June 1944
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The world is making Post-War plans,
They're figuring what to do,
In every branch of industry,
When the present war is through.
Their plans are all mechanical,
Are based on skill and science,
They scheme to make a wonder world
With many a new appliance.
They dream of Super Autos,
And aircraft that will fly
Without an expert's guiding hand
To keep them in the sky.
By new and streamlined methods
The universe they'll run,
And they'll design the gadgets
With which the work is done.
And give to folks more leisure,
They'll nullify the curse of toil
And make each task a pleasure.
I'm sure their plans will gratify
Most every human wish,
But my post war plans are simple,
I'm going to hunt and fish.

Old nature will not change the style,
Of the everlasting hills.
The forest will look much the same,
And larks and whippoorwills
Will make the same sweet music
Without a change of note.
Each denizen of woodland trails
Will wear his pre-war coat,
The trout and bass in lake and stream
Will still retain old habits,
And we will find the self same rule
 Applies to deer or rabbits.
And so, considering these facts
With no wish to affront
The post war plans of super minds,
I plan to fish and hunt.

Courtesy of Remington Arms Co., Inc.
SOIL AND FORESTS ESSENTIAL FOR PENNSYLVANIA PROSPERITY

By MAJOR GENERAL EDWARD MARTIN

Governor of Pennsylvania

(Address at the 58th Annual Meeting of The Pennsylvania Forestry Association)

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Americans:

Pennsylvania is one of the richest political sub-divisions in the world in natural resources. We have coal, oil, gas, Iron ore, slate, sand, gravel, clay and a great acreage of rich soils. Two hundred years ago we had the finest forests in the world. Those magnificent woodlands are gone. Much of our ore, coal, gas and oil have been used in building this great country. We are using more and more of these natural resources today in fighting for our liberties and our lives.

Rich soils, slowly made by nature through the centuries, have also been worn and wasted. When the White Man came, the average depth of this soil carpet in Pennsylvania was nine inches. That rich, productive earth has now been washed, eroded and wasted away until its average depth is only six inches. That six inches of rich earth is all that separates us now from famine and want.

Conservation of natural resources, of these raw materials of civilization, is a proper concern of government. Soil is of the first importance. Next comes the conservation of our forests. It is vital that we consider the conservation of these and other basic natural resources in the post-war years.

Lumber is now a critical war item. The mills cannot cut enough timber. War demands are insatiable. For home builders, farm users, business and industry it is harder to get lumber than it is steel. Man can destroy a tree in a few minutes but it takes God a century to make one. When the resources are gone, man must go. Pennsylvania has many "ghost towns" in areas where its value and significance. Had his ideas been carried out, Pennsylvania would still be noted for its timber. As early as 1681, Sir William Penn, in his Charter of Rights, provided that in clearing the land care should be taken to leave an acre of trees for every five acres cleared. Two generations ago the wood lot was regarded as a necessity in the life of every rural village or small town family. Long ago far too many farms sacrificed their woodlands.

Many of the early achievements in Pennsylvania forestry can be traced to the late Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, affectionately known as the "Father of Pennsylvania Forestry." He was active in organizing the Pennsylvania Forestry Association in 1886; the oldest State Forestry Association now active in the nation. He was largely instrumental in having Governor Beaver appoint a Commission of Forestry in 1888, the first of its kind in Pennsylvania. Seven years later, in 1895, Governor Hastings signed a bill which set up a Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture. In 1901, the Division of Forestry became the Department of Forestry and Dr. Rothrock was named as its first Commissioner. He served in that capacity until June 1, 1904.

The Pennsylvania Department of Forestry and Waters was created under the Administrative Code of 1923, which combined the previous Department of Forestry and the Water Supply Commission. It continues to operate under the Administrative Code.

Year by year forest lands have been coming back under the control of the Commonwealth. The first State Forest land purchase was made in 1888, consisting of 17,010 acres in Pike, and Lycoming Counties. Today the State Forests comprise a total of 1,054,762 acres located in thirty-nine counties of the State. Our mountain counties, as is natural, have the greater acreage of these woodlands. Potter has 251,427; Clinton, 231,448; Lycoming, 151,997; Centre, 122,945; and Cameron, 119,038 acres. Tioga is in the hundred thousand acres class with 101,174 acres.

In addition to these State Forests, the Game Commission owns 742,362 acres located in 62 counties. Elk with 46,673; Sullivan with 45,247; Clinton, 29,448; Lycoming, 131,907; Centre, 122,045; and Cameron, 119,028 acres. Tioga is in the hundred thousand acres class with 100,174 acres.

Few people realize the vast use of wood by the Navy and Army. Perry's historic battle with the British at Lake Erie in 1813 made wood almost entirely indispensable. That day it was the day of wooden ships. Thus, until the fight between the Monitor and Merrimack during the Civil War all ship were wooden ships. That battle made even the wooden warship in the world obsolete.

But today wood is used even on battleships for many things, including 200,000 ft. of wooden decking, and for the packing cases filled with vaccine tubes. The Navy and Army list 1,200 items made from wood. The Navy is using more wood now than ever before in its history. Every big ship has woodworking shop and a staff of carpenters. The tonnage of wood in 1942 for the Army and Navy was bigger than the tonnage of steel.

Our State Forests play still another part in the war and are valuable for purposes of training and maneuver. A United States Cavalry squadron, 497 men and 442 horses, bivouacked for nine days in the Susquehanna State Forest in Potter County when it conducted maneuvers for squadrons, platoons and troops. The 29th Field Artillery, Balloon Pack, of the Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, occasionally uses the Mont Alto State Forest in Franklin County for maneuvering. The 75mm Howitzer Gun Batteries are carried on pack mules, each group broken down into six units, requiring mules to carry each howitzer.

Modern maneuvering must be done under some kind of cover. There are eyes in the sky. Forests are the best areas for troops to bivouac out of sight of the air forces. There is much timber on and near famous Indiantown Gap Military Reservation. This has helped make it one of the finest training centers in America. Altogether during this war the 26th, 29th, 44th, 77th and 95th Infantry Divisions and 1,500 Battalions have trained at Indiantown Gap.

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I USED to think that anglers fished for the sake of fishing. But as I look back at my angling companions, I realize that their fishing was really an escape from conditions which repressed them. In other words, they fished to express themselves.

In the days when girls were "flappers," expressing one's self usually meant raising Cain in a polite way, but both the act and the phrase are largely forgotten now. Nevertheless it is true that people still express through some congenial activity a side of their nature which is repressed in their daily life.

I have selected a number of my old fishing companions because of the vigor of their self-expression. Doubtless you will identify among them the counterparts of your own friends, or even of yourself.

There was for instance, The Speed Demon: he fished to express a passion for fast driving, and no trip interested him unless it went to the Back of Beyond. He loved to drive two or three hundred miles to try a new stream, and if it turned out to be fishless he didn't care.

The Demon was a hellion in traffic and a tornado on the road. He always drove with one eye on the rear-view mirror and he used to have an uncanny ability to sense the presence of motorcycle policemen and patrol cars. He was a living encyclopedia of up-to-the-minute information on police traps and anti-speed campaigns in a hundred towns, and a walking atlas of short-cuts and back roads to get around them.

He got away from every standing start with a neck-snapping take-off and he had a nerves-racking way of shifting into second instead of braking as he roared into a turn, then screaming out of it at sixty before shifting gears again. It sounded like a dive-bomber machine-gunning a fire engine.

The Demon fished as he drove. Nerves of ice with the tempo of seventy-miles-an-hour, he would race along the stream, false-casting so rapidly that his rod was a blur.

He covered miles of water, and always wanted to go somewhere else.

Poor Speed Demon! One day he met another fellow who was driving the same way he was.

There was the Born Mechanic. He was one of those incredible persons to whom the mysteries of mechanical things are clear as print. He fished as an outlet for his inborn genius and manual skill.

