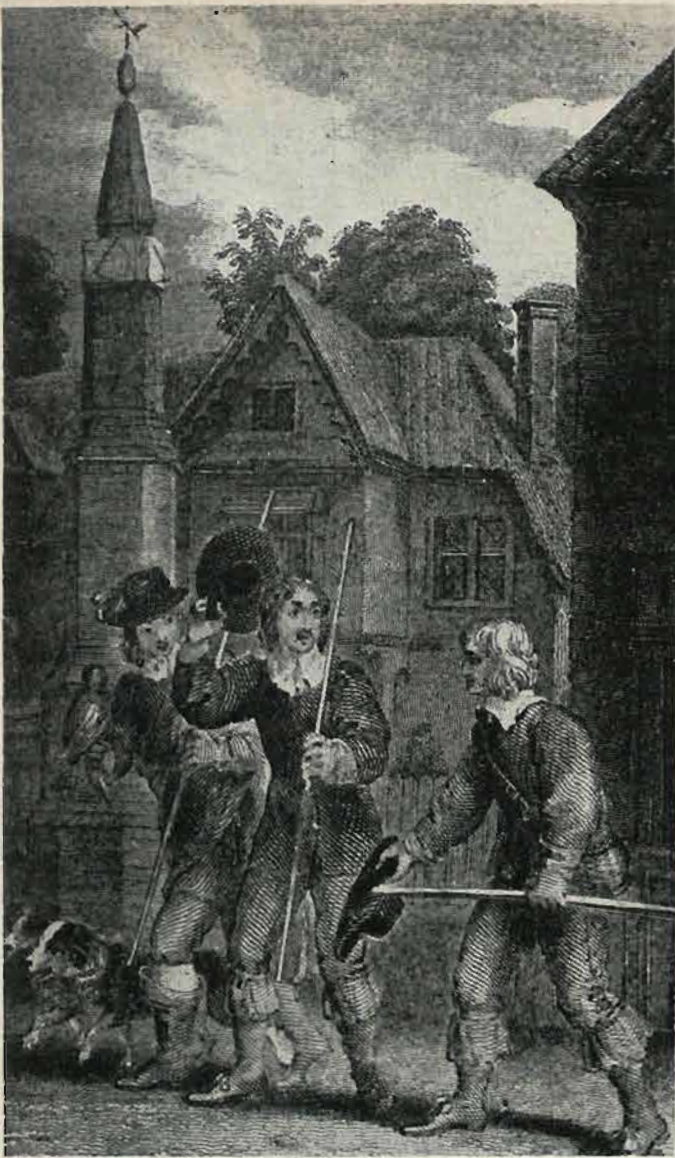


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GREETING AT TOTTENHAM HIGH CROSS. (Drawn by T. Stothard, R. A., and engraved by Fox.)

"You are well overtaken, Gentlemen, a good morning to you both." The SWAN is opposite Tottenham High Cross.

IT WILL BE remembered how, in the opening scenes of "The Compleat Angler," 'Piscator' cries out to his friends, 'Venator' and 'Auceps,' who are on their way to Hoddesdon, "You are well overtaken gentlemen. A good morning to you. I have stretched my legs up Tottenham Hill to overtake you, hoping your business may occasion you towards Ware," and how 'Auceps,' in reply, agrees to bear them company as far as "Theobalds" in Cheshunt.

In fact, the long street at Tottenham, now part of Greater London, is the direct road not only to "Theobalds" but to Enfield and Edmonton, and so on to Ware and Hatfield.

On reaching Tottenham Cross, 'Piscator' observes to his companions, 'Venator' and the 'Scholar':

"And pray let us now rest ourselves in this sweet shady arbour, which nature herself has woven with her own fine fingers; it is such a contexture of woodbines, sweet-briars, jessamine, and myrtle, and so interwoven as will secure us both from the sun's violent heat and from the approaching shower. And being sat down, I will require a part of your courtesies with a bottle of sack, milk, oranges and sugar, which, all put together, make a drink like nectar—indeed, too good for anybody but us anglers. And so, master, here is a full glass to you of that liquor; and when you have pledged me, I will repeat the verses I promised you."

Unfortunately the modern 'piscator' would be unable to find this picture of sweet shady arbours overgrown with wild flowers.

In 1840, a local magistrate, William Robinson, LL.D., wrote, in the enlarged edition of his History of Tottenham originally published in 1818:

"The Swan Inn' at Tottenham High Cross was the place of resort of Izaak Walton, the angler; he used to tarry here awhile before he went to the River Lea to fish, and again on his return. In the front of this house, in 1643, there was an harbour, the favourite resting-place of Walton, of which mention is made in "The Compleat Angler." . . ."

The author of "Rambles by Rivers," printed in 1844, when referring to Walton and the "Swan Inn" says:

"What a treat it must have been to be greeted by the old man with, 'Welcome to Tottenham High Cross,' . . . and to hear him proclaim his delight in simple rural enjoyment, in such lines as these:—

tarry and relax with

Izaak Walton

and His Friends

At The Swan



"Abused (deceived) mortals did you know
 Where joy, heart-ease, and comforts grow,
 You'd scorn proud towers,
 And seek them in these bowers;
 Where winds sometimes our woods perhaps may shake,
 But blustering care could never tempest make,
 Nor murmurs o'er come nigh us,
 Saving of fountains that glide by us."

In several of the illustrated editions of Walton's "*The Compleat Angler*" is included a view of Walton and a companion sitting in the arbour in the garden of the 'Swan' with a bowl of Venator's nectar before them.

The inn appears to have been popular with travellers in the past, and one writer says:

"It had an arbour in front, of such rural beauty, that it contributed to cheer the senses of travellers, as they sat and invigorated their bodies, with good things to be obtained at the inn."

Another writer says the "Swan" had "some ground at the side covered with turf, and was railed round. There stood a high white pole surmounted by a large white swan." This inn-sign has long been removed, and the general appearance of the 'Swan' has been modernized.

In 1610, "a singular duel occurred at Tottenham," and a record of the event was included in the parish register. No doubt Walton heard about this incident when he lingered at the establishment.

On Thursday, 8th November, several neighbours gathered at "the sign of the Swan," to "warme" or cheer John Syme, the landlord. (This may have been some form of 'house-warming'.) Two of the party, after dinner, went into a nearby field to settle a private quarrel, each using his pike-staff. One was killed, through a wound in his throat, and after the coroner's inquest, his body was buried on Saturday 10th. The entry states:

"Memorandum, that on Thursdaie, being the eight of November, there was a meeting of the neyghbours to warme Mr. John Syme, his house, the seigne of the Swanne, at High-Cross, among whom came John Nelham and John Whiston, whoe having some grudge or quarrell betwene them, diner being done, they two did use some private speches within themselves, taking leave of the companie,

(Turn to page 25)



PARTING AT TOTTENHAM (By T. Stothard, R. A. engraved by Fox). VENATOR: "... let's now rest ourselves in this sweet shady arbour, which nature herself has woven with her own fine fingers..." This scene at the SWAN, Tottenham, shows the mazer or wassail-bowl in which the punch was served and includes the top of Tottenham High Cross.

By FRANK A. KING

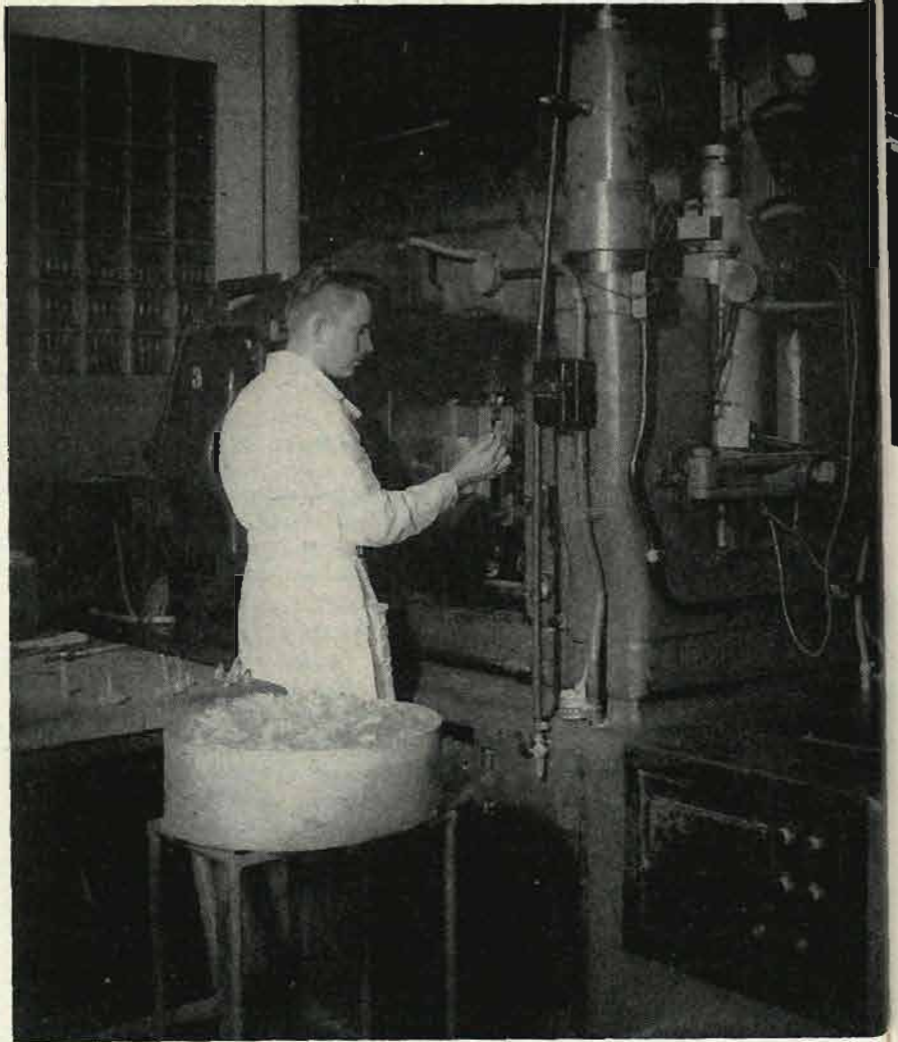
1953 marks the 300th anniversary of Izaak Walton's book, "*The Compleat Angler*," still recognized by anglers throughout the world as *THE FISHERMAN'S BIBLE*. We of the angling fraternity pause and relax a bit with Walton and his friends as a tribute to the angler of all anglers.

The SWAN as it appears today at Tottenham, Circa 1930 by courtesy Messrs. Taylor, Walker & Co., Ltd. of Stepney, London.



the art of plug making

By BEN C. ROBINSON



All Photos Courtesy—James Heddon's Sons

FIRST STEP IN MAKING PLUG is to mould bodies of the baits in a giant machine that requires a highly skilled workman to operate the intricate mechanisms.

ONE of the most intriguing yarns we can associate with our grand American fishing traditions is that of the veteran old Michigan angler who sat one day, far in the past, on the banks of a brushy stream where he had been fishing and puzzled his cagey mind how he was going to induce some smallmouth bass he could see below in the clear depths of an eddy to rise and strike his hook.

The story goes that out of the old anglers versatile brain there arose an idea that he put forthwith into practice. From one of the nearby thickets along this river our hero cut a dry stick of aspen. As we all know aspen is a good buoyant wood and used considerably in the North Woods by the guides and Indians for the whittling out of a pretty fair sort of ice fishing lure. This was, no doubt, why this particular wood was chosen by the man seeking a new way to allure a snooty smallmouth bass to rise in a flurry of foamy water and hit his idle hooks. At any rate that was the way he did it. He whittled a nice neat little wooden plug out, attached his hook by some simple trick and then made his line fast to the crude artificial wobbler and diver.

Inside a few minutes he had proven to himself there were more ways to intrigue a hungry bass than by offering it a worm, frog or a minnow. The dry bit of whittled aspen—I think I am right in assuming it was this wood that "Jim" used for his first wooden bass lure. What matters in this case was that this man had devised what is reputed to be the first real "plug" lure. The odd part of it is that his progeny, who are still making lures that wobble and dart and allure bass and pike and muskies and other game fish to rise savagely and determinedly and get hooked safely and soundly for the

(Continue article on page 24, more photos on pages 6 and 7)



CAREFULLY CONTROLLED PROCESS,
workers here are fusing together the
plastic bodies.



FINAL COATING OF LACQUER is given each
bait for added protection. This together with fact
all fittings are stainless steel insures long life
and full value with each lure.

ARTISTS tint and color each bait to represent and imitate
natural creatures on the diet list of fish. This department
is one of chief interest to visitors.



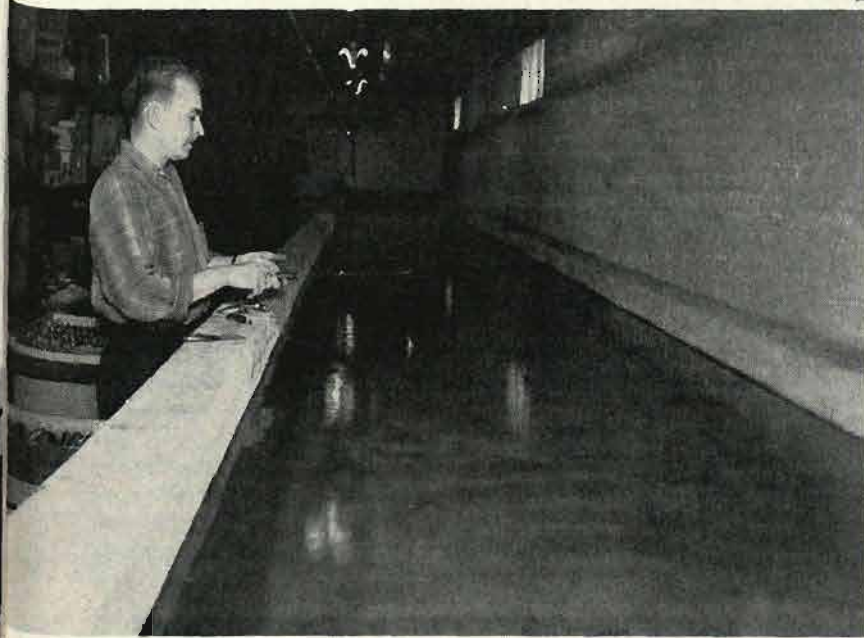


ASSEMBLY of the varied styles and patterns of lures for hooks, headpieces, guards and glass eyes is shown in this department where a woman's deft fingers make a speedy job of the most delicate operations. Note the electrically powered drills and screw driver machines on bench at lower corner.



HOOKS ARE SHARP and this young lady wears the badge of her trade, a strip of adhesive tape protecting the fingers as she sets the hooks in place. Good lighting is highly necessary in the bait-making industry, promotes good craftsmanship.

EXPERT FISHERMEN, the inspectors go over the lures with sharp eyes to see that every detail of the product is perfect from hook point to the final satiny finish.



TESTING TANK is the real final fishing test performed by the inspector with a cut down rod designed for the job. He spot checks each lot of baits off the assembly line to insure consistency of action. How'd you like to toss a lure around day after day?

PACKING 'EM UP appears a pleasurable job for workers in pleasant and comfortable surroundings. Neatly nesting in their boxes the lures are then shipped for distribution to sporting goods shops throughout the world, thence to anglers' bait kits, thence to the end of the anglers' lines, thence to be seized by a big lunger, thence to the pot . . .
MAYBE!





RIGHT after April Fool's day comes the opening of the trout season. It is a big production with special costumes and hat decorations, front page stories and mentions on radio and TV. Frowzy Momma turns out in the mid-watch to feed gravy-eyed Poppa who then goes outdoors for the first time since he was sewed into his winter underwear and roars over back roads in a haze of delusion that he is going fishing. What he gets is soaking wet, always; overstimulated with Old Busthead, usually; and occasionally a few limp white stockers that he

wouldn't consider for either food or fun if they didn't have the magic name, trout. Any why all this drama? *Glamour!*

A few days before the great American holiday, Fourth of July, the bass season opens in a crash of silence. Poppa is at the great American ball game unless Momma is taking his great American vacation, and him with it, at the seashore. No headlines, no radio, no TV, no drama; why? No *Glamour!*

Because to capture the public fancy, it isn't enough to be good, you gotta be glamorous! Take a big strong All-

American Beauty, curved the right way in the right places, talented, spirited, personality plus. She's got what it takes, you say; but she is just a fugitive from a washboard until you speed her up with one piece bathing suits, mink and Slave of Passion perfume, put her in beauty contests and write her up in Broadway columns as hard, fast, dangerous and irresistible. Then she'll be glamorous, and the public will go for her in a big way.

(Look, Buster; I've been twenty-eight years in the buildup business—that's how I know. Now don't interrupt me again.)

The black bass is the All-American Beauty and the brown trout is the skinny Glamour Babe of the piscatorial world. Both of them had good press agents, but one used glamour treatment and the other just stuck to facts. And you have to have the right treatment. Ike Walton was a good press agent, none better; but when he called the carp the queen of rivers, a very stately, a good and a subtle fish, he didn't build it up in the public mind a bit. He should have said it had sex appeal, or was the secret vice of Dukes.

Now let's see how the cards were stacked against the black bass, the All-American Beauty, inch for inch and pound for pound the gamest fish that swims.

Although it was the most widely distributed game fish in the United States and Canada, originally it was not native to the seaboard slope of the New England and Middle Atlantic states. Yet it was precisely in that section that the spirit of sport fishing was concentrated; there was the bulk

the all-american beauty

By SPARSE GREY HACKLE

and the glamour babe

of the population and, particularly, the cities. And then, as now, the fishing writers resided in the cities. And then as now it was the fishing writers who created and fostered the tradition of sport.

Our tradition of sport—hunting and fishing for fun, giving the quarry a fair chance, rather than for food or slaughter—is of British origin. The states mentioned were settled by an almost solidly middle-class English immigration—farmers, mechanics, merchants, professional men. It was the Southern states that were settled by the gentry.

All the British loved sport, but in the earlier days fishing was the field sport of the middle classes; there was no public shooting for them, but the great landowners did not begin to post their waters until around 1890 when growing national wealth and increased fishing pressure made middle-class people willing and able to pay for exclusive fishing rights. Upland and waterfowl gunning, deer stalking and hunting to hounds were the sports of the gentry. So in this country the Northerners fished and the Southerners hunted and hounded. The West was pioneer country where sport was unknown and men hunted and fished only for food, slaughtering ducks with punt guns and yanking in fish with billiard cue rods. However, there was one exception, as we shall see.