He was a New England Yankee, not a big man, but with such huge hands that he appeared to be wearing baseball gloves. Nevertheless, he could tie a beautiful No. 22 Fan-tailed Coachman, and detect by touch what a fish was merely an opportunity to try out some new anti-slip footgear.

He was an animate mass of beautifully made gadgets. He must have invented and made twenty collapsible landing nets, a dozen kinds of non-slippping footgear, and scores of boxes, cases, containers and bags for carrying flies, leaders, fly oil, line grease and tackle. Significantly, he never bothered to originate anything for carrying fish. He made a machine for dipping rods in varnish, another for putting on silk windings, and a third for polishing lines.

His downfall was rodmaking. He worked for years to calculate mathematically the tapers which would produce the perfect fly rod, casting and rejecting one experimental model after another. He never found his ideal, but in the process he learned how to make such darn good rods that people insisted on buying them, and now he spends all his time helping others to fish instead of doing it himself.

His opposite was City Boy, who probably had the most uninquiring mind and the least mechanical comprehension of any man I ever knew. Fishing was sport to him, but I am convinced that he really did it because it was the Correct Thing.

City Boy might wear old clothes, but they had to be fishing clothes, and if he wore old ones it was simply because he had seen a correct fisherman wearing similar ones. A necktie, a shave and a clean shirt meant nothing to him. He fished correctly, as the books directed. He belonged to a correct club and never fished any but correct streams, sanctioned by the governing body.

But he was only a City Boy, and he had a city boy's failings. One was for light shoes. He was a great walker, like most city folks—"it's your suburbianite who gets the car out for every little errand. But he was used to pavements, and he wouldn't tolerate any shoe heavier than a street shoe, even though the stream-bed stones left him sorefooted every day. Another failing was for newspapers—meaning, of course, New York newspapers. He seemed to think that the world would go to pieces if he didn't keep track of it. We went to the Adirondacks for three weeks, once, and he spent two of them walking to the village for newspapers.

City Boy married a correct girl who put a stop to his fishing and I don't see him any more, but I have a swell mental picture to remember him by. I am standing by an abandoned, overgrown logging trail, fifty miles from a highway. City Boy is coming through the woods toward me. As he reaches the road he automatically stops and looks both ways for traffic!

I used to laugh at City Boy, but you could only laugh with the Good Mixer. Most people called the Good Mixer an ardent angler and kidded him about his devotion to the sport, but he really fished to express his need for companionship.

He fished for over forty years but never aloud, the idea would have made him shudder. He studied the oldyne, the Upper Beaverkill and Willowemoc, the Ausable, the Brodhead—where he could be sure of meeting old acquaintances and a host of new anglers with whom he could make friends. He would proffer cigarettes, killing patterns, fly dope, a drink, a sandwich or a hot tip at the drop of a hat, not so much because he was generous as that he wanted company so badly he was willing to pay for it.

Good Mixer shone where the fishermen were gathered. His voice was the loudest, his laugh the jolliest, his backslap the heaviest and his lies the most unbelievable. He loved to organize fishing parties; at the hotel he projected the all-night poker sessions, mixed the highballs and laughed so heartily at his own jokes that you joined in until your sides were sore. He was the Life of the Party.

I once found him marooned, solitary and forlorn, at a fishing club and took him to Wolf Pond for a couple of days' fishing and camping. I left him for half an hour to try for a rising fish and when I returned he had materialized four hikers out of the deep woods and was cooking pancakes for them while they sat on the deacon bench and laughed at his jokes. I have always had the private conviction that he got so lonely he moulded them out of clay and breathed the breath of life into them out of his own inexhaustible store of vitality.

In contrast to him was The Woods Runner. He was a throw-back to our pioneer ancestors and fished to convince himself that he could survive in a single-handed struggle against the forests of nature, old standby—the Upper Beaverkill and Willowemoc, the Ausable, the Brodhead—where he could be sure of meeting old acquaintances and a host of new anglers with whom he could make friends. He would proffer cigarettes, killing patterns, fly dope, a drink, a sandwich or a hot tip at the drop of a hat, not so much because he was generous as that he wanted company so badly he was willing to pay for it.

The Woods Runner in the National Guard field artillery, which he had joined to learn about horses and packing. He had served for years in the infantry, the signal corps and the naval reserves, transferring from one to another when he had learned all that would help him in living in the wilds. He was a good small-boat sailor, a wizard at semaphore signalling, a good hand with horses and a potent shot with the long or the short arm. He could trap, cast the fly, stalk animals and find his way through any country.

When he worked, he clerked in sporting goods stores and caught rattlesnakes for zoos.

(Continued on page 14)
Old Time Flies
FLY fishing equipment has been brought to a high degree of perfection in the last century. For some of this we are indebted to England, but the great strides made by American people have put us in a position of being on a par with any other country. When we consider the implements used by our forefathers in the early days, and then compare them with the modern equipment now in use, one can visualize the great strides taken.

Prior to 1833, nothing of any importance had been written on the subject of fly fishing in America. What information the early settlers had on the subject, was undoubtedly secured from former emigrants who pursued the sport in the old country, or from old English fishing books. Among the latter, one could undoubtedly find, Izaak Walton’s “Compleat Angler”; Bowler’s “Art of Angling”; Carol’s “Anglers Vade Mecum”; Brooke’s “Art of Angling”; Richard Francé’s “Northern Memoirs”; Barker’s “Art of Angling” and “Barker’s Delight”; Sir H. Davy’s, “Salmonia”; Bainbridge’s “Fly Fishers Guide”, and no doubt many more of still older origin.

The explanation for Americans inactivity in failing to produce any angling literature up to this time, can be attributed to the fact that fishing was pursued as a means of a livelihood, and not as a sport, but rather as a means of a livelihood. An earning their homes out of the wilderness, the early settlers had little time to dig into the mysteries of fly fishing, especially when it was so easy to catch all the fish they wanted to in a very short period of time, by using bait.

But after the turn of the nineteenth century, a new era was developing in the country. Pressure of work was lightening up; more time was had for sports and the better things of life, and it was not surprising when in 1833, Jerome V. C. Smith, a medical doctor from Boston, came out with, “A Natural History of the Fishes of Massachusetts.” Smith’s book went through but two editions. It is now very rare and commands a good price in the old book markets only because it was the first book published in the United States that dealt with anything relating to the practical side of fishing. Suppose I quote certain paragraphs in the book which will give you an idea of the fly fishing equipment employed in those days:

“A pocket book, not only well supplied with artificial flies, but with such materials, particularly feathers, as enable him to re-assemble his losses, and imitate nature upon the spot, is an important article of the fly fisher’s equipment. It is much more necessary at this day than it was in the last century. The wood is hickory; it is twelve and a half feet long; it has but two joints, which are ferruled only on one end and for the sake of lightness; the butt is holded, very handsomely, and taper very suddenly; into the end of it, a spike of five inches of length, thin like a knife, is screwed, for the purpose of supporting the rod upright in the ground, as this is a position in which it is least exposed to danger; the length of the spike is required to give it firmness in the ground in which it is thrust, which is often of a sandy or mossy nature—finally when put together, it weighs but little—being but a quarter of an inch without the spike and may be held all day at the extremity, or, as some prefer, above the witch, without the least fatigue, and is under as much command as a coach whip.

So much for the rod. Now suppose we check on the reel, line, leader and flies.

“A reel or witch is indispensable; it should be such as is called multiplying, with which advantage is taken in exaggerated the fly, by winding up the line with greater rapidity, whenever it becomes relaxed.”

The line next follows.