In 1854 a railroad man named Schriver and some friends caught bass in a tributary of the Ohio, carried them over the Alleghenies in a perforated pail hung in the water tank of a B. & O. locomotive tender, and released them at Cumberland, Md., in a canal basin which had access to the Potomac River. This is supposed to have been the first stocking of bass in Maryland. Other transplantations were Massachusetts, 1850; Connecticut, 1852-3; New Hampshire, 1864-5; Maine, 1869, the Susquehanna at Harrisburg, 1869, Rhode Island 1871, the Delaware 1873.

A young Baltimorean, Dr. James A. Henshall had his curiosity aroused by the tale of the railroad-riding bass, and soon afterward he saw his first black bass in the Little Miami River in Cincinnati. In this section of Ohio and Kentucky he found fishermen using ten-foot slender rods of native whole cane, with Frankfort reels—what we now call the bait-casting type—

made with watchlike precision by Meek & Milam, mounted on grooved reel seats, and strung with the lightest "sea grass"—braided raw silk—lines. They cast and played their fish from the reel in a fishing style curiously like the modern spinning-reel fishing. It was almost all stream fishing, and with that light, sensitive tackle it afforded a world of sport. This was the only place in America where the black bass was given a sporting chance.

The significant thing is that this little oasis of sportsmanship in a wilderness of pot-fishing had its source in Pennsylvania, then and perhaps now the greatest sporting state in the Union. It was a mechanic (tradition says a jeweler) from Pennsylvania who made the first free-running "Kentucky" reel and invented the way to use it.

Dr. Henshall fell in love with the black bass at first sight and spent the rest of his life trying to make good his early prediction that it would become "the leading game fish of America." He almost succeeded. He fought to get back for the bass its original scientific name, and to get it known by its proper name instead of, or as well as, half a hundred local names. He extolled its sporting qualities. But he saw that the heavy tackle was the real enemy of the fish's reputation, and he campaigned unceasingly for the use of sporting tackle such as he had seen used in Kentucky, and designed rods and lures which sold widely under his name.

Some twenty years after he saw his first bass, the Doctor brought out his classic, *The Book of the Black Bass*, in

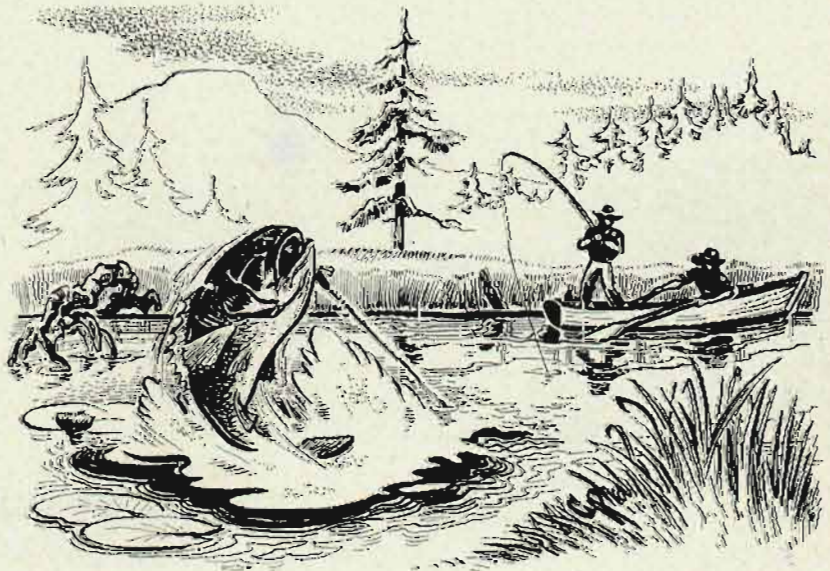
which he made his famous "inch for inch and pound for pound" statement. The book was very popular in its day, went through a number of editions, and if you have not read it you have missed the best book ever written on the black bass. But when the Doctor pointed out in his foreword that this was a practical book and did not contain "those rhetorical flights, poetic descriptions or entertaining accounts and pleasing illustrations of the pleasures and vicissitudes of angling"—when he said that, he revealed how little he understood about human nature.

As I said, the Doctor almost made it. In fact, he thought he had, when he wrote in the preface to the revised edition of his book:

"It is pleasing and comforting to think that my efforts in behalf of the black bass for fifty years have not been in vain; for now, in this year of the Lord 1923, after the lapse of a century the black bass has come into its inheritance and is acknowledged, inch for inch and pound for pound the gamest fish that swims."

He was almost right. What he did not understand was that the condition which had principally helped him was about to turn against him. That condition he noted when, in a symposium entitled *American Game Fishes*, he wrote in 1892:

"Of course, the deplorable scarcity of brook trout fishing, and the continual and inevitable decrease of that noble game fish in our devastated and polluted trout streams, have a great deal to do with the manifest interest and pronounced favor with which the
(Turn to page 26)



spin fishing for bass

in lake and stream

By RAY OVINGTON

Author of the current series of articles in *Hunting & Fishing Magazine* and of a book soon to be published by The Stackpole Company.



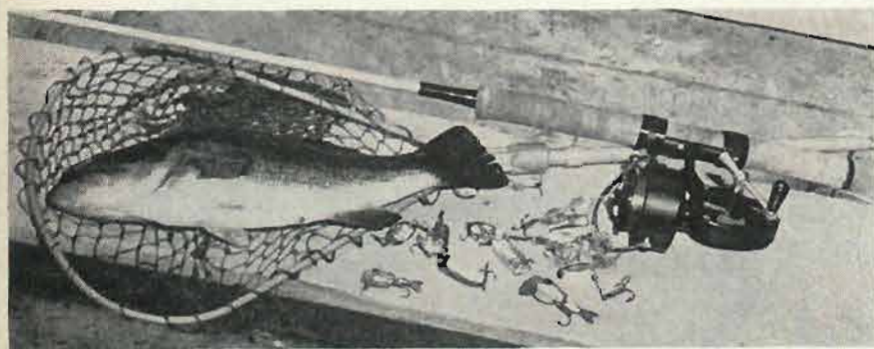
BIG ONES are fooled into striking on the small lures offered in every shape and size for spinning outfits.

YOU HEAR a lot about spinning tackle these days and what a killing rig it is. Most of the stories about it are surprising until you, yourself, go forth to fish with a well balanced spinning rig, and the correct lures for the type of fishing to be done. You'll be a lot better off than with the conventional bait casting outfit for many reasons. Lighter lures can be used, lighter line and rod, meaning more fun from the fish, more excitement in striking, playing and landing. You'll

cast further with no fears of a backlash. You have interchangeable spools for use with various weight lures. With most of the lighter rods you can cast light bass bugs if the choice comes up to change over from the heavy stuff. If you are a beginner at fishing, you can learn to cast a spinning outfit in minutes. If you are a seasoned angler, your chances of taking a better number of fish and bigger ones becomes readily apparent.

Spinning is deadly in the hands of the rank tyro, and something worse in the hands of experience. And, contrary to many opinions, spinning can be just as accurate as bait casting. Given a well balanced outfit, that is, a rod built for specific weight lures equipped with a line to get the best distance for that lure, the angler can spot cast with extreme accuracy. The big trick is in making a direct cast to the target, rather than the common type of high aerial delivery. Cast overhand and time the cast so that the lure sails straight out . . . that is all there is to it. Refinements come later.

Part of the refinements come with selecting the right tackle. A few years ago when spinning first began to catch the fancy of American anglers, there wasn't much choice of equipment. Lures and lines left much to be desired. Today, that picture has changed. One has to keep making trips to the tackle



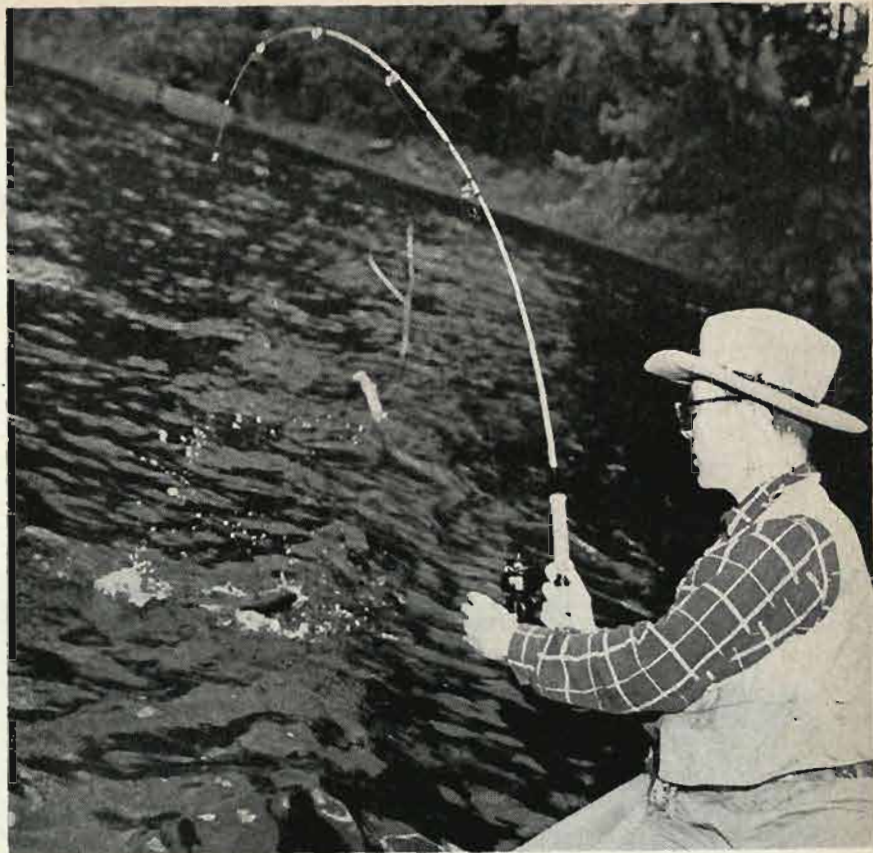
VARIETY OF LURES in tempting actions and patterns are now available. The spinning outfit has really come into its own in tangling with old bronzeback. Bait fishing is made easier, too, with longer casts, no backlashes and little danger of throwing lightly hooked bait from the hooks.

PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER

store to find out what is the latest development. The domestic reels vie for superiority with the foreign imports . . . nylon and other gut substitutes such as Platyl in monofilament and braided form argue their merits for your attention. The grassfire of acceptance, typical of American verve is booming the business of manufacturing and selling tackle . . . good, bad, and mediocre. A lot of good tackle is misfitted to the other units of the rig and other mistakes are rampant among both uninformed tackle dealers and customers alike. To help clarify this situation, here are a few rules and tips to follow in purchasing a rig and then we can proceed to catch a bass or two with hints on methods.

(1) For fresh water bass fishing, the rod should be stout enough to handle the smaller standard and midget plugs and spoons. It can be of tubular glass or bamboo and not less than 6 feet nor more than 7. Shorter they lack sufficient backbone and longer are bound to be whippy in the medium and lighter weights, or strengths I should say, for weight in glass rods is not the determining factor of action. The bass spinning rod must be able to cast plugs accurately, and of equal importance, it must be fast enough in the tip to set a hook smartly into the tough mouth of the bass, or the number of fish that hit and escape will be large. (It is bad enough even in conventional bass plug rod fishing.) The line guides should be of the best quality and the price of the rod will give you an idea here. Remember that nylon wears guides . . . soft ones quicker than hard ones. A set of guides of best quality will cost in the neighborhood of 3 or 4 dollars . . . so it is economy to buy a rod with them already on. Poor guides will wear like a file in a season of normal fishing.

The line, whether it be monofilament or braided nylon, should test at least four pounds but need not be heavier than six. To the experienced bait caster, this may seem like a very light line test, but remember, the tip and the action of the spinning rod, with its greater length and resiliency, will greatly cushion the strike of a bass, thereby allowing a line of less test. Why use this lighter line? It handles better on cast and will not tend to loop off the spool in a bunch, especially if the line is at all stiff. Also, with spinning tackle, the lighter lures can be used, which scare the



RANK TYRO can learn art of spinning in short time, with experience can shoot lures and baits under overhanging trees, around brush, stumps and lily pads the hangouts of big bass. Here's a spinning outfit up against a nice lunker. Brother, this is livin'!

fish less on the drop. In putting the line on the reel, always spool it on in a direct line like the treads on a tractor. Do not run it on any other way or it will start its life with a twist. A twisted spinning line will become useless in no time. Don't under fill or over fill the spool. If it is underfilled, the line will cause friction as it slips over the spool lip. If it is overfilled it will spill off in loops and so tangle.

In the lure department, you have a wide selection from midget plugs . . . junior editions of the famous bass getters of old. You also have midget spoons and spinners and finally the class of lures a mile wide considered "spinning lures." These are anything from glorified spinners and blades to minnowlike revolving jobs and wobblers. Some are designed for deep fishing and can be either cast in deep water or trolled. Others are strictly surface and fluttering lures for use in the shallows. Then you have the weighted flies such as bucktails and streamers, and the famed class known as bass bugs and midget popping plugs. Yes, spinning lures embrace the entire field and your spinning rig will cast them all further, especially the light ones, as accurately as any rig you

ever used, with never a backlash worry, a special boon to night fishermen.

In tackle operation, the spinning reel comes with an adjustable drag mechanism with which you should be very familiar. To learn how to use it, set up the tackle and attach the line to a stationary object. Have the drag practically off and bend the rod against the imaginary fish. The drag will release line easily. Gradually tighten the drag, striking once in a while to get the feel of the release and as a gauge on what pressure the rig will stand. You'll be surprised at how much the thin low test line will take, thanks to the design of the spinning rod. Now you feel safe with the lightest line you ever used. Your drag is now set for fishing.

Also on your reel is an anti-reverse mechanism . . . used when you are trolling and put into effect as soon as a fish hits. This will disengage the reel handle as the line is going out due to the pull of the fish, eliminating handle spin entirely, but leaves it in contact when you want to reel him in to maintain the strain. Strike the fish harder with your spinning rod and have no fear . . . the drag will save

(Turn to page 25)

PORK CHUNK

a surface lure of



Big bass water with plenty of weeds and pads where pork chunk pays big dividends.

PORK CHUNK, an old-fashioned surface lure, is practically unknown and little used today, but fished with a spinning rod this lure again becomes the consistent top-water bass producer the old-timers remember.

Years ago it was common practice to fish pork chunk on the surface with a cane pole some twelve or fourteen feet long. The method was simple but effective. A heavy line of about the

same length was attached to the pole and a large hook tied to the line. A piece of pork chunk shaped like a frog was placed on the hook and completed the rig. The angler then cast to likely looking spots and simply skittered the chunk over the surface by swinging the pole. The natural lifelike action of the chunk over the water's top caused the downfall of many a bass in those days.

This method of fishing has pretty well vanished and most modern anglers don't think of pork rind as a surface lure but rather as an underwater lure used in conjunction with spinners and spoons. The explanation is simple. Pork chunk by itself is too light to use with any of the standard casting rods, with the exception of the tournament rods over six feet, and too heavy for use with a fly rod.

PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER

Grandad's day

GOES MODERN

By ROGER K. CONANT

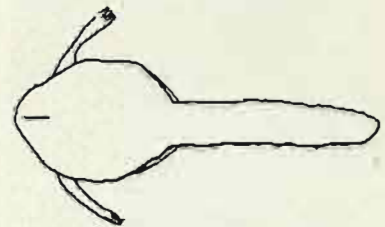
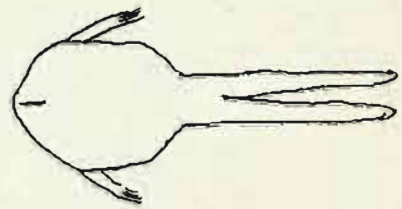
However, chunk can be fished with spinning tackle quite easily, and when maneuvered properly, becomes a deadly surface lure for bass.

I became acquainted with pork chunk two summers ago. Two of us had combed the shore lines of a local reservoir for over two hours with our spinning rods, using midget surface plugs. Eddie, in this time, had two half-hearted strikes and missed both, and I hadn't had so much as a touch. Several weeks previous I had read of chunk being used as a surface lure for bass and had bought some. These were thrown into my tackle bag and promptly forgotten. This particular morning I suddenly remembered the pork chunk and decided to give it a trial. The surface plug I had been using was quickly replaced with a large weedless hook and a pork rind frog. It took a few minutes to acquire the knack of keeping it on the surface, but this was soon mastered. My first real cast was along the shore of a shallow bay that had previously been fished with conventional surface plugs without results. The chunk hit the

water about a foot from shore and I started working it back parallel to the land's edge. The retrieve was about complete when a bass appeared from nowhere and took the chunk with a rush. I was so surprised I missed him by a country mile. The next cast was a repetition of the first, and in the following half hour I had eleven strikes and landed four nice fish, all in the two-pound class. By this time Eddie had caught up to me and was watching the action with his mouth hanging open.