“The line should be about thirty yards long, and made of patent silk and hair, either of a yellow or brown color. A line made of hair, or silk and hair wave together is preferred, (indeed no fly fisher ever uses any other) on account of its not becoming heavy and saturated with water, like lines of silk and other materials, which cling to the rod when wet and swelled, fall with violence when the fly is cast, and are not delivered freely through the rings of the rod.”

Now suppose we investigate the leader.

“Smaller lines, made of that indispensable material, gut, are sometimes used, but these are called ‘casting lines’ and sometimes ‘foot-lengths,’ and are attached, as occasion may require, to the principal line, for the purpose of falling with less violence upon the water.”

The flies next follow:

“Two flies are generally used, termed technically, a dropper and a stretcher, the latter being at the extremity of the line, and both being made to remove at pleasure, by a simple arrangement of the casting line. When three flies are used, there can be no better arrangement for them than the following. The first drop fly, to be thirty inches from the stretcher, the gut only four inches long and of the stoutest kind. The second drop fly, to be thirty five inches from the first, and the gut eight inches long. The advantage of observing this fixed distance between the flies, is that of their all three coming in contact with the water in the ordinary position of the line after it is cast.

“Highly as we appreciate it as a pleasing resource to the angler, and forming one object for the exercise of his skill, it is not intended to add to these remarks our own experience in the art of fly making; it will however be proper to state the names of those mentioned in the books on angling—where ample directions may be seen—of such as are said, and we have proved to be, the rods, how to use them, as well as the flies. The names of such as are said, and we have proved to be, general.”

After a lapse of twelve years, John J. Brown, a New York tackle dealer, came out with “The American Anglers Guide.” This occurred in the year 1845 and it was written under the pen name of “American Angler.”

Brown states that, “from the fact of there being comparatively few who practice with the fly, some English writers are of the opinion that there are no fly fishers in America, and many of our countrymen think there are very few; but this is a great mistake. There are hundreds of good fly anglers, and many that can throw a fly with the most experienced of Europe.”

Brown draws heavily on various English works, such as Blain, Daniel, Fisher, Walton, Cotton, and Holland’s “British Anglers Manual.” Of the original material, the following is quoted, as it represents the American practice prevalent in those days:

“Fly fishing is usually practised with a short one handed rod from ten to twelve feet in length, or a two handed rod from fifteen to eighteen feet in length. The first mentioned is the most common in use, and is calculated for the majority of our streams, which are small and require but little length of rod or line. Attaching to the rod should be a reel containing from thirty to fifty yards of hair, grass, silk, or silk and hair line—the latter description should be used if it can be procured, tapering from the tenth of an inch almost to a point; to this should be attached a leader, of from one to two yards in length; and finally your fly, on a light length of gut; if you wish to use two or three flies, place them on your leader with short gut about twenty four inches apart.”

Here we find the leader so called for the first time; up to this date, and for quite some while later, you will notice that it is known under a variety of names, such as casting lines, foot-lengths, bottom line, etc.

In an earlier part of the book, Brown states that: “the rods used for trout are from 12 to 16 feet in length; the butt of maple, the second and third joints of ash or lancewood, and the top joint of bamboo, is used for bait; if for fly fishing, of spliced lancewood, bamboo and whalebone, similar to the salmon rod; in fact a trout rod may be called a small salmon rod, and is very often used for cod. As a streamer, the salmon rod, if well made, is also a very useful article for traveling, or where the angler does not wish his business or profession

(Continued on page 16)
MENTION of bait fishing in streams is likely to bring to the mind’s eye of most anglers the image of the bait-fishes, including the stone-cast, and angle worms. To be sure, these old reliables always will remain in the van-guard as effective baits for this branch of our favorite and incomparable sport of sports. Their popularity is easily understood because not only are they widely effective but also readily procurable during nearly all of the fishing season. However, there exist many other excellent baits that are not so generally known or used and which, in their seasons, are quite as effective as, or even more so than, the bait fishes or the celebrated, if badly hackneyed, garden huckle.

It is of several of these lesser known baits that I now propose to gabble somewhat at length. Since much of the matter herein embodied, is the result of personal observation and experience, perhaps the reader will forgive the rather free exhibition of what has been, pithily termed the “perpendicular pronoun.”

Although chronically addicted to fly casting and, as may be suspected from matter scattered through the issues of this publication, to fly tying and light lure making, I do not hesitate, where legally permissible, to revert to bait fishing when artificials fail to bring results. That such action is in any way reprehensible I firmly deny. On the other hand I willingly agree that it becomes necessary and desirable to prohibit the use of all but artificial in certain waters where the trout population is artificially maintained at considerable public expense. Otherwise trout fishing would soon become a lost art in heavily fished areas in which abundant annual stocking with legal size fish must be resorted to. Such synthetic troutting is about all we can hope to maintain under present day conditions of rapid transportation and increasing suburban populations.

Be it said however, that there are certain phases of bait fishing for the game fishes that require not only as much skill and knowledge of stream craft as does fly fishing in its strictest sense.

In retrospect of many years of fishing freshwater streams I visualize numerous instances where after hours of fishless effort with artificials of many shapes and hues, resort to baits of native waters has brought success when the day seemed irretrievably lost. The possession of a practical knowledge of insects and the commoner aquatic animals adds a zest to angling in streams which can not be supplied by mere enthusiasm for the sport. Many experienced anglers have gained such knowledge through natural powers of observation and although they may not know the scientific names of these essential bait creatures, they have learned where, when and how to look for them.

On trout streams those queer but highly important insect inhabitants called caddice worms are known to most anglers. These soft-bodied crustaceans and beetles are so many different forms that at least some of them are certain to be noticed by ordinarily observant anglers. These insects are among the most desirable of all stream-born trout food because most caddice worms are vegetarians and thus serve to transform the plant life of the streams into nutritious fish food. That caddice worms and adult flies formed 50 per cent of all food taken by the brow trout is the observation of Dr. Paul Needham of the U. S. Fish and Wild Life service.

This as compared with 17.6 percent of Mayflies will apprise some anglers who are prone to consider the Mayflies as of greater importance than the caddice flies. Probably this impression has been gained in fishing for the brown trout which Dr. Needham found to consume no less than 79.3 percent of Mayflies in its insect diet. However, of this percentage only a very small portion consisted of adult flies, the greater proportion being nymphs probably on their way to the surface. Most of the larger Mayfly nymphs are of burrowing habit and thus are not accessible to the trout save during their annual or biennial periods of emergence. On the other hand most of the larger caddice worms are free-living forms such as those shown in figures 1, 2 and 3. Many of these species are over an inch in length when fully grown and thus make a juicy morsel. These large kinds and their relatives are known to many anglers as “stick bait” and can be used with fatal effect for that purpose. They have the habit of attaching to the outside of their silken cases bits of tree bark and leaves, and therefore look much like animated twigs. During periods of low water they sometimes may be seen in vast numbers crawling over the bottoms of rocky pools. At such times, and with such a plethora of juicy food available, it is little wonder that the trout may then refuse to accept the angler’s artificials. The fish ordinarily swallow the caddice worms case and all as these cases disintegrate in their stomachs and apparently merely furnish beneficial roughage. However, when placed on the hook in a naked state caddice worms usually are accepted eagerly as old and valued acquaintances. When fishing with them in this way the fish ordinarily should be granted slack line as otherwise the bait is likely to be stripped without result.

It may be not widely known that some species of caddice worms make no case and that these kinds usually are green in color. Others live beneath stones sometimes in little net-screened dens but these are too small in size to be of interest to the bait fisherman. Strange to say, many of these larger kinds are known by common anglers as caddice flies science because they have not been identified with their adult forms and much remains to be learned about their natural history.

The Mayflies, dragonflies, and stoneflies a much better known and fine money when on them are available, but the literature on the American caddice worms is of a fragmentary and scattered character and relatively to adult forms.

Among the comparatively little used baits for trout, small crayfish are often very effective and not infrequently form an important item in the diet of the trout. Fish take from streams abundant in these crustaceans and thus exhibit flesh of a bright pink salmon color and to be of superior flavor. In baiting with crayfishes some experienced anglers use only the tails. These may used in their natural condition or with shell pieces from them.

Among unusual baits for trout are certain of the fishes own body such as highly colored pectoral fin. This is used as a substitute for a fly and fished in much the same way as the wet flies. In fact Parmachene Belle artificial, so effective in northern latitudes, is said to imitate this My own experience with this fin in local trout which are almost exclusively stocked fish of recent liberation. well known is the European poacher’s trick of plucking out the eyes of captured trout for use as bait. Personal experimentation with these trout eyes has shown that they have a great fascination for the trout were eagerly taken. Just what causes strange reaction is rather hard to understand.

In any event, the whole idea is repetitious and is only mentioned as a curiosity in behavior. However, it does not seem to be more distasteful than the rather common use of salmon eggs for bait, which is a custom in streams west of the Rockies or in those mountains.

Since the advent of the Japanese by many reports of success in fishing with them have been noted. Apparently it is readily taken by the brown trout which is well known is a persistent surface feeder. This beetle like many others of land origin floats buoyantly on the surface when it drops into the water. Its brilliant color should make it attractive under these conditions.

When it comes to fishing for the wily temperamental bass of the streams, oft-times spurn all artificials, the presentation of certain favorite baits as the helgrammite, crayfish or “crab even the young of the lamprey eel “lamper,” has laid low many a fine brook trout. Among unusual baits for trout are certain nuisance names. The helgrammite, figure 4, whose ______ presentation of certain favorite baits as the helgrammite, crayfish or “crab even the young of the lamprey eel “lamper,” has laid low many a fine brook trout. Among unusual baits for trout are certain nuisance names. The helgrammite, figure 4, whose ______ presentation of certain favorite baits as the helgrammite, crayfish or “crab even the young of the lamprey eel “lamper,” has laid low many a fine brook trout. Among unusual baits for trout are certain nuisance names.
Quite recently I have noticed the Fishing Editor of a well known sporting journal telling his readers that the helgrammite "is the young of the dragon fly." This is not the first time such statements have been made and as there seems to be considerable misapprehension regarding the natural history of this insect the following information taken from authentic sources, may be found of interest.

The helgrammite, scientifically, Corydalis cornuta Lin., with the exception of the giant waterbugs, is the largest of North American aquatic insects, and by all odds the most carefully studied species. Its transformations and life history were described, in 1848, by S. S. Haldeman, and its anatomy was afterward studied in great detail by Dr. J. H. Comstock and his students at Cornell University. It belongs to the entomological family Sialidae and is only distantly related to the dragon flies. The adult of the helgrammite is illustrated in figure 4 which depicts the male insect. This fly is a rather clumsy slow-flying creature that is seldom seen as it flies at night and is only occasionally attracted to artificial lights. Its body is soft and flabby and it is entirely defenseless in spite of the enormous jaws so evident in the illustration, figure 5.

The eggs of the helgrammite are deposited in masses of 2 to 3 thousands on trees, rocks, bridges or other locations overhanging the water into which the young drop upon hatching. These egg masses resemble splashes of whitewash and may easily be mistaken for bird droppings or the eggs of water spiders. It takes nearly 3 years for the helgrammite larva to attain its full growth but as a brood matures each year, the insect may be found present in many sizes under or on the rocks of a given stream. Since the insect is a carnivorous creature subsisting on its other aquatic neighbors in-

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DURING recent years Michigan trout fishermen have debated the present daily limit of "15 trout but not more than 10 pounds and 1 fish" and most seem to agree that it is too high. The question might be raised as to just what is a satisfactory number to be set by the Legislature since it is that body not the Conservation Department, which specifies the limits on fish catches except on two lakes (Lake Charlevoix and Birch Lake, Cass County) where by Commission order five trout make up the daily bag. All are agreed on certain principles. The limit should be as generous as the annual production of fish will permit. It should be fair to all anglers and should not favor a few who are lucky enough and hungry enough to take the maximum allowed by the law if at the expense of the rest. The limit should also be attainable—not every day of course, but on at least a few good days during the season by a reasonably skillful angler. Does our present limit qualify in these respects?

There was no limit to the take in the "good old days" in Michigan, which was proper as the supply was more than adequate for the few who fished. Late in the 19th century a limit of fifty was imposed, which was reduced to thirty-five and then twenty-five and finally fifteen. These later reductions came with increased angling, particularly with the advent of the automobile and good roads. Other states have been faced with the same problem, even those in the far West and in northern New England. In the wilder places in both of these sections the angling pressure is less than in Michigan. Montana has recently reduced the daily take to 15 game fish, including trout. Wyoming permits 20 game fish per day, Colorado 20 trout, Maine 25, Vermont 20, New York and Pennsylvania 10. Our neighboring states of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Indiana allow 15 trout for the day's catch. In Ohio and Illinois, where trout water is scarce, the limit is 6 and 8 respectively. In most of these states, as in Michigan, there is also a maximum daily poundage regardless of number and in some, fishing is restricted to the use of artificial flies and to even lower catches on certain waters. The trend in all progressive trout states has been toward lower daily limits, thereby placing the emphasis on the sport value rather than the meat value of trout. Michigan's average trout season is approximately 130 days. It would be theoretically possible for an angler legally to take 1,950 trout in the course of the season. No one ever approaches that figure although records of three and even four hundred trout per season have been reported. The local expert who can watch conditions of weather and water and who is able to go when these are right and who knows the streams is the one who makes the "killings." In normal times the average trout fisherman is lucky if he can spend a week or two in the North and can make four or five weekend trips otherwise during the season. Naturally he cannot expect to strike conditions right each time and his take is relatively small, but multiply it by several hundred thousand and the total catch is significant.

"Wild" Trout in Streams

It has often been stated that most of our trout waters were overfished prior to the war and that this was a factor making for unsatisfactory fishing. Creel census studies show that the angling pressure on trout streams was approximately four times as heavy as on bass and bluegill lakes. Whether the removal of trout by anglers during the first part of the season from our better trout streams affects the later catch is open to question. Complete catch records for several seasons were secured from sections of a number of streams including the Pine and Little Manistee Rivers in Lake County, the North Branch of the Au Sable near Lovells, and the East Branch of the Tahquamenon in the Upper Peninsula. In none of these was there any marked decline in the catch of trout as the season progressed; in fact the catch per hour was actually better in June than in May for most waters and showed no decline even in late August on heavily fished streams. It is true that legal-sized plantings are soon caught out and only temporarily boost the catch per hour, but the natural production, which is the mainstay of the angler in our principal streams at least, seems to maintain trout fishing on a pretty even keel throughout the summer. What about southern Michigan trout streams such as Dowagiac River, Spring Creek, Paw Paw River, Rice Creek and the smaller streams which remain cold enough for trout in summer and therefore deserve to be classified as trout waters? The Department has not complete creel census data for these streams but presumably they are fished more heavily than those farther north and their natural productivity is lower because of more extensive drainage of many spring tributaries which are the natural breeding and nursery areas for trout. Research is demonstrating that if the headwaters and spring-fed tributaries can be preserved, nature can do the rest. It is also possible to artificially stimulate for a week or so after the removal of legal-sized fish are caught out on opening day, leaving little for anglers, the rest of the season. On larger lakes trout do not take out so rapidly.

The need for a lower limit on such waters is self evident. Obviously the trout stock is endangered by such fishing and a relatively few people get the bulk of the plantings. The release of legal-sized trout in streams also makes the present limit so easily obtainable by a few fishermen who happen to be there shortly after a planting has been made, rather than by the larger body of fishermen who take legal-sized plantings long enough to be set by the Legislature since it is the body not the Conservation Department, which specifies the limits on fish catches except on two lakes (Lake Charlevoix and Birch Lake, Cass County) where by Commission order five trout make up the daily bag.