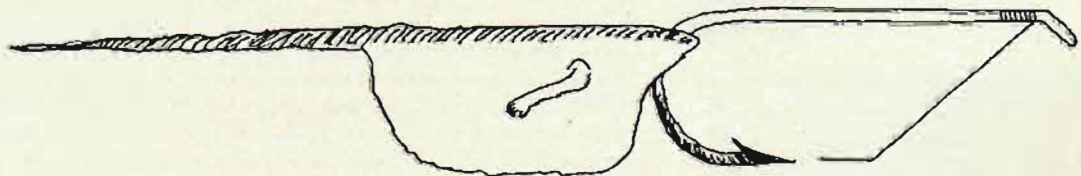
Thinking perhaps this unexpected success was an accident, I tried the pork again the following weekend with practically the same results. In two hours of fishing twenty-one bass were hooked. Eleven of these were landed and released. All of them were two

(Turn to page 27)



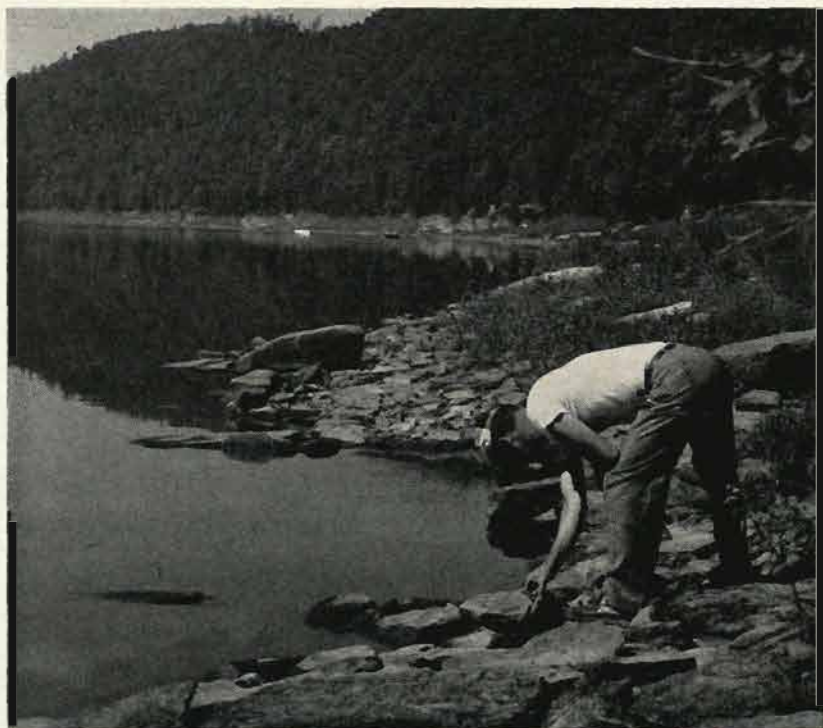
Two most common types of pork frogs. Writer has found one with split tail most effective.

Correct method of placing pork chunk on weedless hook.



bait fishing for BASS

By DON SHINER



No need to carry bait when bass fishing. Plenty of bait to be found in fields and shoreline. Grasshoppers, worms, crawfish, salamanders, minnows and hellgrammites plus many others offer a variety of bait without disturbing river or creek bottom often harmful to fish life.



Bass like variety, sometimes prefer one over the other. Shown here are pollywog, salamander, dragonfly nymph, crickets grub worms and perch belly fins. Smallmouths go for 'em!

TODAY the emphasis on smallmouth bass fishing is placed on artificial lures with the casting and trolling techniques well publicized in every fishing journal. This method of angling for bass provides great creels of enjoyment for anglers, but these decorated lures should not be stressed continually, lest the fine art of bait fishing be forgotten. Indeed, it is refreshing to skip store-purchased hardware and spend a quiet afternoon along a stream bait fishing.

A great many baits are used to catch bass in the streams of Pennsylvania and though anglers overburden themselves carrying large assortments of baits, it is unnecessary. Part of the great fun of bait fishing is in searching fields and along stream banks for bait. All the necessary baits are found right along the stream, there for the anglers to use as they need them. A wise angler, however, will take no more bait than he will use, leave trout streams undisturbed. Also use extreme care not to ruin the contour of the

creek bottom by carelessly upending rocks.

Hellgrammites are available under the stones on the shoreline or in the riffles; worms can be dug in the sod banks; grasshoppers and crickets can be caught in nearby fields; caterpillars picked from the limbs of willow trees growing nearby; salamanders or so-called lizards are plentiful in the small springs and runs that enter the main stream; pollywogs, frogs, minnows, crayfish and waterworms are everywhere along the banks; grub worms are found in rotted tree stumps and dozens of other baits, too numerous to mention, are readily available to fishermen, making it unnecessary to carry any while fishing.

Good baits and wise use of them play an important role in bass fishing. These bronze-colored gamesters prefer lively baits and when they find one, act much like barnyard chickens. When the latter finds a tidbit, it selfishly grabs the morsel and runs away from the flock to a secluded spot where it

stops to eat. Bass are the same. Give them a wiggling worm, a hellgrammite or catstone and they will stage a run. At a selected spot, they will turn and swallow the bait. Unless given the freedom to make this first run few bass will be creeled.

Smallmouth bass are found in a variety of waterways. They are found in small creeks, in rivers and in sheltered ponds and lakes, and there are methods of bait fishing to suit this variety of water.

Small Creeks

Many fishermen prefer angling for bass in small creeks and streams, enjoying the good angling found in the deep riffles and the short walks between pools. They become impressed with the strong fighting spirit displayed by the creek bass along with intimate glimpses of nature disclosed to them along the stream while searching for bait.

When bass season opens, the creeks are normally low and clear, giving the bass increased vision for detecting fishermen at greater distances. They are quick to become alarmed at the slightest vibration caused by anglers wading carelessly in the water. But by approaching cautiously, and gently dropping the bait into the riffles and shaded pools, it isn't long until the rod bends happily with the weight of a hefty bass.

Creek bass take up residences near big rocks, log jams and undercut banks. When a bass is caught from a particular pool another bass will usually move in and take up claims there. Available food, natural shelter, depth of water, temperature and supply of oxygen play vital roles in the selection of a home. A location that appeals to one bass will appeal later to another.

Large Rivers

Large streams are also favorite haunts of bass and many fishermen. In this type stream bass lie near rocky ledges, gravel bottoms and natural obstructions that break the force of the current and provide a comfortable supply of oxygen. Riffles passing over large rocks, slate ledges, rock formations in eel walls and quiet pools hold bass.

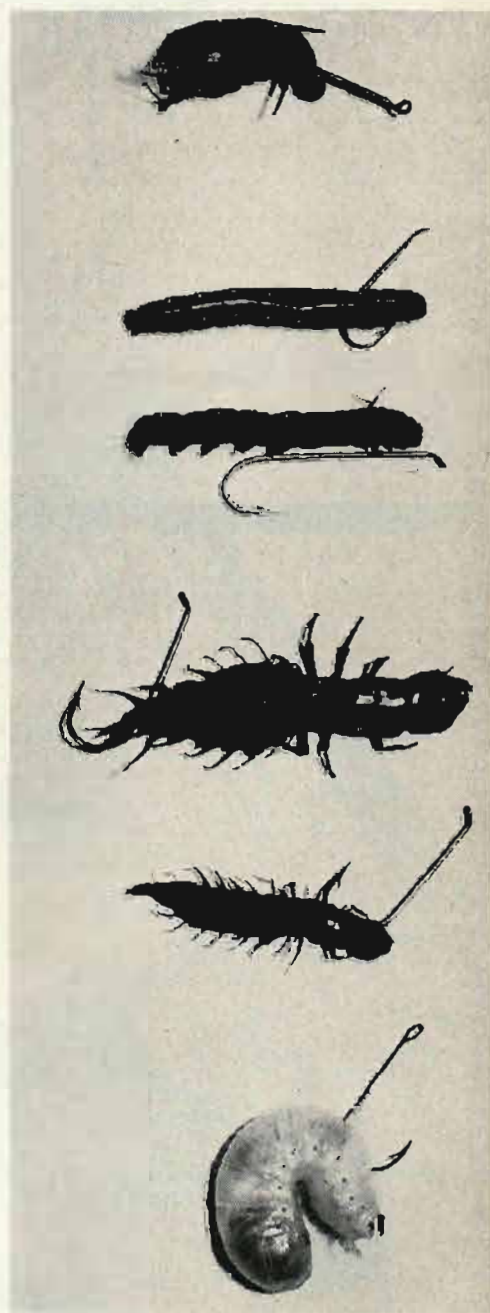
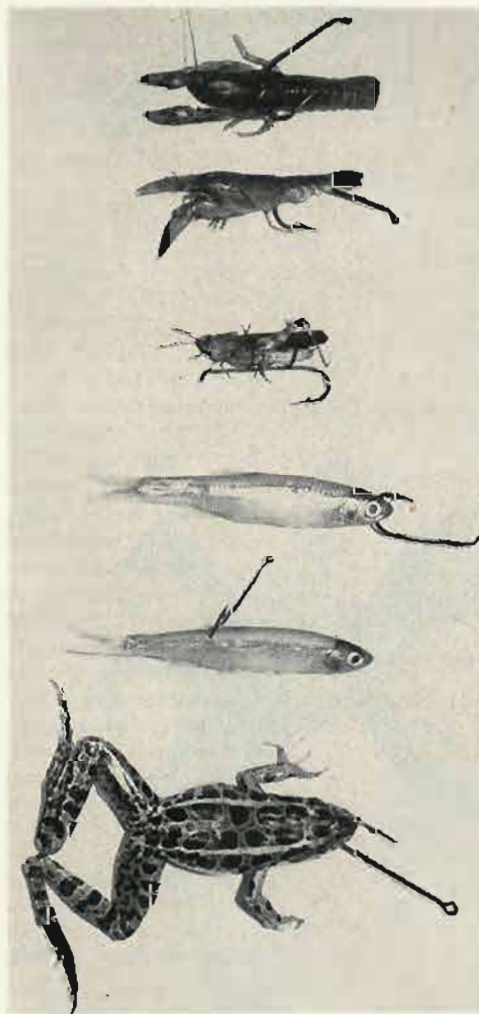
Early morning and late evening finds the bass feeding in riffles, taking most baits that drift past. As the heat of the day increases, they retreat to deeper pools, taking shelter near rock ledges and sand bars. Wading in the stream is necessary to reach these natural locations. Waders are convenient but hot for this big water bass fishing, and many prefer an old suit of clothing and sneakers.

Another popular method of bait fishing for bass is drift fishing. On such rivers as the Delaware and Susquehanna, many fishermen motor up-

stream for a few miles, then relax while drifting leisurely with the current while baited lines trail behind the boat. Parties of bass fishermen make these float trips together, enjoying the companionship and gaiety of numbers.

Hellgrammites, catfish or mad toms, salamanders and night crawlers as well as other baits are drifted behind the boat on the float trip downstream. Occasionally the party may anchor at a favorite eddy for an hour of still fishing, then the downstream trip is resumed. One of the highlights of such an

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Here's how to place baits on the hook. Top right shows June bug with hook impaled through body; caterpillars hooked lightly under skin or wired to hook; hellgrammites hooked gently under the collar or very lightly through skin of tail; and the grub worm. Left column top, shows methods of hooking crawfish; grasshopper wired to hook can be used as floating bait; minnows hooked through both lips or under skin beyond dorsal fin; and frog.

Fly

... via pli

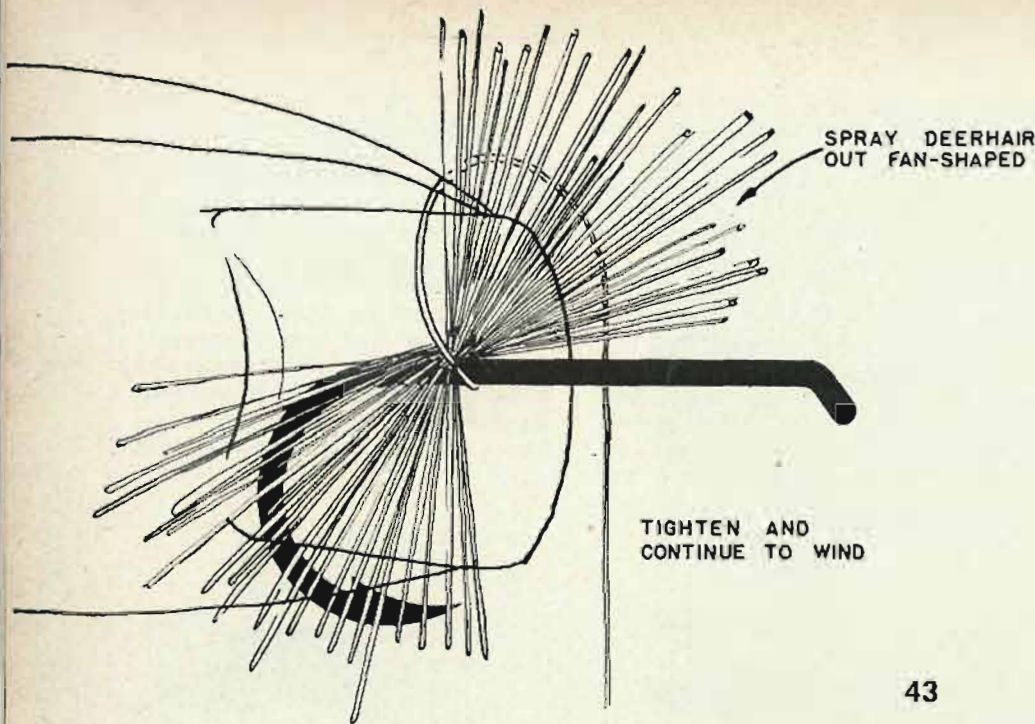
FINA SER.

By CHAR

Associate Professor, School of
The Pennsylvania State

Illustrated by E.

PGS



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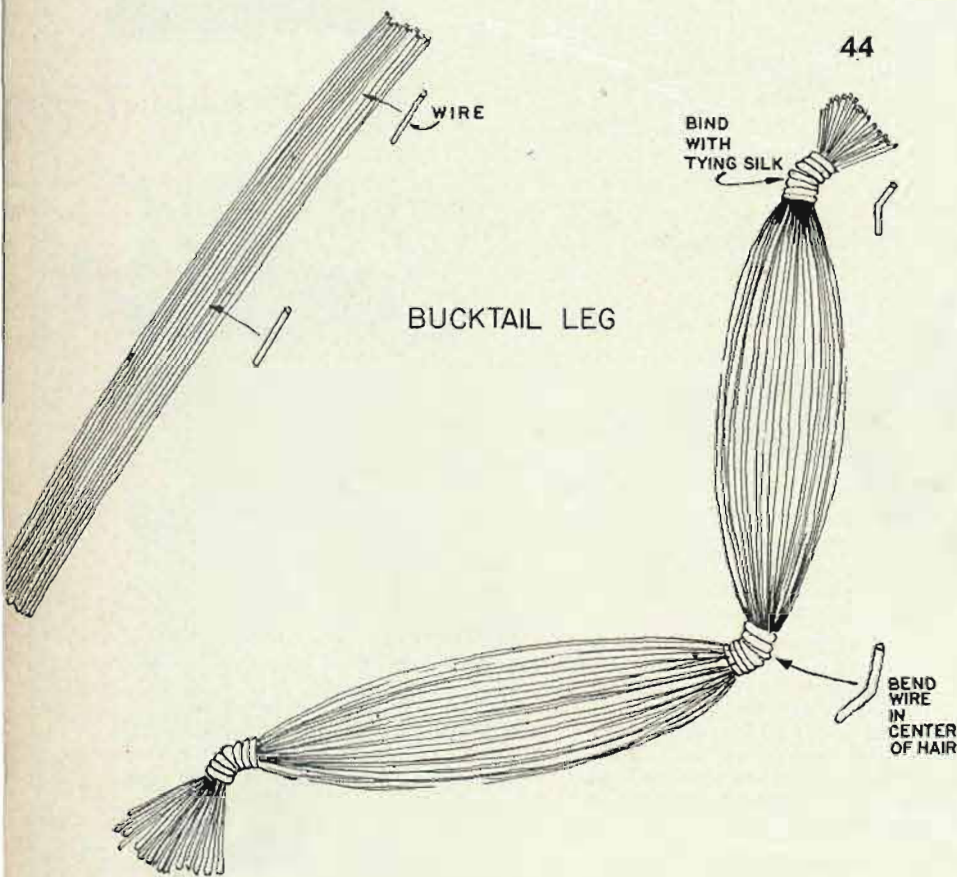
THE name Bass Bug is quite misleading to the tyro. He usually associates these lures with the large- and small-mouth black bass. It is quite true these lures were first constructed to take bass; but now they are universally used for all species of fresh or salt water fish that will take a lure on the surface of the water. Considering the great number of fish that will strike these large fly-rod bugs, it is only natural there should be a countless number on the market today.

There is one characteristic which distinguishes the "bugs" from fly-rod plugs. Hair or feathers used separately or together are part of the construction of the "bugs," whereas fly-rod plugs are usually made conspicuous by their absence.

Any fly tyer who is able to tie trout flies will find the bass bugs quite simple to make. Even though there are many different patterns, the techniques of constructing these various lures are quite similar. In this article I will cover only hair-bodied and cork-bodied lures. They are typical examples and the tyer who can tie or construct the ones illustrated should be able to imitate any of the others without much difficulty.

There are a few important fundamentals that should be remembered when making "bugs." First, be sure you have sufficient hooking space. By this I mean plenty of space between the body and the barb of the hook. If too little of the gap of the hook is exposed, it is very difficult to hook the fish. In addition the bug, in most cases, will not ride as it should with the hook in the water.

PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER



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Tying

Simplified methods

SERIES

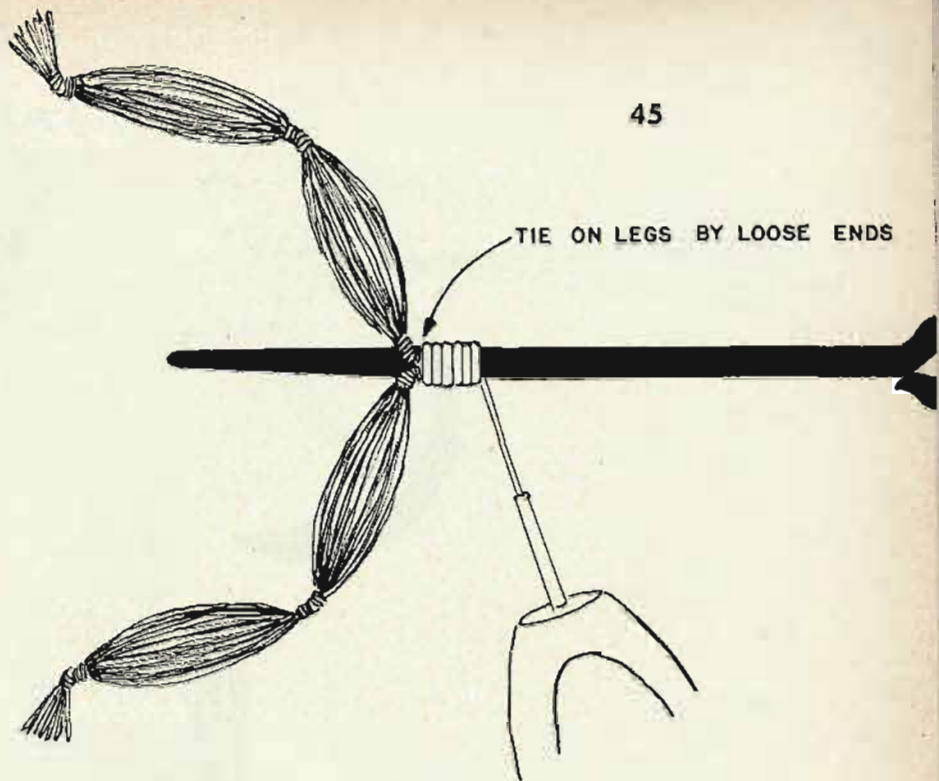
HARVEY

Physical Education and Athletics
State College

E. Cartey

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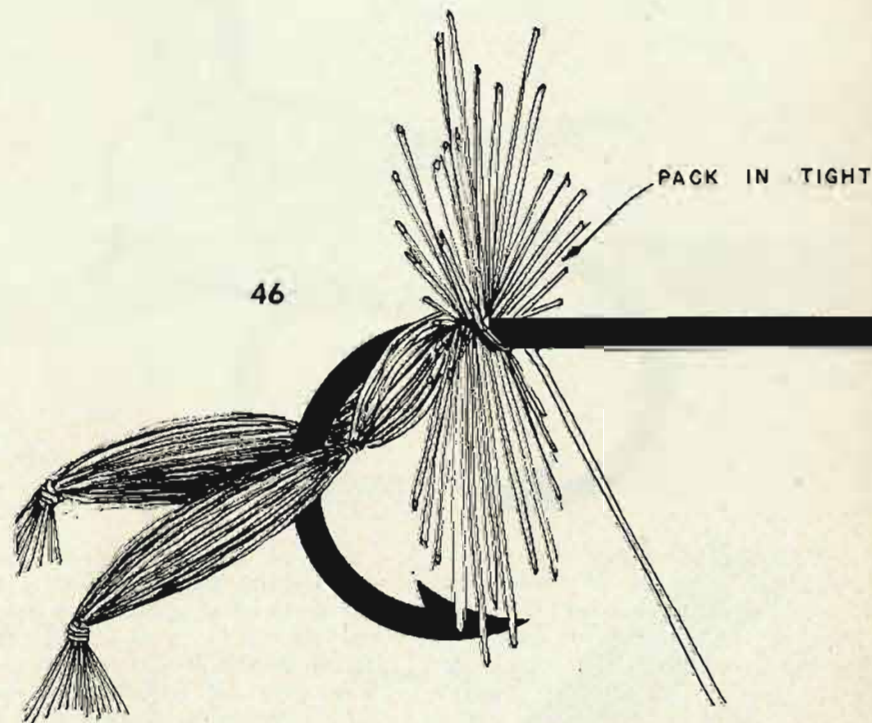
When tying "bugs" for your own use, construct them so they will work well with the rod, or rods, you intend to fish with. There is nothing more annoying than to try to fish with bugs so large they cannot be manipulated or cast properly. Beginners commonly make this mistake.

If you are duplicating a lure, be as exact as is possible. No doubt the original was satisfactory in balance and action and any slight change may ruin the action or floating qualities. Of course, many lures can be improved upon but the beginner does not yet know the proper proportion and the mechanics of construction.

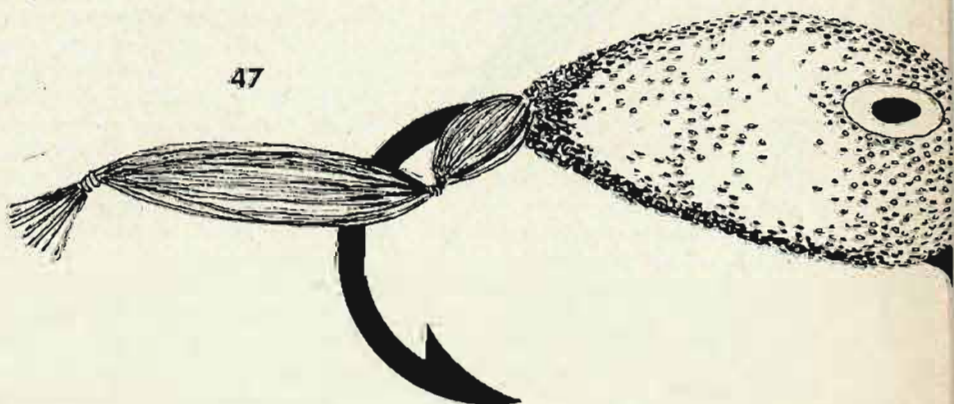
Hollow Hair Bugs

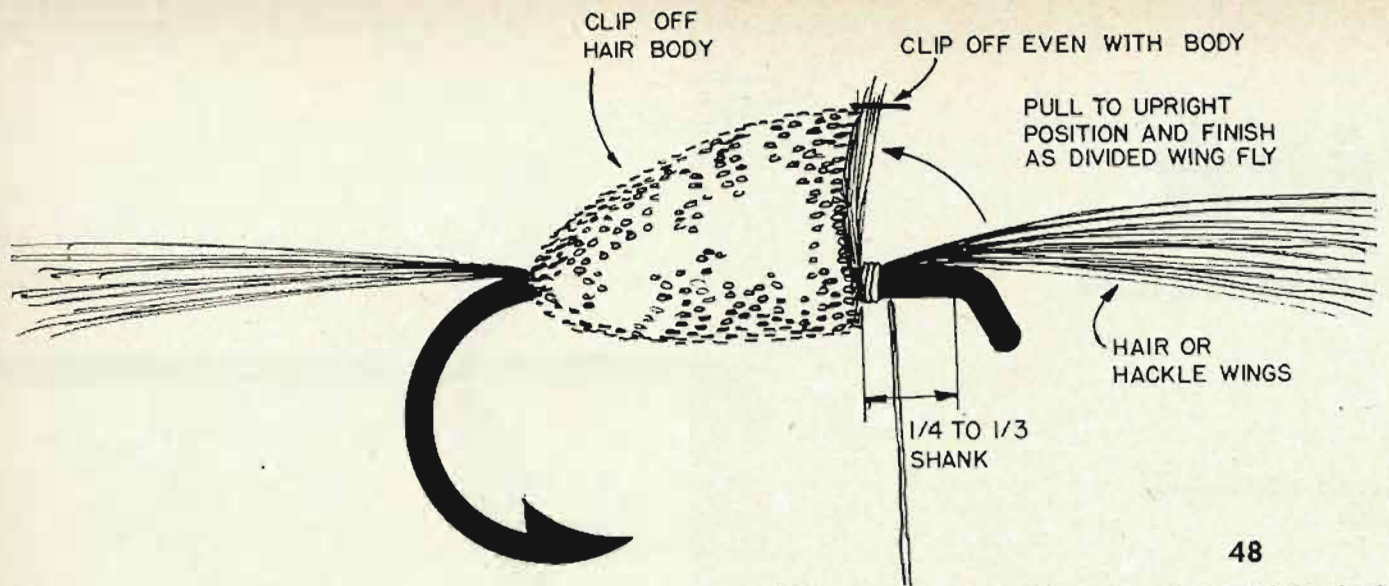
Antelope, big horn sheep, caribou, deer, elk, moose and reindeer all have hollow hair that can be used for hair bugs. However, one must remember that all the hair from any one hide does not spin on equally well. This is especially true with white tail deer hair. Select only the coarsest hair. Hair from the neck and back is quite fine and nearly impossible to spin; but is excellent for the wings. Beginners should remember that any hollow hair will spin easier on the bare shank of the hook than it will if the shank is covered with tying thread. The size of the tying thread one uses is usually determined by the size of the bunches of hair to be spun on the hook. The more hair one uses, the heavier the thread must be, and vice versa. Be sure the thread is heavy enough for the work you want it to do. It is well for the beginner to practice spinning on the hair before starting to tie hair bugs. Practice until the hair spins on

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smoothly and evenly around the shank of the hook. Diagram No. 43 illustrates how this is done.

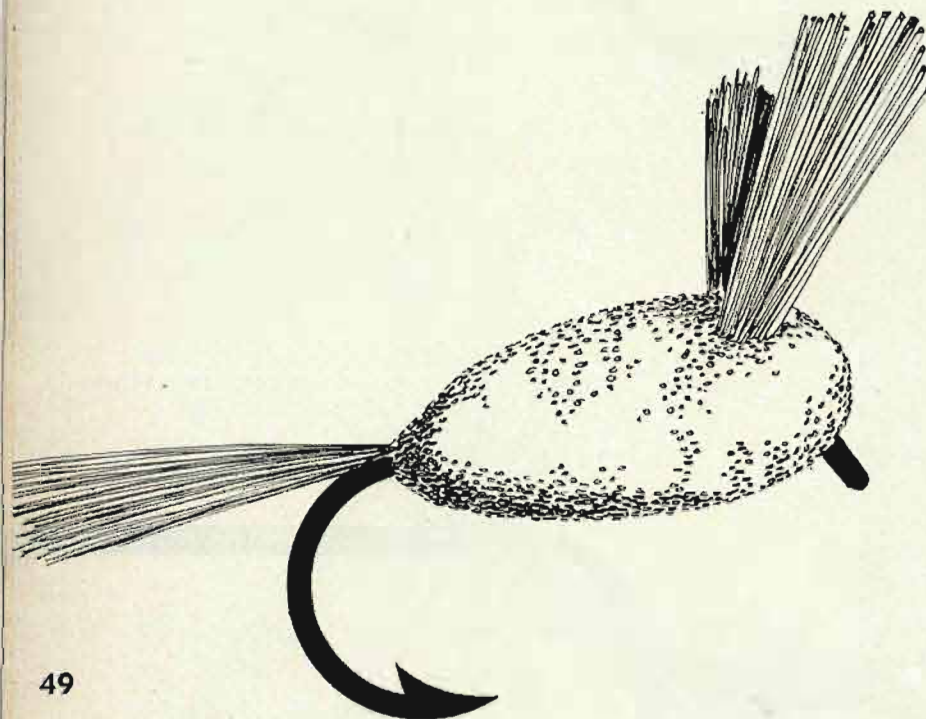
First secure tying thread at the bend of the hook, cut a small bunch of hair from hide and hold on hook as illustrated. You should spread the hair out into a fan-shape by shifting thumb and finger. Now take one or two (I prefer one) loose turns of tying thread around hair where it is in contact with hook. Draw up on the tying thread until the hair starts to flare out, then let go of the hair and quickly make several more turns passing the thread among the hairs. Now wind tying thread to the front of hair. Next, hold at rear of spun hair with thumb and finger of left hand to keep hair from moving on shank; then with thumb and finger of right hand push hair together so that it will be as compact as possible. Repeat this process until shank of hook is covered or until you are satisfied you have mastered the technique.

Diagram No. 44

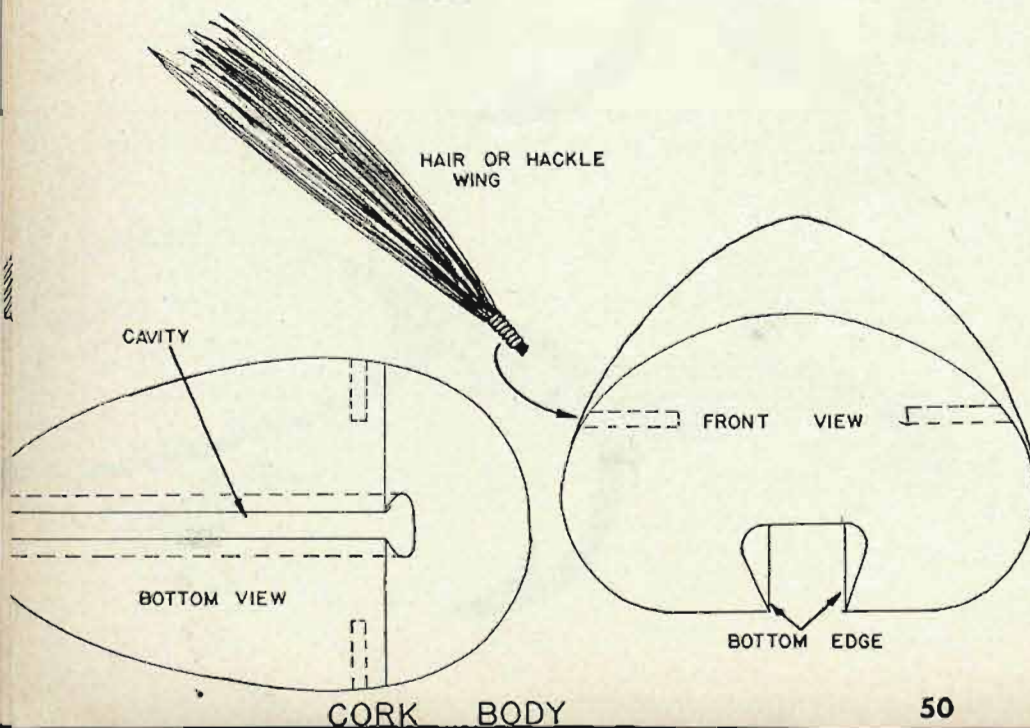
This diagram illustrates one method of making legs for a hair frog. Here deer tail hair is used. Select hair long enough for the legs, then pull out all short hair and even up the long ones. Take a piece of spring steel wire and insert in the center of the hair as illustrated. Wind over tightly as illustrated; then lacquer and bend as desired. Some tyers only insert wire in the knee joint, others in all three joints. The illustration shows my preference. This Diagram shows only one leg. Two are of course needed.

Diagram No. 45

Diagram No. 45 illustrates how and where the legs are tied on the hook. Secure tying thread just in front of bend, then lacquer. Now tie top end of each leg to hook. After the legs are secured, one may run the tying thread to the rear of the legs and wedge the



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thread tight against the legs to make them stand out at a wider angle. This spread, of course, is optional. Cover all windings with lacquer.

Diagram No. 46

This diagram shows the first bunch of hair spun on the hook after the legs have been tied on. I might add that the first bunch or two of hair is the most difficult to spin on smoothly because of the tying thread on the shank. Be sure the hair is packed tight up against the legs. Repeat, spinning hair until the bare shank is covered with the desired amount. It is a good idea to apply a drop of lacquer or liquid cement to the shank where the hair contacts after each bunch of hair is spun on. This will help keep it from twisting on the shank of the hook.

Diagram No. 47

One may go all out with his artistic sense when trimming hair frogs. I have never found that looks added very much to the fish-taking qualities of the frog. Diagram No. 47 just suggests one shape to trim the frog. Eyes may be added or built up with plastic and painted as desired.

Diagram No. 48

Diagram No. 48 illustrates proportioning of hair bugs. Single tail is tied on, then hair spun on up to one-fourth or one-third distance from the eye. Trim to desired shape. Tie in wings as illustrated. Wings are then divided as shown in Diagram No. 31 (April issue of *Angler*). Spin additional hair up to the eye of hook and trim.

Diagram No. 49

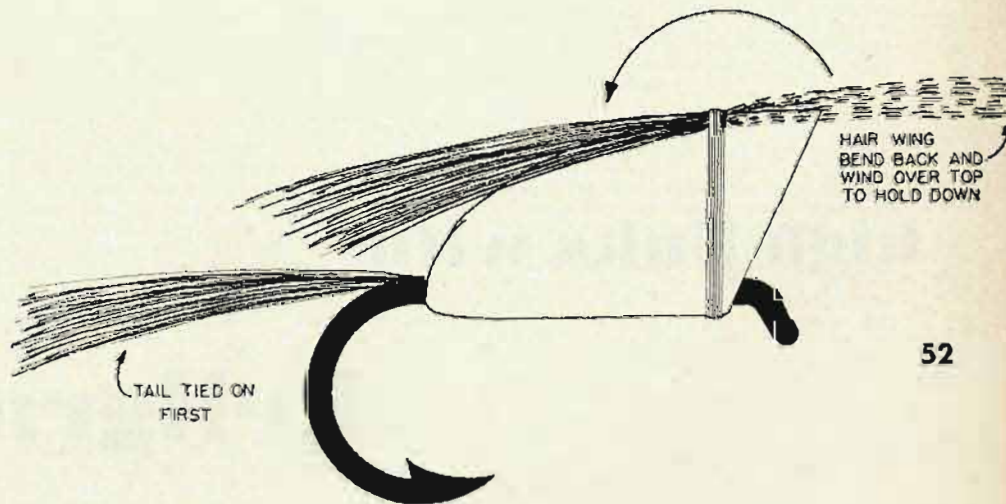
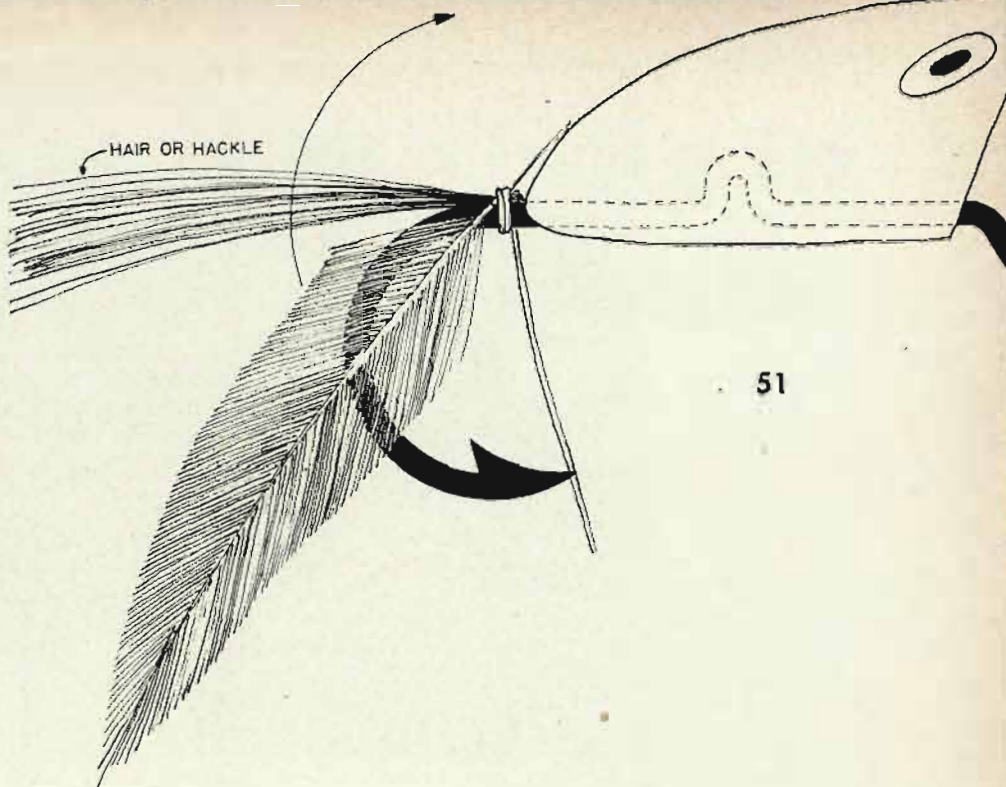
Some tyers spin on exceptionally long hair when they get to the point where they want the wings; then when trimming the body, they just leave bunches of long hair for the wings. If the hair is uneven, it may be trimmed as illustrated. The wings may be tied or clipped at any angle on the body.