Creel Census on Streams

Creel census figures for some of the best trout streams in the state taken during the four years before Pearl Harbor show that very few trout fishermen reached the present limit even when heavy plantings of hatchery trout were made during the season. Data from such streams showed that from 41 to 79 per cent caught no trout on an average day: from 1.2 to 5 per cent caught 3 trout, from 0 to 0.7 per cent 10 trout, and 0 to 0.1 per cent took the limit of 15. If "par" in trout fishing is the limit, we can see why some trout fishermen complain that fishing is poor.

The story on "made" trout lakes is quite different. Eighteen of 32 anglers fishing Kimes Lake, Newaygo County, took the limit the first day of the season in 1942. One man had 15 before 7 o'clock, came in and got his wife and left with 30 trout within 10

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Within the last fifteen years many light lures, light weight lines, longer and lighter rods, and reels with light spools have been manufactured and sold. There are three reasons for this and all are good.

The light weight lures, are most effective. Light balanced equipment is nicer to cast. The playing of fish on light tackle makes for an improved sport over the old block and tackle tactics.

By light lures we mean anything ½ oz. or less in weight, with special emphasis on those weighing ¼ and ½ ounces. Many know consider a ⅛ oz. lure a heavy one, whereas, in the old days that was as light as they came. The small: plug, casting spoon and weighted bucktail and spinner requires light tackle properly balanced for effective handling. The line should be 12 lb. test or less, the rod from 5 ½ to 6 feet in length and the reel should have an aluminum spool and cork arbor.

The light line offers a great deal less resistance than the bull rope type. A light weight lure can bring out the action of a long light rod just as a heavy plug will make a short stiff rod bend, and there is less air resistance from a small plug. The lighter reel spools equipped with an arbor will start into action more readily than the old type piled full of line, and there is less momentum to check to prevent backlashing.

The ideal rod, we believe, is a 5 ft. 10 in. affair that has backbone without clubbiness. It must have more than just length and lightness. If it lacks backbone the lure will pitch too high on the cast and it will be difficult to drive the hook over the barb on the strike. Long casts can not be made with such a rod. If it is too clubby with its stiffness it will not bend sufficiently on the back cast to drive the lure forward on its course through the air.

When the angler feels the fish strike he should strike back to set the hook. If the barb does not penetrate the skin the fish will promptly unload the lure. This usually occurs on the jump. The light outfit requires a snappy but not powerful strike.

The angler must attempt to mark a happy medium between keeping some tension on a hooked fish yet not so much tension as to strain any part of the tackle. In the case of the better bass, line must be given when the fish makes a run. A bass packs plenty of power and it is too husky to be hooked and horded right into the net. If it is totally checked when it makes a run, something must give, usually it is the line, but it can be the rod or the hooks.

One bright night several of us were fishing a fine stretch in the Conodoguinet. The one member of the group had a strong new line and his rod was on the heavy side. He hooked a tremendous bass on a surface plug. The fish promptly made a power run and the fisherman froze to the handles of the reel. The force was so great that something had to give and this time it was the tri-hook. When the fisherman retrieved his fishless plug he found that the hook points on one of the tri-hook had been bent so that they were almost straight. Of course hooks will bend more readily when force is exerted on the tips of the hooks rather than on the bends. That is probably what happened in this case, but at any rate after this experience the plug had the appearance of being equipped with a small gig rather than a tri-hook.

The greatest interest of the fisherman in comparing light and heavy plugs centers around the matter of relative effectiveness of the lures. In every respect we believe the light weights have an advantage over their full grown additions for Pennsylvania fish and fishing waters.

As far as smallmouth bass waters are concerned, Pennsylvania is different from most states. Most of our smallmouth fishing is stream fishing. Generally speaking stream fishing is shallow water bass fishing. Much of the water we fish is less than four feet in depth. A similar condition exists in the Pennsylvania ponds. Our natural and artificial lakes and ponds for the most part have shallow shorelines and shallow bays, and here again we are fishing a great deal of water less than four feet in depth.

A light lure does not hit the surface as hard as a heavy one and therein lies one of the main reasons for the effectiveness of the midget lure. The splash of a heavy plug startles a fish, particularly if it lights near a fish located in the shallows. Most plug fishermen have witnessed a heavy plug hit the water followed immediately by a wake going away from the plug.

On the other hand the gentle spat of a light lure attracts its quarry rather than startles it. The fisherman who has mastered the knack of the gentle delivery accompanied by a lifelike dive will fool many fish which would not be attracted by the plop of a "dead" and heavy plug. The light animated splash draws many strikes right after the plug hits the water and these are often of the spectacular type. In the case of light lures we frequently see a wake approaching the lure right after it gently dives into the water and the strike invariably follows.

Unfortunately for the fisherman of the shallows, and this includes most of the Pennsylvania bass fishermen, the manufacturers are primarily making plugs for big-mouth bass of the deeper lakes and for fishermen who are not acquainted with light balanced tackle. Large plugs are more readily available and they are made in a greater variety of patterns and colors. Before the war, however, the tendency was in the right direction, from our point of view, and midget additions of standard plugs were appearing on the market. The law of supply and demand was at work.

Some of the Pennsylvania light lure casters are now making their own tiny artificial lures. Fine work is being done with two tone cedar and lucite, and some effective lures

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Broughton

A 7¾ pound brown trout 27 inches in length climaxed a three day pre-induction fishing trip for Nick Grubeksky. The great trout was taken from Pine Creek above Titusville on a black gnat and spinner.

Eastern

Charles Meinhardt was among the first local fishermen to land a prize trout at the opening of the season. Meinhardt caught his 3 lb. 17½ inch rainbow in the Bushkill near the Binney & Smith Plant.—Easton Express.

Clay

Daniel Eshelman caught a 19 inch brown trout in Middle Creek, Lancaster County.

Allentown

Neither the bite of a chill morning nor the threat of rain held back a horde of Lehigh County fishermen from joining in the trout season's opening today.

While the opening of trout season was marred by heavy rains and high, raging streams and the fishing as a whole was none too good, there were several remarkable catches made during the first several days after the sport got officially underway.

If you think some of the catches weren't out of the ordinary, take a look at the picture, accompanying this column. It's a photo of a 24-inch brown trout. The other object of interest is Leroy Bamberger, of 22 Mifflin St., popular mechanic at Bamberger's Lincoln Avenue and Cumberland Street Service Station. Leroy, incidentally, is the gent who hauled the brownie.

He was first introduced to Mr. (or probably Mrs.) Trout at about 9 o'clock Monday night while fishing in the Hammer Creek just below the falls near the pumping station. The introduction was made by a fat, juicy night crawler attached to the end of fisherman Bamberger's hook.

The brownie made a vicious strike at the night crawler and then the fun began. A half hour later, Leroy reached the midget submarine. But in the meantime the trout staged a hectic battle. Brownies aren't noted for their aerial acrobatics, but this lady was an exception. For nearly five minutes she boiled on the surface of the water and made more spectacular leaps than Bamberger could keep count of. The fish weighed exactly five pounds, which is believed to be the heaviest trout ever caught in a stream in this section of the Commonwealth.

Why the trout was hungry enough to bite on a night crawler is hard to understand because when Bamberger opened her up, he found in her stomach one eight-inch brook trout, 16 inches long.—Latrobe Bulletin.

Fish warden Harvey Neff stated this morning that the number of anglers thronging the well-stocked creeks and waterways which have made this county famous in the realm of rod and reel was considerably greater than that of last year.

Early reports on catches, however, indicated that the wily trout were playing hard to get, and full creels were the exception rather than the rule. This was attributed by Warden Neff to weather conditions and the exceptionally heavy turnout.

Long before dawn, anglers sought the best fishing spots, and promptly at 5 A.M. the first casts were made.

Along the Little Lehigh, from the concrete bridge at the hatchery to the dam, a comparative small area, there were 85 anglers. Cars were parked for miles along the creeks.

A goodly number of women were noticeable. The feminine influence has grown greater each year, and seemed to have reached a new peak today. Service men were few, the sight of uniforms being a rarity.

Although the all-around picture indicated that the piscatorial pickings were slim, there nevertheless were many outstanding catches.

The best report of today's action came from Tom H. Byer, who was able to land a 20½-inch brown trout caught by Stanley Youkonis. It weighed 3½ pounds. Youkonis also had five others, but of smaller size.

Andrew Dybach hooked a 1½-inch rainbow at the Jordan dam. This undoubtedly was an old timer, for there were no rainbows stocked there this year.

Stanley Molnar had two 15-inch brownies to boast about, while John A. Jones caught a 15-inch brookie at the Little Lehigh swinging bridge.

Mrs. Ralph Kleckner apparently headed the women's division, with a 15-inch brookie.

Among the servicemen was Ensign Boyd Walker, who was thoroughly enjoying himself while on leave.

The first story of the season based on the "one that got away" came from John Gregg. The younger, aged 10, was fishing yesterday in Jordan Creek, and managed to hook a whopper. In the ensuing fight, however, Johnny lost half his line and wound it up with an elbow injury, which required medical treatment. Johnny will be able to attend school on Monday, but the sprained joint will keep him from further adventures in the world of Isak Walton.

Fifteen-year-old Earl "Corky" Shellhammer battled 25 minutes before landing a 21½-inch brown trout yesterday, the largest taken so far this season from the boating lake at Dorney Park.

The fish weighed four pounds dressed. Shellhammer lives in a home located on the park and is a member of the sophomore class at South Whitehall High School.

The champion of all champions was Charles Waidelich of Kempton, who took a 23 inch brownie in Pine Creek, a tributary to the Ontelaunee Creek. Waidelich's only comment on the event was a challenge for anyone to top his fish.

Stanley Weaver of Richlandtown Pike angling in Cook's Creek in the Slifer's Valley section of Upper Bucks County, took a 19-inch rainbow trout. Lure used was an earth worm.

Tommy Paul, of Upper Main St., Northampton, caught the largest fish recorded for the day—an 18-inch rainbow trout in the Catsauqua Creek. Another lucky fisherman was Jim Shimnick, of Catsauqua, who reeled in a 16-inch rainbow trout also from the Catsauqua Creek.—Allentown Chronicle.

Waterford

A big trout that numerous fishermen had seen in a stream below Waterford but had never been able to land was lured by the bait on the hook cast by Wayne Weimer of Waterford.

Pulling it from the water after a spirited fight Weimer found it was a native brown trout, 16 inches long.—Latrobe Bulletin.

Hollisterville

Northeastern Pennsylvania fishermen continue to report to The Times sports editor
the catching of the largest trout taken from regional waters in many years.

On Sunday, April 30, Leonard Elliott of Hollisterville, landed a rainbow measuring twenty-seven inches and weighing seven pounds one-half ounce, while angling from the shore on the West Branch of the Paxtang.

The distinction, however, of catching the heaviest rainbow trout goes to Frank J. Thomas of Sterling, pictured above. Boat fishing with his eleven-year-old son, Richard, Mr. Thomas pulled a rainbow tipping the scale at a few ounces over eight pounds, and measuring a little over twenty-six inches, out of Lake Wallenpaupack. The fish had a distinctive brown and yellow coloration, Mr. Thomas used a fly rod, a No. 6 hook and line, Mr. Elliott, had a worm as bait. It required thirty minutes before he finally landed the "beauty; the son netting the fish. The spot in the big dam where the trout was caught is twelve feet deep. Mr. Thomas hooked into another big trout later, but failed to land it.

Both trout were perfectly marked rainbows. The state-wide contest to determine the largest caught in Pennsylvania waters this year.—Scranton Times.

Shippensburg

John Lovell, shop superintendent at the News-Chronicle plant, caught a trout, 13½ inches in length in the Big Pond CCC dam. He said that he caught his trout with worm. Many of the other fish he had hooked were also hooked with such bait, he said.

The trout were apparently deep in the water and interested only in worms as many anglers turned to such bait in the hope of catching a large trout. Luther Finkey landed two large trout from the bank at the CCC dam, and one small one. The largest caught by Mr. Finkey measured almost as long as the one landed by Mr. Lovell. All together, the report is that six large trout were created during the morning at the CCC dam with quite a fair sized catch of smaller ones.

T. G. Norris, state forester Michaux district, said fishermen and sportmen, in a talk given to the Pennsylvania Fish and Game Association recently, told of such instances. He said that temperature of the water, depth and other factors had an important part in determining the use of flies. More than 50 fishermen were angling for the elusive trout at the CCC dam at Big Pond prior to the rain shower which drove them away. Some of the fishermen had to cut brush along the banks of the dam to find suitable places. A young lad caught a 22-inch trout in the branch stream in Shippensburg, according to a report. There are some few trout in that branch which at one time was one of the best trout streams in this section until it was polluted. A recent test made by a specialist in determining the adaptability of this stream for trout revealed that the percentage of pollution was too high for stockings of trout. However, the water temperature is suitable for their livelihood.—Shippensburg Chronicle.

Bethlehem

Despite weather conditions streams in this section were lined with fishermen, some with everything modern in fishing tackle; other satisfied with just lines or a line affixed to the end of a tree branch. Re-gardless of how chilly the morning was or the quality of the equipment, the majority of the anglers arrived at the streams as early as 4:30 A.M., awaiting 5 A.M., the designated hour for the opening of the trout season.

Hundreds of youngsters were among the early birds. Along Saucon Creek, from the entrance to Saucon Park and as far southward to Hellertown, both banks of the stream and in many places in the stream, there was a mass of humanity in fact there were so many fishermen at certain spots that it was impossible to do any casting with an degree of safety. One of the fishermen, chilled to the marrow, and who returned to a place of warmth after an hour or two of angling said that he had caught so many along the Saucon that you was obliged to tell the fellow next to you to move over so that you could cast.

Similar conditions prevailed along the Monocacy Creek, both north and south of Illick's Mill. An army of youngsters chose this creek as their favorite, and quite a few of them, according to reports shortly before the noon hour, made appreciable catches.

Several fishermen angled for a certain length of time and then high tailed it to a fire built along the banks of both streams.

Paul Hartzell, member of the Monocacy Field and Stream Association, hooked a beautiful specimen. It was a brown trout and measured 22½ inches. He made the catch in the Monocacy Creek.

Another club member, Lawrence Lehr, angling in the same stream, got a rainbow trout that was 17½ inches in length.

One of the club's oldest members, Eddison Achesy, 73 years of age called it quits shortly before the noon hour. He had a string from 9 to 11 inches.

A number of exceptional catches were also reported by anglers along the Saucon.—Bethlehem Times.

Lititz

Freckled-faced John F. Stadel, thirteen, Lititz R 3, proudly displayed 15, 16, 17 and 19¼ inch trout which he caught in the Little Conestoga Creek during the first hour of trout fishing yesterday morning. Mr. Stadel said that he caught his first big one at 5:05 A.M. John said when others saw his haul they told him "You have enough, go home." He retorted, "I am home. The creek runs through the family farm." Lancaster Sun-News.

Bellefonte

Patient anglers who figured that the trout were bound to start working somet ime over the first weekend got their reward yesterday afternoon when the first outstanding catch of the season was recorded in Spring Creek in the vicinity of the match fork. Several hundred anglers, both north and south of the match fork, were fishing with their 15-cent gasoline tickets to the limit when he reported a trout catch of 23½ inches, weighing three and one-half pounds, came home with the limit, most of the hun-dreds of Isaac Waltons had to be content with one or two in their creels.