Cork Bodied Bugs

Diagrams No. 50, 51, 52

There are many different shapes and patterns of cork bodied bugs. Diagram No. 50 illustrates the steps in preparing a cork body for the hook. Bodies may be shaped by hand from cork cylinders; but one can purchase them already shaped just about as cheaply as the cost of the cylinders.

If you are going to make a number of bugs, it is best to prepare all the cork bodies in advance. Slots in the bottom may be cut with a razor or



sawed; or small files may be used. I usually shape my slots as illustrated, making the entrance to the cavity just large enough to slip the hook into place. If the bug is to have a tail, tie it on the shank first and cover windings with lacquer or cement. Humpshanked hooks are best to use for cork bugs as they keep the body from turning on the shank.

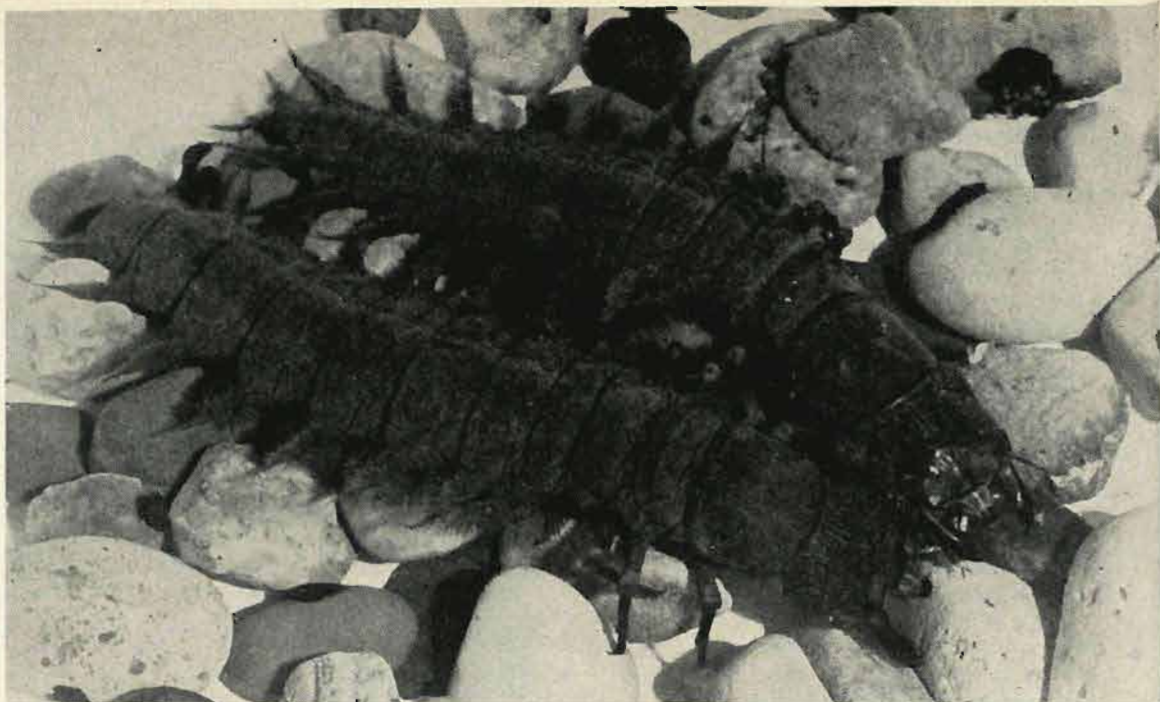
Many different cements are available but be sure to use one of good quality. I mix plastic wood and cement together, fill the cavity, then insert the hook. I now pack and smooth off the surface and ends of the cavity. I allow it to set for at least twenty-four hours and then smooth off the surface with sandpaper. If the surface of the cork is pitted, it should be given a coat or two of filler. Some fill the pits with plastic wood and when dry, sand again.

Paint or spray with desired color. If the pattern calls for wings, tie them on last; then lacquer windings. Small holes may be drilled in bug in any position desired and wings of hair or feathers inserted. Fill cavities with cement before inserting wings.

Spent wings that are too long and heavy are very difficult to cast. I have seen some that would actually spin enough to twist the leader.

Upright wings that are too long and heavy will make the bug topheavy and it will not ride with the wings up in the air. In addition, this bug will be very difficult to cast.

In concluding, let me suggest that the beginner had better keep his bugs on the small side. They are simpler to tie or construct, will be easier to cast, and more enjoyable to fish.



HELLGRAMMITE is larval stage of the Dobson Fly, isn't pretty yet we know gents who carry these critters in their hair under a hat while fishing for bass, much like hellgrammites in the belfry.

high jinks with

hellgrammites

ONE SPORTSMAN I know was divorced from his first wife because he used hellgrammites for bait. Most others had no such luck, however. They merely caught plenty of fish.

Although hellgrammites are found almost wherever there is flowing water, they are not used too extensively. They rate very near the top as bait for smallmouths, brown trout, and channel catfish. But still you will meet few anglers who habitually use them.

Perhaps the doggone things are too ugly to have around—even in a bait container. Maybe you just don't know how to catch them. Or possibly you've had trouble using them after you caught them. Let's discuss it in that order.

A hellgrammite is the larval, or aquatic, stage of the Dobson fly. It looks like a centipede with a wicked pair of pincers. You can either handle them with respect from the very beginning or you can find out, first hand, that the pincers really are wicked. With a reasonable amount of caution, you can keep all your fingers intact, avoid a bloody stump.

When an adult Dobson female is ready to lay eggs, she selects a precarious spot underneath a bridge, a rock ledge, or overhanging tree branch. The egg clusters are whitish, about the size of a nickel, and may contain as many as 3,000 eggs each. Sometimes the clusters are numerous enough to give the place a paint-splattered look.

By ERWIN A. BAUER

When the hellgrammite hatches, it falls into the water and begins the aquatic phase of its life. For two years and eleven months, more or less, it frequents the undersides of rocks and logs. It grows fat, slowly, on a diet of fellow, but smaller, residents of the rocky riffles. If it can survive its two-plus-years span without being reduced to so many calories by a smallmouth or rock bass, it eventually emerges into a graceful and colorful Dobson fly. Thereafter its use as bait is all but lost—so we'll return to the uglier, but more useful larval form.

Hellgrammites are easy to obtain.

PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER

Alone it's a fairly tedious matter, but with one helper you can collect an ample supply of bait without too much wear and tear on your patience. You should have a legal-sized minnow seine with a fairly small mesh.

Station your helper just downstream from several large rocks in a riffle. Lift three or four of the rocks quickly, one after the other—and then have your partner raise the net. You should have several hellgrammites. If you didn't, it may be that you lifted the rocks too slowly. The quarry needs only a brief second to grab a hold on the underside of the rick and to prevent being washed into the net.

Don't try too many rocks at once and do not disturb the bottom unnecessarily. Raise the net frequently or the Dobsons will crawl to the bottom of the net and escape beneath it.

Hellgrammites are the hardest of live baits. You can keep them for a long time with little attention. If it's a good day and you're a skillful angler, you may catch several fish on one individual.

Any of those belt-type bait boxes will do the trick of carrying them while you fish. Just line the bottom with leaves or moss and sprinkle with water occasionally. Those flat tobacco cans are suitable, too, since they fit so well into shirt or pants pockets. If you're a pipe smoker, though, better stick to the belt-type models—or use a different brand box for the bait. You mistakenly may load up with "hoejacks."

I always use a fairly long leader when using hellgrammites. Depending on the speed of the current and type of water, I may use a small split shot or two. The hook should be a short-shanked six or eight, hooked under the front of the collar and coming out the rear. Never, under any circumstances, bury the hook in the hellgrammite. It kills them—and there goes your effectiveness.

Just as important as hooking is removal of the tail hooks. If you neglect to do it, you might as well go back to other baits. The hellgrammite will grab the first rock or obstacle he contacts, doggedly crawl under it, and you're snagged. At best you'll wind up with a bare hook and a frayed leader.

Fortunately there is a simple and quick way to amputate the hooks. Here's how. Hold the critter by the head, between your thumb and forefinger, and with his body away from

(Turn to page 28)

trout fishing in pennsylvania

By GILBERT FREEDMAN

We can understand why Gilbert Freedman, 18-year-old senior at Susquehanna Township High School not only received an A-plus for this essay on trout fishing but also won a scholarship to Pennsylvania State College. An ardent fisherman for many years, this young man will be getting a higher education not only at State College but along Pennsylvania's best trout streams.

OF ALL types of game fishing possible, the one that furnishes most satisfaction for the most anglers in Pennsylvania, as is shown by the three-quarter million fishermen who take out a license, is that of angling for the noble trout. . . . "The trout is a fish highly valued both in this and foreign nations. He may be justly said to be a generous fish, a fish that is so like the buck that he also has his season; for it is observed, that he comes in and goes out of season with the stag and buck."

Here, then is the Seventeenth century conception of the game fish known as the trout as set down by the original and one of the most authoritative anglers to ever live.

Our great state of Pennsylvania has three distinct types of trout, all game fish. The first, and original, even being referred to as the native, is the Brook trout.

"Among anglers the Brook trout is the aristocrat of fresh-water fishes. His rich and gorgeous browns and pinks, touched with blue and crimson spots; his wariness, alertness, and cunning; his shyness and seclusion—these, coupled with the delicacy of taste which he adds to the dinner table, bars all competitors for blue-ribbon honors." is what one nationally famous outdoor writer has to say of the Brook trout. He may grow as large as eighteen inches and weigh a pound and a half, but will usually average about nine inches. Besides his beautiful side markings, he may be distinguished by the white outlining all his fins or by his mottled back. His general overall appearance is that of brown.

The Brown trout is considered the brightest and most cautious of fish. His reputation as a selective feeder is well known, meaning that at one time or another he will be feeding on one certain food form and nothing else. He may be described as dark brown, with red and blue spots. This breed is not pure, being a cross breed between German Brown and Loch Leven of Scotland. The Steelhead trout of the Northwestern part of our country is thought to be this breed after it returns from a life in salt water.

The Rainbow may be distinguished by that fact that it is the only one of the three, although all have spots, that has spots on its tail. Its spots are black, on a green back. The Rainbow gets its name

by the gentle pink stripe that runs the entire length of its body, on either side.

Trout and the Law

According to the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, trout may be taken between April fifteenth (commencing at five o'clock A. M.) and July thirty-first. A new law, put into effect two years ago states that no fishing may be done in streams stocked with trout from midnight March fourteenth to opening day, to protect the trout and save the sport.

The creel limit is eight, this number also your possession limit. You may use as many as three lines and three hooks to a line and the fish must bite or strike and not be snagged. A resident's license is two dollars and non-resident's costs whatever the visitor's state charges their visitors for licenses.

Life

The female trout lays her eggs in quiet, shoal water where they are fertilized by the milt of the male. The egg expands and in a few days the general shape of the trout can be seen in the egg. Live eggs are a pinkish amber and white eggs are infertile. In five weeks eyes develop and the organs can be seen working through the transparent body. During this stage the eggs may be transported for artificial propagation purposes. In six to ten weeks the fish will begin bouncing around inside its egg, suddenly break it and burst forth. On close inspection a sack trailing from the back of the baby trout can be seen; this being food supply for twenty to thirty days until he can fend for himself.

The fry, as they are called, are ready to place in a stream in twenty months. In natural propagation ninety-five percent die before reaching maturity because of natural enemies such as snakes, birds, larger fish and disease.

A trout may mature at four inches or still be growing at thirty inches. It all depends on the size of the stream, the amount of warm days, amount of food and its natural tendencies.

Habitat

Trout may be found anywhere in our state where there is fast moving, cool, pure water. Although some trout live and are fished for in lakes and ponds the majority are found in the tiniest of rills to the largest of rivers.

They seek protective spots, probably from a fear of fish-preying birds and will venture forth only when no warning vibrations come to them, when there is no suspicious or moving shadows, and when no extra sediment is drifting downstream.

Feeding

The trout feeds in three indefinite positions in relation to depth of the stream. Feeding on the bottom, he will pick up worms of all sorts, nymphs, which are in-

(Turn to next page)

- RETIRES AFTER 39 YEARS -



MR. DEITER

With this issue, the PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER pays signal salute to Robert P. Deiter, former comptroller of the Commission.

"Bob," as he has endeared himself to us, has gone into voluntary retirement after 39 years of faithful and efficient service. Mr. Deiter began employment as a bookkeeper on August 4, 1914 and has served over the years as the watchdog of the Commission's finances. He not only saw the present Pennsylvania Fish Commission arise from a small modest beginning but he arose and grew up with it to the pinnacle of national recognition among the foremost conservation agencies in the land.

So—to you "Bob" Deiter, the entire Fish Commission family joins the ANGLER in this most fitting salute and sincere best wish for your health and happiness in the years ahead.

Pennsylvania Fish Commission Elects New Officers for '53

At the annual meeting of The Pennsylvania Fish Commission, held at the State Capitol, July 1, 1953, Paul F. Bittenbender of Wilkes-Barre was elected President and Louis Winner, Lock Haven elected Vice President. The new President succeeds Bernard Horne of Pittsburgh.

C. A. French was retained as Executive Director of the Commission.

Fish Commission Bans Motor Boats In Waters Created For Public Fishing

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission banned the use of motor boats on any of the waters created for public fishing by the Commission except only in instances where the motor boats are used in the course of official duties. Bathing is also prohibited.

At the request of the Zelienople Harmony Sportsmen's Club, the large lake under their control is to be kept open the year 'round, subject to the rules and regulations governing fishing in the inland waters. During 1953, the size limit on bass caught in this lake will be twelve (12) inches and the creel limit four (4) per day.

Crooked Creek in Erie County, has been set up as a nursery area by the Commission for experimental work with rainbow trout.

TROUT FISHING IN PENNA.

(From page 23)

sects in the baby stage and any other debris which might serve for food. The second position is that of midwater, where a trout will be feeding on minnows and other freely floating food. Surface feeding

is done on insects as they emerge from the water and as they settle back down again.

Solunar Tables, written by a John Alden Knight of Williamsport, Pa., sets up four times each twenty-four hour period in which trout are supposed to bite. Actually, the best times to catch a feeding fish are in the early morning and late evening, when no bright light illuminates the surface of the water. A trout has three moods, of which he may be caught in two of them. The first is when he is in a feeding frenzy and will strike nearly anything that moves near him; the second is that of feeding, but of a cautious nature in which the successful angler will present exactly what he is feeding on. The third is when the trout is frightened or just not having any and no bit of enticing will get him to bite.

TACKLE—The Fly Rod

The fly rod may be described as a long rod, between six and ten feet in length and made of tubular metal, spun glass, or bamboo. It has a willowy action like a whip and uses nearly that same principle that is embodied in the whip. It uses the weight of the line to cast out lures of practically no weight at all. The line is of a heavy nature, of braided nylon or silk. The reel is just a place to store line in this type of fishing and may be an extremely simple mechanism or may be the type known as automatic in which the line is taken up automatically at the touch of a button. The leader is a piece of nylon or silk gut from a few feet long to perhaps twenty feet; its purpose being to give a detached aspect to the lure. A noted local angler says this of fly fishing: "Of all types of angling possible for trout the one that gives the most people the most satisfaction is that of use of the fly rod, whether for lure fishing or bait."

Many types of natural and artificial baits are offered not only by the commercial producer but by nature itself that may be used on the fly rod. First to be considered, of course, is the old standby, the worm. Worms range in size from the tiny two inch to the night crawler that may reach a foot in length. Acceptability requirements for a worm are small, the important one being that it must show some life when cast into the water. The "cast" of the bait fisherman, whether he be using worms or other offerings is a sort of swing, rather than the cast of the fly fisherman, to be described later.

One authority feels that the red-tipped or black-tipped type of worms is best, generally and that large worms can be used in large bodies of water where larger fish are expected to be present and small worms in small streams, while another

makes the suggestion that, when going on a long trip to your fishing waters, you lay moistened moss on soaking wet burlap, lay your worms on top of this and roll in a ball and place on the front fender of your car. When you reach the fishing site the worms will be lively as "young snakes."

Minnow fishing is another popular type to be done with the fly rod and a more detailed explanation will be found below.

There are three types of flies (major): May, caddis and stone fly, all types of insects that spend most of their life on the bottom of bodies of waters, flying from the surface only to lay their eggs so that their kind can survive. Trout feed on all types of these flies at all times, this being their chief form of subsistence. The angler can use either the naturals or the imitations made of wool, feather and miscellaneous other materials of all colors of the rainbow, attached to the hook by means of string. These imitations are sometimes thought to be better than the naturals and may be cast much more easily than the naturals, as they have a tendency to tear from the hook.

The method of fly casting is very difficult to explain and much simpler to learn through experience. Only a few factors though, according to the masters, enter into the question. As stated before the line must be brought into play so that its weight is used to force the light fly out onto the water. There are three main strokes to the cast. It begins with the line stretched in front of the angler and the rod also in front, pointing upward at about a forty-five degree angle. Then follows an exceedingly strong upward and backward motion designed to draw the line backward over the caster's head. Allow the line to straighten out and then another strong thrust forward. At first casts should be short, not over twenty feet, with emphasis on accuracy and laying the fly down naturally. The sharpness of the strokes can hardly be overemphasized. It is this one element that can make or break one's fishing with flies.

There are certain patterns for flies which are designed to imitate the naturals. Here again, experience is the best teacher. Here are the names of the patterns which have proved their worth year after year: Ginger Quill, Grey hackle, black gnat, in both wet and dry. The terms "wet" and "dry" refer to whether a fly sinks or floats on the surface. Other good flies are (wet): Professor, Royal coachman, alder, Wickham's fancy, March brown, Stone fly, Little black caddis, Governor, black Quill, Gold Ribbed hare's ear. Dry: Fanwing Royal Coachman, gray spider, Badger bivable, brown bivable, march brown, Quill Gordon, and Light Cahill.