And hundreds is not an exaggeration. Saturday afternoon there were 190 cars counted between Guy Stearns farm below Inclined Rock and the riffles south of Laurel Run. Eight anglers at Inclined Rock and one angler complained that above the Penitentiary the fishermen were so numerous that it was necessary to back into the stream like an auto in a parking space on Saturday night.

The story was the same at the bass project and below the Paradise where fishermen nailed some of the big ones that had drifted down from the preserve. Logan Branch also was crowded as were the upper reaches of Spring Creek to Oak Hall where the crowd started to thin out and not many anglers were seen above there.

Whipple's Dam and Laurel Run were busy and Galbraith's Gap had its share of hopeful but the catches of mountain trout were also lean. At Whipple's a 12-year-old youngster was the only one having any luck although he was flanked on both sides by older anglers. Boats on the dam reported poor catches.

Especially nettled were anglers who helped stock Creek Creek and other streams. Said they:

"It's funny where they all disappeared to."

Saul Poorman, president of the Bellefonte Sportsmen's Association, said that Saturday's catch was the poorest he had ever seen although the fish wardens reported the most number of men on the stream in some years. A number of Bellefonte anglers staying in a Spring Creek cabin reported six fish the first day.

A 24-inch rainbow trout, caught less than a block from his home Saturday gave Frank-Lin Clemson, 10, Bellefonte, the jump on many Isak Waltons.

His catch, which was hooked on a 15-cent rod with wrapping cord for a line and a bread crumb for bait, was made in Spring Creek near the Lamb Street bridge, Bellefonte.

Other fishermen reporting successful catches on the first day of the trout season were Joe Herman, Zion, who bagged a 15-inch, Alvin Dobson and Richard Workman, Altoona, the jump on many Isak Waltons.

His catch, which was hooked on a 15-cent rod with wrapping cord for a line and a bread crumb for bait, was made in Spring Creek near the Lamb Street bridge, Bellefonte.

The distinction, however, of catching the largest fish went to Bill Wood, 13, Shippensburg, who caught a trout in Penns Creek below Penns Cave last Wednesday afternoon by William McHenry, of Ebensburg. It was hooked on light tackle with a minnow as bait, and was netted by R. K. Dippery, W. State College, after a 10-minute struggle.—Bellefonte Center Democrat.

Catches Big Trout

Believed to be one of the largest trout caught so far this season, a 26½-inch rainbow was landed by John "Moose" Ammerman of Logan Street right below the Lamb Street bridge, Bellefonte. "Moose" was using worms for bait.

—Bellefonte Gazette.

Potstown

Irvin Peiffer claimed something of a record when he reported a trout catch of 23½ inches, weighing three and one-half pounds,
he said that he caught several trout larger in length but not quite as heavy.

Sportmen who enter the contest sponsored by the News-Chronicle are asked to win $30 in prizes being offered for the largest trout caught within a 20-mile radius of Shippensburg during the current season. To be eligible to enter the contest, anglers must be members of the association.

Scott Howard, North Queen Street, chairman of the special awards committee, has announced that three prizes of $10 each will be given for the largest brown, brook, and rainbow trout entered. Fishermen are asked to take their catches to the office of the News-Chronicle for weighing and registration. Mr. Archambeau's entry is the first received at the newspaper office to date.

Women Angler Lands 19-Inch Rainbow Trout

A 19-inch trout, believed to be the largest ever hooked by a Pottstown woman angler, was scooped out of Mantarny Creek by Mrs. Harry Williams. To make her joy over-flowing, she also hooked a 17-inch.

Fishing from the concrete bridge where the Grosstown Road crosses the creek, Mrs. Williams let her lure float down over a hole not over 18 inches deep. The big fellow struck and she fought him from the bridge until her line flopped over.

Racing off the bridge and down stream to renew the fight, she got to the water's edge and was pulling the rainbow beauty out when he got off the hook. Mrs. Williams jumped right in on top of the fish, smothered him in her hands and arms and pushed him out on shore.

Fishing in Iron Stone Creek her husband landed two rainbows 16 inches long.

Small catches of trout have marked the first three weeks of the season in Juniata County according to Charles V. Long, of East Waterford, State fish warden, who blames the rainy weather and high, muddy streams for the light catches and small trout.

No large trout have been reported taken in either Lost Creek or Linking Creek, either of which usually give up the record fish of the season.

Roy College, of Pottstown, caught a nice string the first week fishing in Horse Valley, near East Waterford, his prize fish being an 18½-inch brownie. The Mahatonga Creek, near Richfield, in the northeastern end of the county has yielded up some sizeable trout. Robert Snyder, Richfield bank clerk, hooked two browns, 21 and 19 inches long, respectively, from the hill above the village, last week. This stream has only been stocked for four years, and anglers are now starting to “cash in” on past stocking.

HARRISBURG PATRIOT

SUMMERSIDE FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION

There seems to be fairly general agreement that trout fishing has been considerably below par, except for scattered early catches, but apparently there is no cause for alarm, since conditions have been such that a light catch was to be expected. Stream and temperature conditions have combined to keep creels comparatively light, with the result the amount of fishing has been sharply curtailed by unfavorable conditions.

However, one doesn’t need to be too much of a Pollyanna to realize that there are two sides to this situation and that one of them is encouraging. If catches have been light in recent weeks, many anglers have not been depleted of their stocks and trout recently stocked will have a better chance to become adjusted to their new environments. As a result, catches can be expected to increase beyond the level throughout the season to a greater extent.

In other words, a more even season of fishing is likely to result once the streams and the weather settle down. As for the streams themselves, it is reported that they are in about the condition that one might suppose after a period in which rain fell on something like 15 out of 24 days. Streams in general, as far as this section is concerned, are reported to be high and in some cases quite muddy. There seems to be little likelihood of favorable stream conditions for two or three days, although if there is no more rain before that time fishing may be back somewhere near normal for weeks to come.

Those who want to get out before the streams return to normal will do well to hunt a mountain stream, because it is likely to be cleared up before the lowland waters. Even if the water is rather high, it will probably be considerably clearer than that of the average lowland stream. Fishermen will be able to control their lines fairly well by weighting them.

Even though conditions have been poor since the trout season opened, some fishermen have been picking up fine catches from time to time.

W. C. VanBoskirk caught a rainbow trout 18½ inches in length in the Yellow Breeches Creek, near Huntsdale, as well as several smaller trout. Charles Peters, with whom he was fishing, also landed several beauties.

John Conrad, of New Cumberland, caught a 19-inch rainbow trout, one of the large trout reported to have been taken within the likelihood of favorable stream conditions for two or three days, although if there is no more rain before that time fishing may be back somewhere near normal for weeks to come.

He was using a fly and spinner combination when he made the catch.

William F. "Bill" Lackowski, president of the ancient and honorable Whistle Pig Fishing club, prides himself that he is pretty good with the rod and line, but it develops his son, Harry, is better.

Harry, who operates Bill’s farm near Carlisle, in the upper end of the county, or Scott, who has been spending his days out of the tiny branch of Powl’s Creek which runs close to the Laskowski farm.

This is the same brownie the elder Laskowski had been fishing with for the last three years. With flies, spinners and what-nots, Bill had been trying to lure this beauty from a hole beside a log where it had long been residing. Twice, Bill hooked the big fellow with some sort of fancy device but twice the fish got away. On Saturday, however, Sunny Boy lifted it to the bank and the angler stood a chance when he took hold.

One of the happiest anglers at the opening of the trout season in the Harrisburg area today was Melvin Shaeffer, proudly displaying a 15-inch beauty he took from the waters of the Yellow Breeches in the vicinity.