Spinning

The art of spinning is relatively new on the angling scene, but is becoming extremely popular. Have you ever turned a spool of thread sideways and pulled on the end? Notice how easily it pays out? This is the exact mechanism of the spinning reel with machinery to wind the line on the spool again. The line used is very fine so that no leader is necessary.

Rods come in a variety of sizes, generally shorter than the fly rod; five to eight feet in length. Beginners find that this type of angling is the simplest to master and the easiest method of taking fish. It is found that any lure or bait with any weight at all can be cast twenty and thirty yards, thus making it possible to fish the most inaccessible spots of any body of water.

As stated before, spinning is new; but only in this country. It has been used in England and France for years and it is rumored that Marco Polo was taught to use this outfit while visiting in China. Chinese to this day use a rig that is similar.

Many lures are now on the market that may be cast with a spinning rod. These

take the form of minnows or other aquatic life and usually have some sort of spinner attached.

Accessories

Many are the helps offered for fishing and only a few necessary items will be listed. The primary requirement is to have a vehicle in which to carry your various paraphernalia. Creels and vests of many sizes and shapes are offered, all being good, according to the individuals requirements.

In the western states many anglers use boats to fish the larger streams, but here in Pennsylvania, hip boots or waders that reach to just below the armpits are practical. Warning: Care must always be taken when wading so that one does not slip, fall in and ruin the entire days fishing.

Some fishing companions feel that a landing net is another requirement but it will be found that it is more sporting to attempt to land a fish without one, plus not having the extra weights to drag along.

If bait fishing, a light weight and efficient bait container must be carried. This means efficient in the sense of the word that if using worms, it must be cool, as worms cannot stand the heat; if using minnows or other aquatic baits the can or container must hold an ample supply of fresh water so that the bait does not suffocate.

The traditional fishing hat is a must and may be of whatever design the angler deems necessary. If fishing waters where small insect life will be prevalent, it is a good idea to take along an insect repellent of a good reputation.

It is always a good idea to take along an ample supply of hooks, if bait fishing, and extra flies or lures.

Technique

The art of presenting lures or bait must be, generally, learned through experience by the individual. The types of presentation may be divided into two categories: The natural drift and the "drag." Either type of cast may be used in either bait or lure fishing.

When using the natural drift method, the angler casts upstream and allows the lure or bait to drift as naturally as possible. The drag is to use a pull against the current. The bait will not look as natural, but in some cases will be a better fish producer.

The angler must also find at what level the fish are feeding, and by using weight or the drag against the current to attain that level. Generally, wading upstream will produce better results than the more used method of downstream fishing. Some reasons for this are:

"First: The trout are headed upstream; therefore your fly tends to come back to your fish rather than away from him.

"Second: The fish are not likely to see you so readily if you approach them from the rear.

"Third: Any gravel or dirt that is loosened by your boots while wading registers no danger in upstream waters.

"Fourth: When starting to fish a stream, one usually is at the meadow lands, roads, or bridge at the bottom of the stream. Starting to fish early and at once is advisable.

"Fifth: When you are tired it's a wee bit easier walking home downhill than in the reverse direction. 'And remember,' as the Warden says, 'You have a heavy creel of fish to carry at the end of the trip that makes downhill doubly attractive.'"

One thought can be your guide when it comes to choosing the size of your lure or bait. Generally, big trout feed on large things, as they cannot derive enough energy from small things.

As to minnow fishing for trout, Kenny Sands, a well known and honored fisherman of Columbia County, has this to say:

"This type of angling involves more work than do other methods but the size of fish caught and the battle these larger trout give, more than compensates for the labor." Any type of small fish may be used, the size best being between two and a half and four inches. It should be presented in as natural a manner as possible.

Once the trout is hooked the fun begins. One author feels that the line should be left slack after the hook has been set so the fish will not become excited and head for obstructions where he could pull the hook from his mouth. Others claim that it would be sheer folly and that a steady, direct pull should be exerted at all times on the hooked fish. Which ever method is used one should always play the fish until exhausted so that, when landing the trout, it does not give one last flip and break the line at the crucial moment.

Artificial Propagation

Due to the pressure applied by so many fishermen to so few bodies of waters in the last few years, it has become necessary to offer artificial means of placing trout in the streams. Here is the method used in Pennsylvania.

Large trout are kept in special pools, in what is called a hatchery, for the express purpose of extracting their eggs and milt. Once these eggs hatch, the tiny fish are allowed to grow and mature in other special pools. Once they reach a size where they will be able to live in natural surroundings, they are loaded in special tank trucks and transported to various suitable streams throughout the state.

Conservation

Anglers are seeking to eliminate certain factors which contribute to a scarcity of trout.

Various natural enemies warred upon: The fish-eating birds, and snakes, snapping turtles and polluted water. But the greatest enemy of all is mankind himself! The fish hog. This is the individual who stays within the law, but keeps every legal sized fish he catches, up to the creel limit.

Luckily there is a movement in the last few years towards a more sportsman-like approach. After the trout are caught, it is recognized, most of the fun is over, because if one wants fish he has only to go to the fish market. So now, more and more, fish are being returned so that they may fight again another day.

Here is what a nationally known outdoors writer says of this fad. "The best to be said for releasing fish is that the angler loses almost nothing by it. He's had the kicks of rising, hooking, playing and landing him. If he then kills him, the value of one fish to the angling world is lost. If the fish is released, unharmed, another fisherman can take him again with another full measure of fun. This is bonus fishing and we need a lot of it."

In closing, this one statement just about sums up trout fishing in Pennsylvania. "Looking back, I feel that I have met some nice trout. They are a gentlemanly fish. The Brook trout is like a dull but pleasant fellow. The Brown trout is a cagy old country squire, hard to outsmart. The Rainbow is a fence and an aristocratic duelist. They're almost nicer than people."



"Sure, sure . . . it does everything you say it does . . . But the fish can't catch up with it!"

ART OF PLUG MAKING

(From page 4)

benefit of the angler who casts them and doing pretty good at the business, too, do not call these lures plugs or even "lures." Instead, when they and their partners in this artificial lure making business speak of a piece of painted and varnished wood, plastic or metal they have decorated with all the shiny new things that go into this business of lure making, they call it a "bait." That is one of the true badges of a professional lure maker I have observed. They speak of "baits" and bait men and bait makers and bait peddlers as frequently—even more so—than they ever do of a lure or an artificial offering.

It is mostly the novice at this line of fishing creations who speaks of a "lure" or an artificial creation of any kind.

I was talking with a young "bait" manufacturer not too long since and we were discussing the subject of good artificial lures and plugs. He was humorously frank about the reason why he spoke of himself as a "bait-man" and of his salesmen as "bait-peddlers." "You see it was my grandfather who started the company that we are now operating on a full time basis and producing one of the leading brands of artificials. That was pretty far back, sometime in the early 1900's—I think perhaps it was in 1920, if I am not mistaken! He and three other men in the town where we have the factory formed a partnership and decided to manufacture some of the crazy ideas my grandfather had about this fishing sport. Everyone in our state, at that time, thought my grandfather was a sort of ne'r-do-well who would spend his time out along one of the lakes or rivers around us rather than turn his hand at some other chore."

This lure manufacturer I am speaking of was no relation, understand, of the inventive genius that was mentioned in the opening paragraphs of this article. But he was the grandson of one of the pioneer artificial lure makers of our country who made a huge success out of pioneering a mighty fine and successful fishing lure and a series of similarly good descendants of the first models that he brought out.

"It was through an interest my grandfather had in the outdoors he was able to pick up the idea for the fine lures we are now making. There have been considerable changes in some of our line of fishing products, to be sure, and we have made some radical departures in the old factory where the lures first were turned out. But, basically, artificial lure making is still a sort of whittling job!" my friend smiled.

I disagree with him a bit on this.

Modern lure and plug manufacturing is not greatly similar to the old methods of slowly and painstakingly shaping up these fish alluring minnows, frogs, crustaceans and beetles that most of the major firms, that devote their activities to this branch of industry, are now producing.

To go through one of the ultra modern factories, like the James Heddon's Sons plant at Dowagiac, Michigan; the Creek Chub Bait Company of Garrett, Indiana, the Fred Arbogast & Company, of Akron, Ohio, the Pfluegers also of Akron, and others that I might mention if I had more space to devote to such a listing, is to observe the genuine science that goes into the construction and completion of this popular form of fishing allure—the artificial minnow, the plug and some of the metal inducements that are produced also from such factories, along with the plug and artificial minnow types of artificial lure.

The smoothest of smooth working machines turn out lures by the hundreds in a single days time. I can not say definitely just what a full days production is from any one of these factories. But I can say that the amount of lures that pass along through those busy aisles and sections in the large, airy and well lighted workrooms where this work is performed is amazing.

Starting with the very beginning of the lures construction one generally finds himself being faced with a large and rather awesome-looking furnace where the plastic and the metal-bodied plugs spinners and minnows evolve from an intense heat.

If it is a factory where the majority of the lures are wood-bodied ones then the beginning of a trip through the processing rooms and departments will probably start in a large room filled with the whirring beat of sandpaper wheels that shape the bodies of the wooden plugs and minnows. These are called the wood lathe workrooms and out of the dust and turmoil of

their depths comes wooden trays and boxes heaped with the clean glowing shapes of the plugs and minnows sanded and smoothed for their next trip, to the paint-room, where a staff of girls and men armed with air brushes, air guns and air compressors, along with gallon jars of lacquers and colors sit before a well ventilated back-stop. Here the lures are placed on what, in the baitmakers terminology, is called "sticks." This process of painting the plug and minnow has changed recently I am told by some of my reliable friends in the industry and where there once was a considerable staff of perhaps half a dozen to a dozen expert painting artists, as the trade classes these particular workers, there is now not over one or two who work at this important job, for a new system is in operation that is being kept pretty well hush-hushed by the firms that have installed this faster program of painting baits. There are many places in the modern lure factory like special departments, where visitors are not supposed to have too intimate a view of what happens. These are confidential matters, as might be expected. However, in most lure making shops the older style of tinting and decorating the lure to as nearly as possible copy the creatures it should represent, for the entertainment of the finny adversaries when an angler takes them forth on lake and stream in the tackle box, goes on about as usual. Approximately 15 coats of paint and lacquer goes on each wooden or plastic lure, shot deftly over the lure with light touches from the air or paint gun operators skilled hands so as to give the baits unbelievable natural appearances.

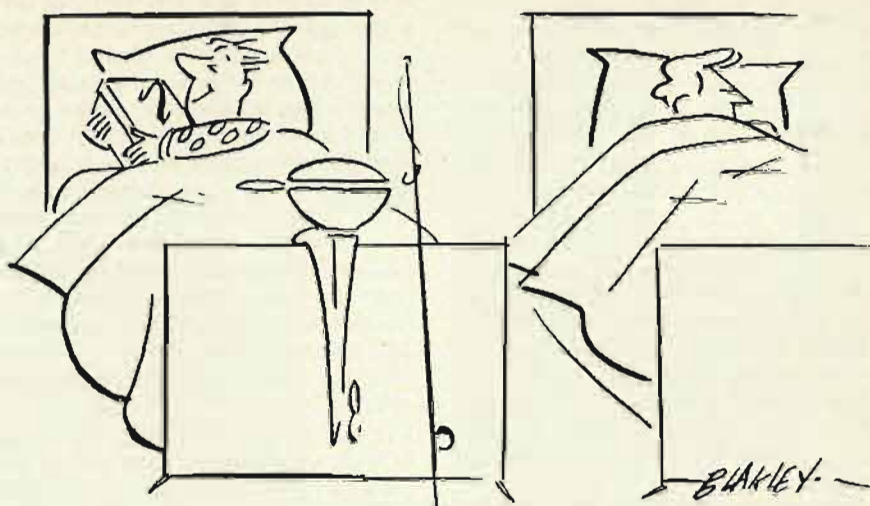
The general tone of color for each pattern of bait is first applied and then delicate shades, markings and spots are touched to the minnow or the frog or crustacea translations. It is nearly unbelievable that such artistry can be wrought by a well coordinated force of artists in the paint rooms. A jet like needle of mist shot from a deftly and quickly poised paint pistol brings out iridescent colors and bars of a perch finish. A second artist then takes the lure and holds a metal screen where the paint mist will transfer to the lure a beautiful scale finish, immediately washing off the screen for another application in a batch of acetone. The eyes are often painted on by using small metal mats with circular holes and discs for the artist to aim the shot of colors. These painted eyes are principally used for metal and spinning

lures, while for larger ones where eyes are deemed necessary, glass eyes, that come in pairs, wired together, as matched and life-like decorations are set in the minnows head section at the next step in these operations—which is the assembly room section, where the finishing touches for each lure are performed.

The glass eyes are a very particular phase of this precision work that follows the lure all the way from its birth in the woodworking shop or the moulding section to its final and finished arrival at the packaging or boxing room. Electrically operated drills whirr out sockets for the eyes. These have to be of an exact diameter so that the glass optics fit firmly. A dab of vermilion paint is shot into the hole where the eye fits, a touch of cement and a bone hammer delicately used taps the eye into place. To shatter an eye means to loose a lure, for they can not be removed easily once set. There are few remodeling jobs done in a good factory. If the lure has some defect it is ruthlessly rejected by the inspectors. If there is only a minor fault it can be remedied by an expert at this part of the business. The best glass eyes I am told come from the eastern seaboard states and are superior in every way to the foreign made eyes.

In the assembly rooms wide, airy and well lighted concourses girls and women take over the assembling of the metal parts. In some factories men do the more intricate jobs of moulding metal headpieces, in small electric furnaces, bending eyes to long lag screws, etc. But generally a sharp eyed girl or an experienced woman worker quickly assembles such parts as the metal headpieces, the hook swivels, grommets, the sharp, needle tipped treble, double and single hooks. Small drill presses and screw drivers are operated by miniature machines powered from a central unit. A keen eyed expert will finish her part of an assembly so swiftly that the eye is almost frustrated to follow each movement.

A hole is drilled for a treble hook to be placed by a flip of the operators finger on a switch and a touch of the lure to the buzzing needle like drill, a screw is then turned into the hole and a grommet set for the hook to rest on, the hook eye engaged and a small set of steel fingers, operated automatically, seizes the straight shaft of the screw and turns an eye in it so smoothly and true as to cause the observer to rub his eyes and wonder



if miracles in this mechanical age will never cease!

Finally the completed lure arrives at a part of the factory where the inspectors go over the wooden trays of bright, satiny smooth and lustrous products with the expert scrutiny of a well versed fisherman. Only good fishermen can gauge a good lure and even this part of the modern bait factories system is carried out to completion in some of the plants by actually testing the lures when they are finished in a tank of clean, flowing water with a miniature casting rod and reel. Then a young lady deftly tucks the celluloid and acetone perfumed product of all this routine of making a fishing plug, artificial minnow or spinning metal lure into its gay and attractive cardboard box and these in turn go into other cartons and are hustled off to the shipping and stock rooms.

One leaves the factory with the nostalgic aroma of acetone deeply imbedded in his senses and, thereafter, when a new lure—I insist on calling them "Lures"—is removed from its box on the banks of a rippling stream or on the smiling surface of a good pike, muskie or bass lake, and one catches that faint, but characteristic odor of its clean, inviting workmanship, the recollections of how these things are "whittled" out swims back to give the fishing trip even more charm and interest. For there's something then about a modern lure that one feels is more intimate and personal than before, after seeing the manner in which it is created, from a plain blank of wood or a small mass of plastic or molten metal to the delightful patterns of a lively little creature diving, shimmying and spinning that looks to the fish like some genuine

and familiar item of food and forage it wishes to capture for food, perhaps! I disagree with my bait making friend, however, when he casually assures me that making lures is just a whittling job. It's much more than that. It is really a piece of high industrial science and planning!

IZAACK WALTON AND HIS FRIENDS

(From page 3)

went to their houses, either (=each) of them taking his pick stafe (=pike staff) in their hands, mett in a felde behind Mr. Edward Barkham's house, comonly cauld (=called) or knowne by the name of Baldwin's; there they two fought till John Nelham receyved a wound by John Whiston in his throtte, fell doone dead, and never spake a word after; so the coroner, upon the Saturdaie next, sate upon him; was buried the same daie, being the 10 of Nov. 1610."

Colsterworth Road was built on the field where this duel was fought. The famous old "Swan Inn," stands at the corner of Philip Lane, nearly opposite High Cross, Tottenham. In 1900, the "Swan" became the property of Messrs. Taylor, Walker and Co., Ltd., and the house has remained substantially unaltered since that date, although there is little left in the present building of the inn as it was visited by Walton and his companions.

(There is an unusual link between the present owners of the "Swan" and Pennsylvania. The brewery company,

Messrs. Taylor, Walker and Co., Ltd., operate at Limehouse, Stepney, and part of their premises formed the brewhouse owned by the Hare family, who commenced brewing early in the eighteenth century. In 1773, Robert Hare emigrated to Philadelphia, where he founded a brewery, and he was a Frammer of the first Constitution, a Member of the Assembly in 1791, and Speaker of the Senate of Pennsylvania from 1796 to 1800. He was one of the original organizers of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, and a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania from 1789 to 1805. He died 8th March 1811, at Germantown, Penna., and is buried in Christ Church Burial Ground.)

ALL-AMERICAN BEAUTY

(From page 9)

black bass is at present regarded by the angling fraternity . . ."

How true! If we depended nowadays for our trout fishing on brook trout, we'd all perforce be bass fishermen. But what the good doctor overlooked was the coming of the brown trout and above all, the coming of its prophets, Halford in England and LaBranche in this country. To be sure, the brown trout had been stocked here as long ago as the early 1880s, but according to the old-timers, it was not until around 1912 that they became sufficiently numerous to merit angling attention; and it was not until the 1920s that Americans began learning how to catch them.

Beginning in the 1880s Halford had written about the dry fly, and as time went on he became more dogmatic, more intolerant, more formalistic and more complicated until finally he made a religion of his particular brand of chalk-stream fishing and invented the purist. In 1915 LaBranche brought out his monumental *The Dry Fly and Fast Water* and created what is still the American school of dry-fly fishing. He was not a purist in Halford's sense but he was in his own and in tone if not in word he extolled the man who "plays the game according to the rules and takes them dry or not at all."

Glamour! Halford the Britisher, high priest of the sacred Houghton Club on the Test. LaBranche the New York stockbroker who lived part of the time

in England and was intimate with the whole sporting set. Over here it was an era of Anglophilia—English worship; of international marriages, of Americans knocking white balls around cow pastures with clubs, religiously wearing red coats because the British did (the great American bull settled that custom), of galloping through games of mounted shinny because it was polo and British, of organizing hunts and riding to hounds in "pinks." What price the honest, buxom, All-American Beauty now? Hurrah for the fast, skinny Glamour Girl trout!

Of course there are still people who will tell you that the bass is a better game fish than the trout ever thought of being, that size for size it will out-fight, outpull and outwit any trout that ever swam, that it is more wary than a trout, harder to take on the same tackle and three times oftener able to beat the angler in a fair fight; and that most anglers don't flyfish for bass because they're not good enough to do it.

They could be right, too.

SPINNING FOR BASS

(From page 11)

you. Keep a bend in the rod at all times, for if the bass gets you with the rod pointed at him, he'll break that line easily . . . even one testing eight or ten pounds if he is big! Play him out well before venturing forth with the net . . . and have more fun than you ever had with other tackle. The battle will last longer and will be more spectacular. Mr. Bass can perform with a lighter lure to lug around in his jaw . . . and you'll also find that he'll take the smaller lure further into his mouth and so become easier snagged. (Which reminds us that a short wire leader ahead of the lure is necessary with the lure attached to it of course with a snap swivel to keep it from spinning and twisting the line.) There are transparent fins to use with lures and spoons that tend to twist the line. If the line does become twisted, remove the lure and trail the line behind the boat or hang the lower portion of it from a high building overnight to twist and untwist . . .

Bass fishing with spinning tackle is not confined to artificial lures by a

long shot. Live bait and worm or crawfish can be cast further without weight, when the occasion demands. Yes, you can heave a nightcrawler as far as you like, for it weighs as much or more than the lighter spinning lures. Make the cast with a swing rather than a snap and you'll never flip off a properly hooked minnow or crawfish. You can readily see that you can work further away from the shore with less risk of scaring feeding bass.

If weight is desired for any reason, it is best to attach two or more split shot a foot apart above the lure with a swivel at both ends to guard against twist. This will also help in keeping the rig from fouling up on the cast and doubling or hairpinning back on itself. In most cases, when a single weight is desired, it is best to attach it at the end of the line with a lighter pound test than the running line so if it gets snagged, you only lose the lead. In this case the lure is attached to a tippet. This is the proper rig for wet flies or when you fish a couple of streamers at the same time . . . a killing combination by the way in stream fishing for small-mouths.

The use of the plastic bubble is the God send for both bait and fly fishing, when it is desired to fish on or near the surface. The bubble can be weighted by the addition of water . . . attached to the end of the line with the flies on tippets. Some anglers reverse the order and put the bubble ahead of the flies, but this makes for awkward casting and also interrupts the hit of the fish as well as slowing up the action when you strike.

In bass bug fishing, the bubble is not necessary, but in the case of the extremely light bug, add one or two tiny split shot ahead of it . . . not enough to sink it, but enough to add sufficient casting weight. Even without weight added, a limber rod with very light line will handle a bug as far as the usual fly rod, with more ease, less line slap on the water. In this case, spinning allows you to get closer to the fish and to offer scare-free delivery of the bug. There is no fly line to tangle in the darkness or foul up on the equipment on the boat. There is no necessity for standing up to cast or for jerking the boat causing waves that will tend to put the fish on the alert. The spin caster can make five casts to the fly man's one . . . and quieter too!

Yes, given good tackle that is set for the fishing business at hand, I think you'll find that it is the sportiest

and easiest method of outwitting old *Micropterus* that'll come along in many a moon, and this applies to trolling, lake fishing and stream work.

PORK CHUNK FOR BASS

(From page 13)

pounds or over. This sold me completely on chunk fishing. Since then I have used pork chunk almost to the exclusion of all other surface lures, and in two years of bass fishing it has drawn few blanks.

The biggest problem in using pork rind as a top water lure is keeping it on the surface. Pork sinks quickly when allowed to rest on the water, so the secret is to keep the chunk in constant motion.

As soon as the cast is completed the retrieve must be started immediately. Then by fast reeling, the pork chunk will come skipping and skittering across the water's top. The easiest way of accomplishing this is to start to retrieve a second or two before the chunk hits the water. In this way it will already be in motion when it reaches the surface. You will quickly discover the correct reeling speed to keep the pork chunk just struggling on the surface without sinking. During this whole process the rod should be held at about a sixty degree angle to facilitate striking and retrieving. The longer the cast the higher the rod should be held. This whole technique can be mastered quite easily with a few minutes' practice.

To illustrate how simple it is to become adept with this lure, let me cite the following experience:

I took a friend to a local bass pond to do a little spinning. Don had never used a spinning outfit before and had never been too successful in his plug-casting attempts. In half an hour he was casting passably and working the pork chunk with the ease of an accomplished angler. I then led him to a shallow, weed-filled cove at the upper end of the pond, left him on his own, and made my way to a similar cove on the other side of the pond. Two hours later I returned and found Don beside himself with joy. From the time I had left him until my return, he had had a three-ring circus, hooking twelve or fourteen bass and landing five of them. One of these was just

shy of three pounds and represented the largest bass he had ever caught.

It is important to keep your hook needle-sharp at all times when fishing pork chunk. However, a great many strikes will still be missed regardless of how sharp the hook is. Many times the frog is taken so quickly that there is no awareness of striking. Other times the bass will just nip the tail of the pork frog. Therefore, it is good practice to strike hard on the initial run of the fish in order to set the hook well. Most of the spinning rods on the market today are very supple in action without too much backbone, making it all the more necessary to strike hard. Many fish will be missed using this lure, but so many more will be hooked that the fish lost will be of little consequence.

Pork chunk has a decided advantage over regular surface plugs because of its natural taste and softness. A wooden plug, taken by a bass, is immediately rejected as a fraud, while the pork is held onto by the fish, giving the angler all the time in the world to strike.

A note of interest is the manner in which bass take this lure. It seems to vary from trip to trip. On some occasions they will barely dimple the surface, taking the frog very quietly, much in the manner of a big brown trout taking a dry fly. On other occasions they will rush it savagely, hitting it with a jolt. Many times they seem to be actually lying in wait to grab it the instant it hits the water. More than once I've had bass hit the pork chunk, miss it, and then come right back and hit it again, a thing virtually unheard of when one is using regular surface plugs. I've watched bass cruising leisurely along, and, because of poor casting, put the pork chunk in back of them instead of in their path. Every time they have turned and grabbed the frog with a rush.

One thing seems to hold true all the time despite the manner in which the frog is actually taken. Bass will hit the pork frogs without the slightest hesitation. This differs greatly from regular surface-plug fishing procedure, wherein the plug is allowed to rest for a minute or two and then is twitched gently, more or less teasing the fish into striking. This, of course, is impossible with pork rind because it must be kept in constant motion to prevent its sinking, and yet it has been my experience that three out of four bass will hit the skittering and fast-moving frog without the least coaxing.

LOSE A HOOK SPARE A BASS!

Pork-chunk fishing is generally restricted to certain areas in the water being fished. As a rule depths over six feet will not produce good results. The locations that should be fished carefully are the lily-pad fields and the shallow weed-choked bays found in nearly every lake or pond. These locations are the natural foraging grounds for hungry bass and will usually produce the best results. In water where there is not much cover of this kind, fish the shallow edges where the bass forage for minnows. On several occasions I have done this and taken bass from water no more than six inches deep. The secret here is to fish from land, making long casts parallel to the shore and retrieving the frog three or four feet from the water's edge. In this type of fishing, the longer the casts the better, since bass are wary about feeding in shallow water with no cover in which to hide.

Another trick, one which many anglers have discovered by accident, is to cast right up on shore or on rocks bordering the water's edge, then simply flip the pork frog back into the water. This also works very well in lily-pad fields. Here you endeavor to cast the frog onto a lily-pad. Then the same procedure described above is followed. If there is a bass anywhere in the vicinity he will usually take the frog with a rush.

Most of the natural feeding grounds of bass are in places where to use the pork frog on a normal hook would mean being caught on snags every other cast. This calls for the use of good weedless hooks. Regular hooks with weed guards attached can be purchased at almost any tackle shop. A weedless hook will allow the pork chunk to crawl over pads, slither through weeds, and climb over similar obstructions without getting hung up.

Pork chunk is primarily a large-mouth bass lure, but at times it can be used for smallmouths with good results. Fishing it across the riffles in a stream will oftentimes bring a savage strike from a foraging smallmouth. Pickerel, too, seem to relish this lure.

Often they will hit it so hard and so savagely, they will miss it entirely. This doesn't bother them particularly, for on many occasions they will hit again and again until they are hooked or get too close to the angler and become frightened.

A fact that should warrant the immediate attention of anglers is the price of pork chunk. Regular surface plugs run from seventy-five cents to a dollar and a half apiece. A dollar will buy enough pork chunk to last an entire season. Chunk is sold commercially under a variety of titles such as "pork rind frogs," "pollywoggers" and other appropriate names. A bottle generally holds five or six chunks and costs around fifty cents; cheap enough when compared to conventional surface plugs.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about pork frogs is the fact that so few people recognize their worth as a surface lure. I have read very few articles about their use, and in my years of fishing have never run across anyone using them. Of course, before the age of spinning, they could not be handled properly with any type rod, except a bait-casting rod over six feet, but pork chunk can be handled easily with a spinning rod.

With the ever-growing popularity of spinning, I feel pork chunk will soon be recognized for its real worth as a top-ranking surface lure. In any event, you fellows who are now owners of spinning rods and like to take your bass on the surface, be sure and obtain a bottle of pork rind frogs. Give them a fair trial and see if you aren't pleasantly surprised and firmly convinced of their value as a really great surface lure.

BAIT FISHING FOR BASS

(From page 15)

outing is the shore dinner, prepared on a small fire built of drift wood found on the shoreline. Freshly caught bass are fried. With potatoes, coffee and toast, it is a meal never to be forgotten!

Lake Fishing

Lake fishing is similar to big river fishing, that is, many anglers prefer to wade waist deep along the rocky shoreline, casting baits far out into the lake. Others prefer boat fishing. With a slight breeze blowing, many cross the

lake and drift with the wind, trolling a baited line behind the slow moving boat. Very often other fish—walleyes, pike and panfish—in addition to the bass are caught via this method.

Largemouths prefer the muddy bottom portions of the lake where thick beds of weeds and lily pads grow. Smallmouths prefer fast waters, the rocky ledges, sandy and gravel portions. Concentrate your smallmouth fishing at such locations.

Bait fishing in all three kinds of water—creeks, big rivers and lakes—requires only ordinary tackle. Baits can be cast into quiet pools, or trolled behind slowly drifting boats with stand-ard fly, bait casting or spinning rods or with long bamboo poles. Probably the one necessary item is a long thin leader (seldom larger than 4- or 6-pound) to make the connection between bait and line as inconspicuous as possible. It may be necessary at times to use a small quill float to prevent such baits as hellgrammites and catfish from crawling about the stream bottom and hiding under rocks.

Bait fishing for bass along the streams of Pennsylvania holds a great deal of enjoyment for anglers. Indeed, those who have minimized this method of fishing in favor of spoons and plugs have missed a great deal of fun. With plenty of bait available on the stream bank, only your rod and reel are necessary for a bass fishing outing and some of the finest days astream will be experienced!

HIGH JINKS WITH HELLGRAMMITES

(From page 21)

you. Do it another way and you'll learn first hand how those pincers work. Draw the body across the blade of a small scissors or nail clipper (which you should carry for the purpose) until you reach the tail hooks. As soon as it grabs the blade—snip—you're in business.

Be very careful to clip off only the hooks, or claws. Do not cut into flesh, or again you'll have dead or badly injured bait.

After all that effort—the seining, snipping, etc.—you deserve some action. Stick to tails of riffles, to start, and you'll have it. Make your cast so that the bait will drift naturally into the pool or pocket below the riffle.

Be careful to start the drift far enough upstream so that it will be thumping bottom when it reaches the pay-off area.

When working glides and other smooth water sections of streams, omit the sinker altogether. Fish as lazily as you can, allowing the hellgrammite to settle and drift as it will. Four days out of five, you'll promote more action with a natural drift. But if business is too slow on the fifth day, give it a twitch now and then. I've seen it work on many a trip.

Hellgrammites—or devil-divers, hell-divers, hoejacks, connoption bugs, grampuses, or snake doctors—are generally prescribed for bass fishermen. But the truth is that other species are even more susceptible. Take the channel cat, for instance.

At dusk, some evening, stake a claim near the tail of a riffle. Spend the short period before dark getting acquainted with the water. After that, start drifting your grampus into the likely spots you had located previously in the waning light. You'll be taking potluck, sure enough, but if it's a typical night when channel cats come onto the riffle to forage, you'll keep mighty busy.

Many an old residenter brown has succumbed to a hellgrammite artfully drifted past his hang-out. One brownie I know watched a fortune in bivisibles, fanwings, and streamers wash past his nose over a period of four years. He revealed not the slightest display of interest. Grasshoppers and worms were no more appealing. But one warm June night Charlie McClellan turned the trick. He didn't exactly discourage the notion publicly that this bragging size four-pounder was taken on an artificial. It took a bit of firewater to uncover the hellgrammite in the story.

Hellgrammites are easy to keep. All you need is a damp, cool, and dark place. The lower tiers of the family refrigerator meet all these specifications. But a word to the wise on refrigerators. Keep the bait container covered, especially if your wife has prepared salads for a bridge party and has stored these, too, in the refrigerator.

Imagine the looks on the faces of her guests as they discover a couple of Dobsons nestled cozily in the tossed salad. That's how that fellow we mentioned, back in the beginning, swung his divorce.

Now there's nothing but beer and salami in the refrigerator. And hell-divers.

WHAT'S NEW IN FISHING BOOKS

By Hugh Johnson

Zane Grey made a fortune as author of adventure-thrillers, starting with the famed *Riders of the Purple Sage* and *The Heritage of the Desert* and continuing down a long list of books which sold in the millions—and still sell.

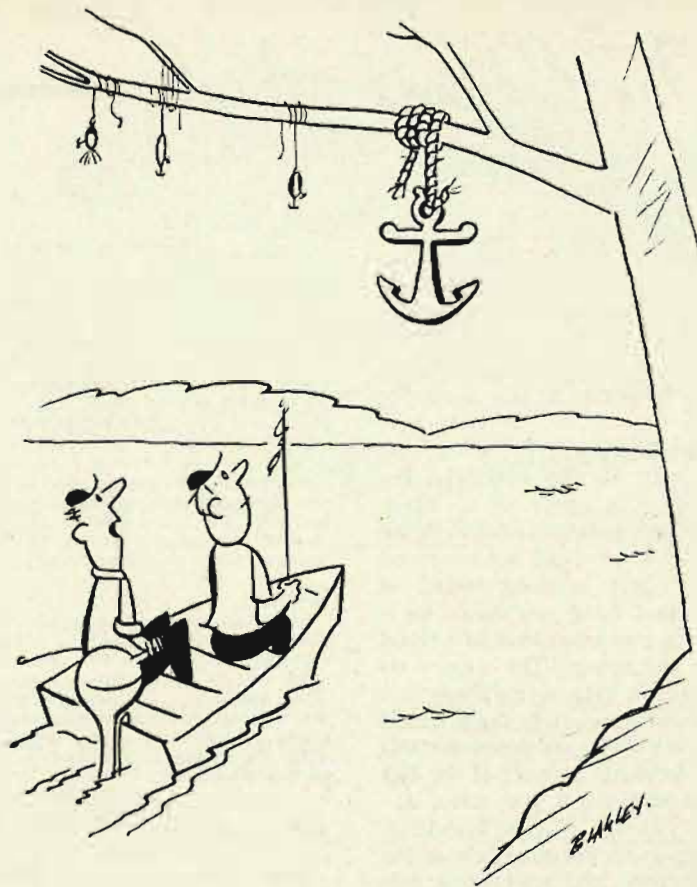
It is what Zane Grey did with his money that particularly interests fishermen. He fished all over the wide world, realizing an ambition that he had cherished since boyhood. Nova Scotia, Catalina, Australia, New Zealand, the Florida Keys, the Rogue River, the Delaware, Tahiti and the nameless isles of the Pacific Ocean—Zane Grey knew more about the game waters of the world than any man alive. And he wrote about his experiences in eight fishing books published from 1919 to 1937, wonderfully entertaining and informative books which gradually went out-of-print.

It is a service to angling literature and to Zane Grey enthusiasts that a book has just been published containing a selection of eighteen of the best stories from those old Zane Grey books. The book is *Zane Grey's Adventures in Fishing* (Harper and Brothers, New York, N. Y., \$5.00). The selection was made, and notes furnished, by Ed Zern. Ed writes a Foreword for the book and an introductory note for each story, which constitute articulate appreciation of the life and works of Zane Grey. The great sportsman-writer died in 1939, and this volume of Zane Grey at his best—in a smartly designed format with good photographs—is a fitting memorial.

* * *

In this strange age of ours with its accent on pictures instead of words, when the best selling magazines are those with the greatest number of pictures, when the pictures flickering across a 21-inch screen in the living room monopolize the attention of young and old in the family, when comic sections get bigger and more colorful and more elaborate, I suppose we might be expected to look with favor upon a book called *Sportsman's Digest of Fishing* by Hal Sharp (Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., New York, N. Y., \$1.50). We should see it, perhaps, as in step with the times, as a short-cut to fishing knowledge.

This is a pocket-sized little book con-



"Somebody hadda bad day!"

taining a collection of the author's cartoon-type drawings with explanatory text which have appeared as a newspaper feature under the caption "Sportsman's Digest." It's pretty thin stuff, totally inadequate either for the beginner who would be much better off with the carefully written, meaty *New Handbook of Freshwater Fishing* by Lee Wulff or *The Boy's Complete Book of Fresh and Salt Water Fishing* by Rodman and Janes, or for the experienced fisherman who wants to get inside the problems of angling and will choose a book by Hewitt or Bergman or Joe Bates instead of a choppy "digest" that skitters across the surface of fishing facts. I like a fishing book that has enough in it to sink your teeth into. "Reading" this one was like biting into a nice red apple only to find that it's made of wax, is hollow, and falls to pieces in your hand.

* * *

I often wonder, in connection with writing about salt water fishing books in this column, how many ANGLER readers do any salt water fishing. Continuing to assume that some do, I invite

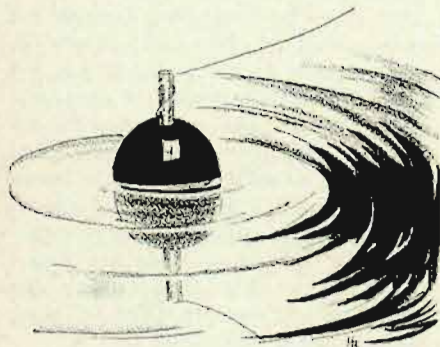
your attention to *Natural Salt Water Fishing Baits* by Vlad Evanoff (A. S. Barnes and Co., New York, N. Y., \$1.75) which is much more palatable to this reviewer than the same author's *Natural Fresh Water Fishing Baits* (reviewed in an earlier issue of the ANGLER). Fishing on the broad expanse of bay and ocean, one is not so conscious of art, of delicacy, of precision as he is on a trout stream or even on a lake. There is more joy in the catch itself than in the method, and there is an elemental rightness in cutting up a squid for bait, or digging the animal out of the conch shell, or casting a live crab into the surf. Mr. Evanoff not only describes the many kinds of natural baits in salt water fishing but goes into the life habits of the bait-fishes, crustaceans, eels, etc., so the reader will learn why and under what conditions a particular bait is better than another. Of special value, also, is the information on methods of preserving natural baits so that they retain their life or life-likeness over the period of a fishing expedition. A good, complete book of its kind.

The Editor's Angle

Once again we begin to hear the phrase—"Fished Out." There are too many fishermen ready to accept this phrase as an answer to a poor day. Even when trout seem few and are more wary, you can still catch some nice ones, but only if *you work for them!*

After the first week or two of the season, nearly all the easy-ones are caught. However, there is so much commotion and splashing around in the streams, that a lot of fish get away and won't "hit" just anything tossed at them. The first thing you should do is to determine just what kind of natural food is in the stream. The way to do this is to search under a few stones and trap whatever lives under them with a fine mesh net. Once you determine this factor, get yourself a supply of the bait most preferable or, if you are a fly-fisherman, you can try your imitations. Next you have to get your bait to the fish. Trout hide like most game animals. That means you have to get your bait in the pockets, under banks, etc. There will be many times a hook or two will get "snagged" in the process, but if you want fish and are willing to work for them, that is the best way I know how to go about it. A good way to fish is to use a lighter tippet than the rest of the leader and so when you get "snagged" you just lose a tippet instead of the whole leader.

Remember, don't accept that old excuse—"Fished-out," from anyone—just go ahead fishing in a business-like manner and you will be surprised that with patience how many nice fish you will get when the rest of the fishermen have given up.—Elmer Schorle in the Tomahawk Tedyuscung Sportsmen's Association.



Editor:

I am a subscriber to the PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER and wish to say it's "the greatest!" From time to time I see Pymatuning Lake mentioned so am enclosing a photo of myself with a few nice bass and walleyes caught November 1952 in this ideal lake. I do hope you can find room in THE ANGLER to print this because it is real proof there are big ones there.

JOHNNY YOUNGBLOOD
Jamestown, Pa.

We regret we are unable to reproduce the photo because of technical difficulties but take the Editor's word for it the pix showed a couple of plenty nice bass and walleyes taken at Pymatuning.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is copy of letter which the Delaware County Field and Stream Association received from Pvt. Dayhoff. It was read to our membership on Monday evening. The group felt that it contains much information so vital to the folks at home, I was instructed to send a copy on to you with the thought it might be published in THE ANGLER.

ROBERT C. YAKE
Corresponding Secretary
East Lansdowne, Pa.

Here's the letter from Pvt. Russell Dayhoff:

I have been a member of the Delaware County Field and Stream Association for approximately two years. I was introduced to the club through George Taylor who is a very active member, and a devoted outdoorsman. Although I haven't had time to become very active myself, I keep posted on your activities through the Club News which my wife sends me every month, and I look forward to the day when I can get into a good prone position on that new small bore range I read about. I am particularly interested in your program for the younger members of our club. I think it is a wonderful thing and you are doing a fine job. When I was a young boy I would have welcomed the chance to join a club like ours, but my hunting and fishing was restricted to shooting rats in a city dump and fishing in vain in a contaminated stream that flows past the factories of Philadelphia. Although I'm only twenty-three years, my few years of outdoor life can see the progress that clubs like ours have made, and where you make the most progress is in the training of tomorrow's hunters and fishermen. Just as our Great Nation is in their hands in the future, so is our wildlife and forests in their hands, and we cannot do enough to teach them the importance



BLUE PIKE, 31-inch, 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ -pound lunker, is one of largest blues to be taken from Lake Erie. Four-year-old Jess Murdock is shown holding the big fish that was caught in a net last May by his grandad, Harvey Lapp, a part time commercial fisherman for over 30 years. It caused quite a stir among party boat fishermen itching to hook one of this size.

of conservation and being good sportsmen. It'll be a long time before I carry my shotgun in the field, or fish the wonderful streams of America, but my thoughts are there constantly, and as long as I know there are organizations such as ours in existence back home, I don't mind fighting over here in Korea. Please keep up the good work so the future generation can have good sport. I'll do my part to give them a better world to live in.

A sport loving G. I.

PVT. RUSSELL DAYHOFF
Co. B--11th Eng. (s) BN
APO 264—c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

The Club ordered 1,000 signs to be printed, some to be distributed along our streams asking for the cooperation of all fishermen to stop throwing trash along the streams and to respect the property of the land owner. Every member can also help this move by talking to fishermen and showing them the wisdom of this. Several farmers have closed their land to fishing because of this condition. It is your sport. . . . Do what you can to preserve it. —Daniel Boone Rod and Gun Club June Bulletin.

We certainly hope our readers will seriously consider the cartoon on the back cover of the June ANGLER. G. Max Noll, Fish Warden, Pennsylvania Fish Commission writes—"I have just returned from Warriner's Pond, located about 2 miles northeast of Montrose where the bodies of two local fishermen have been recovered. The two men, Robert Becker and Elmer Green, both of Montrose, went fishing Sunday evening, leaving their car by the side of the road leading to the pond. Their absence from work caused a search to be instituted by State Police and when an overturned canoe and a floating cap indicated the men might be in the pond the local fire company and others began dragging for the bodies. The body of Mr. Becker was found in ten feet of water and the body of his companion Mr. Green a few minutes later near that of Mr. Becker." Two more tragic drowning statistics that needn't have happened. Who's next?

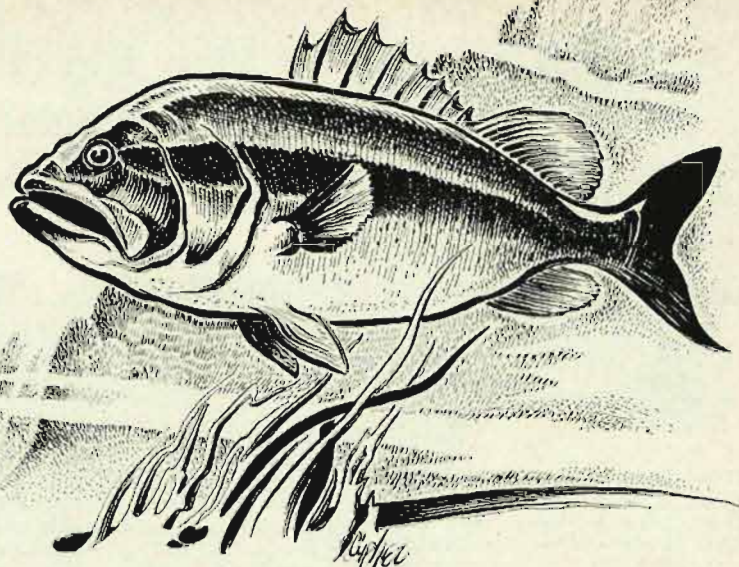


Dear Editor:

Enclosed is a snapshot of several large-mouth bass I caught in Crawford County waters last season. The three weighed 5 pounds, largest 3 lbs., 17 inches in length; smallest, $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. After quick photo I returned two smaller fish unharmed to the water. All were taken on flatfish. I enjoy the PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER very much, in fact more than any other publication dealing with fishing. I started tying flies this year and those lessons in the ANGLER came in mighty handy.

CHARLES W. YOUNGINGER
Meadville, Pa.

JULY—1953



The Delaware County Field and Stream Association, according to their "club news" scheduled their annual field day on May 17th at the club site. Trap, skeet, plug casting, archery and other activities were offered to members and their families.

West Chester Club scheduled their bass meeting for June 23.

The Holmesburg Fish and Game Protective Association thanks the Pennsylvania Fish Commission through the pages of their April issue of the Club News, for the splendid trout allotted Pennypack Creek.

The Fairview Sportsmen's Club, Bridgeville, Pa., elected the following officers for 1953: August Kalkstein, president; Dr. James E. Walton, vice-president; Angelo Pepe, secretary-treasurer; Justo D'Agaro, Cyrus Holman and Frank Floss, trustees. The Club's charter was received May 1, 1953.



Ralph E. Ashwell, Harrisburg, Pa., snagged this 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, 5-lb., 10 ounce brown trout on a minnow at Letort Springs, Carlisle, Pa.

Dear Editor:

I enjoy every issue I receive of the PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER, therefore don't want to miss one issue, so would you please inform me as to when my subscription expires?

If I may offer a suggestion, I think it would be an advantage to your office and to your subscribers if, on the small address tag on the magazine you would put the expiration date of each individual subscription after his name. As an example . . . John Doe—2-54, indicating Mr. Doe's subscription would expire February, 1954.

I am enclosing a photo which I hope you can publish as it would sure make my son proud. It is a 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ -pound catfish, 22 inches in length caught at Churchville. It is a large fish for the Philly area as this is probably the heaviest fished part of the state, so when you get a large one, you like to show it off.

If your magazine continues as it is at present, you have many years of success ahead.

CARL C. FINK

Philadelphia, Pa.



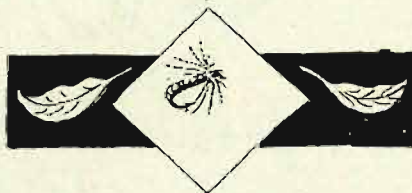
Dennis P. Fink, 5 years, hefts this 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ pound, 22-inch catfish he took recently in Pennsylvania waters. Master Dennis is a Philadelphian.

Johnny Mock, outdoor editor, All Outdoors, The Pittsburgh Press, has reissued his stream map of Pennsylvania. Copies can be secured through Sportsmen's Novelties, Box 4658, Pittsburgh 6, Pa.

The Fly Book

By A. G. Shimmel

The Partridge Spider



25-inch brown trout caught by Robert Nicodemus of Philipsburg, Pa., on Bald Eagle Creek below Milesburg, using a spinner. Photo courtesy of the Clearfield Progress.



James Heckert, Philadelphia, Pa., hooked this 26-inch, 5-lb., 2-oz. walleye in the Susquehanna River near Millersburg last season. Mr. Heckert's son is not only dwarfed but almost hidden by the big pike-perch.



Paul Adams, R No. 3, Kutztown, Pa. Caught this big 18½ pound, 32 inch carp near Moslem Springs, Pa. Photo by Johnnie Mittl.

ONE of the most exasperating situations confronting an angler is to find the water of his favorite stream low and crystal clear with trout lying idly in schools ready to dash for cover at even the suggestion of a fly floating over them. This same condition is encountered many times where the clear mountain spring brooks have been transformed into small ponds by beavers. Here the native brook trout grow to fair size. Because of their instinctive wariness the angler does not find them easy victims.

One of the most successful methods of taking trout under these conditions had its origin in a trick of the Scottish poachers. The first requisite is a lure that will attract attention without frightening the fish unnecessarily. The second is the method of presenting it, tempting the fish to strike.

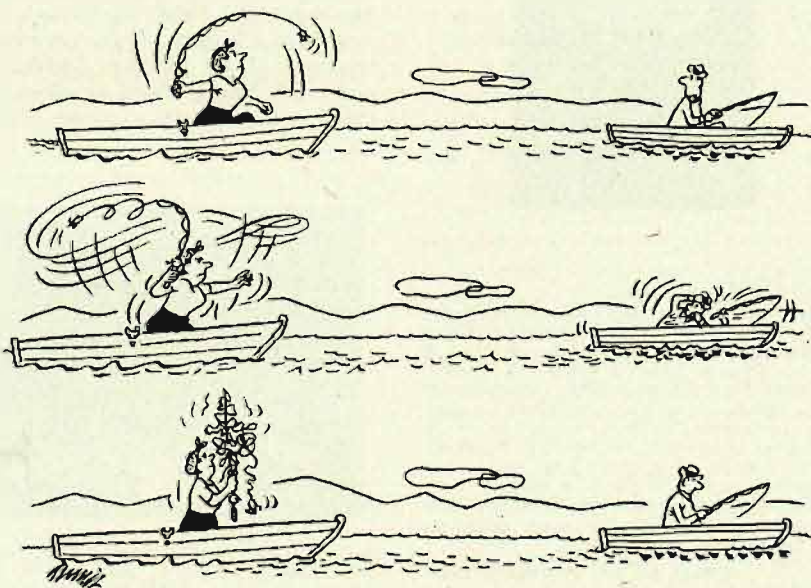
The lure is a special variation of the old Gray Hackle Yellow tied on an extra hook or better still on a fine dry fly hook weighted with lead wire. The body is of pale yellow wool or fur of

a color known to ladies as maize. The body is started half way down the bend of the hook and ribbed with gold wire or brown floss. The feature of this pattern is the hackle which is tied spider fashion of gray speckled partridge. There are no wings or tail. The general impression of the fly is that of a soft sparse Gray Hackle Yellow. The partridge hackle stirs enticingly with each movement of the current.

Attach the fly to a long fine leader and soak thoroughly so it will sink quickly. Cast to one side of the resting fish with as little disturbance as possible. Many will hide and others will mill excitedly. Let the fly sink until it reaches the bottom then allow it to rest there until the trout quiet down and return to their original positions. Move the fly slowly across the bottom a few inches at a time allowing the fly to come to rest between each movement. The hackle will open and close in a most lifelike manner. A quickening movement of the fins will indicate the trout's growing interest. Before many moments the trout will move over and suck the lure from among the pebbles. Slight lift on the rod tip will set the hook and the fun is on. Sometimes after considerable time has elapsed another trout can be taken from the same location. Only on rare occasions can a third be coaxed into striking.

As will be noted this is a specialized fly and method for unusual conditions. Its size and color can be varied but yellow will prove most useful.

If you are inclined to profanity or lack patience this method is not for you.



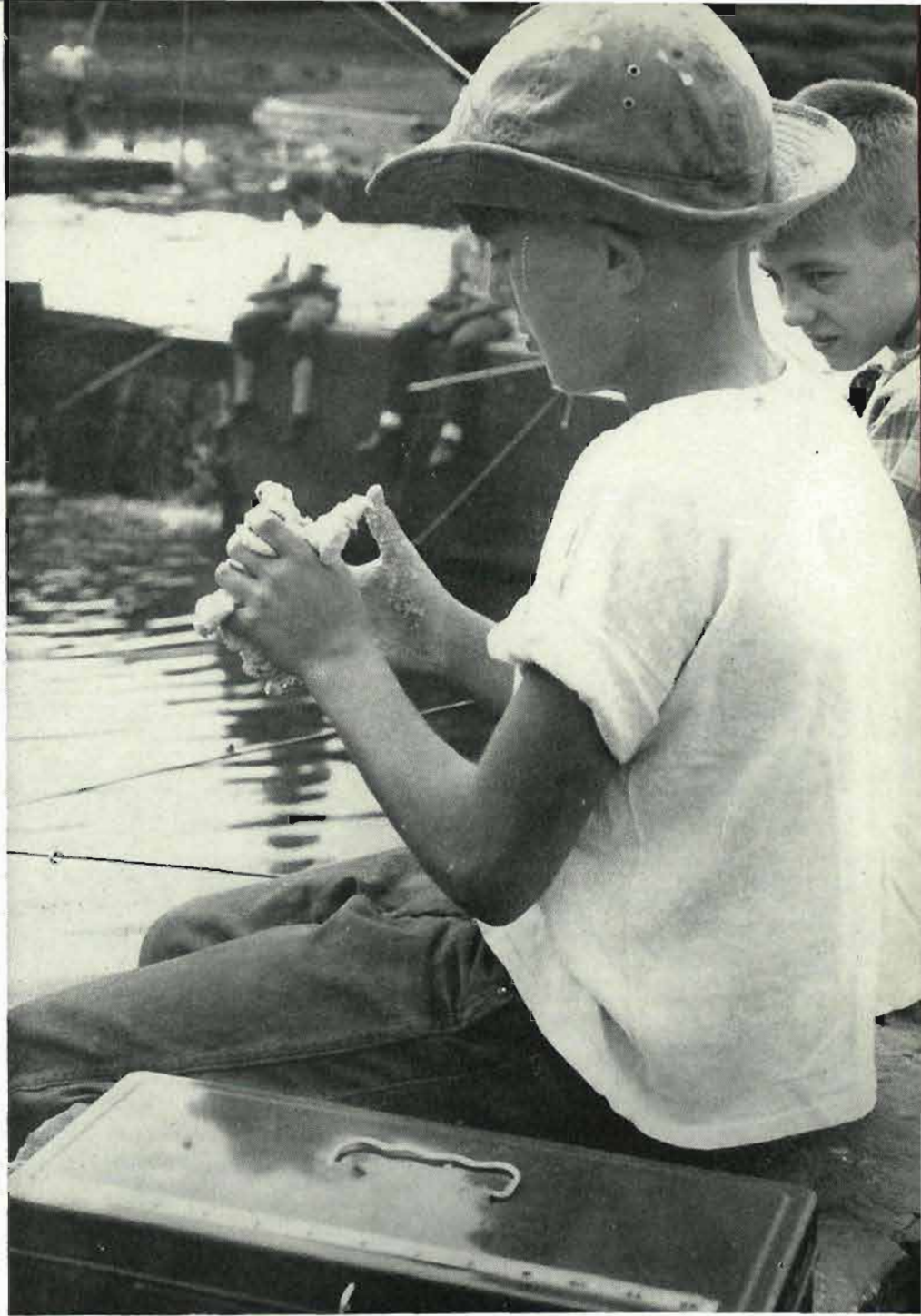
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