PENN-SYLVANIA ANGLER

WASHINGTON-ANGLER

(Continued on page 15)

Mill Hall
John P. Blaschak, Mill Hall, took the lead in the Clinton County Sportsmen’s Federation contest for the largest brook trout caught this season when he landed a big one in Fishing Creek at Mill Hall yesterday afternoon.

Thomas C. Snyder measured the trout at 15 13/16 inches.

Blaschak used a night crawler for bait.

The biggest record brook trout reported here previously this year were 12¾ and 12 inches.

To have trout officially entered in the contest, a record must be mailed to Mr. Snyder, Main St., Mill Hall, after the fish is measured by a designated party (a director or officer of any county fish and game association, game or fish warden or deputy).

Max Henry caught a 22 inch brownie which weighed three and a half pounds. He landed the big one on Fishing Creek along with three other browns.

Mr. Henry said his catch will not go into the window. Some people said it was accidental because he was using a 3½ ounce sinker on a standard rod.

The stream in which he hooked the trout recently stocked will have a better chance to become adjusted to their new environments. As a result, catches can be expected to increase beyond the level throughout the season to a greater extent.

In other words, a more even season of fishing is likely to result once the streams and the weather settle down. As for the streams themselves, it is reported that they are in about the condition that one might suppose after a period in which rain fell on something like 15 out of 24 days. Streams in general, as far as this section is concerned, are reported to be high and in some cases quite muddy. There seems to be little likelihood of favorable stream conditions for two or three days, although if there is no more rain before that time fishing may be back somewhere near normal for weeks to come.

Those who want to get out before the streams return to normal will do well to hunt a mountain stream, because it is likely to be cleared up before the lowland waters. Even if the water is rather high, it will probably be considerably clearer than that of the average lowland stream. Fishermen will be able to control their lines fairly well by weighting them.

Even though conditions have been poor since the trout season opened, some fishermen have been picking up fine catches from time to time.

W. C. VanBoskirk caught a rainbow trout 18½ inches in length in the Yellow Breeches Creek, near Huntsdale, as well as several smaller trout. Charles Peters, with whom he was fishing, also landed several beauties.

John Conrad, of New Cumberland, caught a 19-inch rainbow trout, one of the large trout reported to have been taken within the likelihood of favorable stream conditions for two or three days, although if there is no more rain before that time fishing may be back somewhere near normal for weeks to come.

He was using a fly and spinner combination when he made the catch.

William F. "Bill" Lackowski, president of the ancient and honorable Whistle Pig Fishing club, prides himself that he is pretty good with the rod and line, but it develops his son, Harry, is better.

Harry, who operates Bill’s farm near Carlisle, in the upper end of the county, or Scott, who has been spending his days out of the tiny branch of Powl’s Creek which runs close to the Laskowski farm.

This is the same brownie the elder Laskowski had been fishing with for the last three years. With flies, spinners and what-nots, Bill had been trying to lure this beauty from a hole beside a log where it had long been residing. Twice, Bill hooked the big fellow with some sort of fancy device but twice the fish got away. On Saturday, however, Sunny Boy lifted it to the bank and the angler stood a chance when he took hold.

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PENN-SYLVANIA ANGLER

WASHINGTON-ANGLER

(Continued on page 15)

White Haven
Alex Swerdon, of White Haven, an employee of the Atlas Powder Co., in that town, came home on Saturday night with the prize catch for the opening day of the trout fishing season. The angler landed a 21-inch brook trout weighing 2½ pounds.

Mr. Swerdon and Henry Fulke were fishing, and when the fish struck, the former was just about in a doze. He saw the line disappear, and after some lively action he was able to land the prize. The fish is now on display in the window of the Jones Tavern, Main Street, White Haven, where it is the envy of all fishermen.

Hazelton Standard Sentinel

Shippensburg
The first official entry in the trout contest sponsored by the Shippensburg Fish and Game Association has been made by Paul Archambeau. Mr. Archambeau, a member of long-standing in the association, caught a 19-inch, three-pound brown trout in a small stream between Longsdorf and Huntsdale.

He said that he was using a 3½ ounce fly rod with worm bait when he caught the trout. The stream in which he hooked the fish flows into the Yellow Breeches Creek. He reports that he also caught five other fish, three of which were brook trout, all measuring more than ten inches in length.

Mr. Archambeau said that fishing is one of his favorite outdoor sports. Last season...
BAIT FOR STREAM FISHING

(Continued from page 7)

cluding both insects and small fishes it is equipped with a pair of powerful jaws. This fact is frequently impressed on inept fishermen. The crayfish is capable of bringing the blood when it nips one between the fingers or in other tender spots. The safe way to grasp this tough and vigorous insect is by placing the thumb and forefinger just behind its wide horned head. A net of some kind is useful in gathering this bait and I usually have one of my landing net rings equipped with a net of 1/4-inch mesh for this purpose. The ring is placed down stream against the bottom before the rocks above it are turned to dislodge the helgannmites under them. Where the upper surfaces of rocks are thickly covered with vegetation the insects may be found hidden among this and are dislodged by merely stirring it vigorously.

As the helgannmite is equipped both with gills for absorbing the air from highly oxygenated water and spiracles or breathing pores for taking the air direct, it can live for long periods out of water if care is taken to keep its body moist. It can not however exist very long in stagnant or poorly oxygenated water and therefore never is found in ponds or lakes although some of its relatives, the smaller fishes, of the genus Sialis, live in such locations.

Concern sometimes is expressed that the commercial exploitation of this insect for bait purposes may result in its extermination. I believe such concern is hardly justifiable. Persons expressing such fears possibly have in mind the extermination of the passenger-pigeon, the Carolina parrot or even perhaps the buffalo but these cases are not at all comparable with the helgannmite or other insect life. If the enormous powers of reproduction of the insect which may lay from 2 to 3 thousand eggs, are taken into consideration it should become apparent that while large scale collection of the insect from a given stream may temporarily reduce its abundance, it will rapidly regain abundance when attention is transferred to other locations. I have seen too many strenuous but fruitless attempts made to exterminate other insects to be greatly worried over the possibility of any diminution of the helgannmite and other aquatic insect fish foods are pollution through human carelessness and neglect, and severe drought. In other words the same dire influences that serve to injure and limit our fish life of the streams. Although the helgannmite possesses six strong legs its principal means of anchorage in swift water is a double pair of hooks located on the extreme tail end of the body as shown in figure 4. Before baiting with the insect it is well to clin these hooks off if trouble and improper language are to be avoided. Otherwise when cast and allowed to drift along the bottom the helgannmite is quite likely to anchor its tail firmly to a rock of choice with broken leader and lost hook. A pair of leader clippers is handy for removing these hooks but in doing this care should be taken not to cut its skin as it will quickly bleed and probably die.

Some anglers prefer to break the jaws of the helgannmite when placing it on the hook, under the impression that this renders it more readily acceptable to the fish. It seems quite doubtful however, that this is at all necessary or that it has any effect on the results. Not only do the bass and sunfishes, but that unmitigated nuisance and prize bait stealer, the river chub know well how to deal with the pugnacious insect.

Most fishermen are fully aware that there is no more attractive bait for the game fishes than the crayfish or fresh water "crab" when this is in a newly shed or soft shelled condition. Right here it should be clearly understood that there is no known way by which this soft shelled condition can be artificially produced. The principal reason underlying the shedding of the shell is to permit growth of the crayfish. The frequency of occurrence of this phenomenon is governed by the rapidity of growth of the creature, which in turn depends upon the abundance of food taken from such streams as the Delaware by such procedure.

Another effective and very durable bait often used for bass in this fine stream is the larva or young of the sea lamprey or "lamper" eel. These blind and rubbery creatures are dug from the oozy bottom of the river and are used either in trolling or casting; in the latter case are fished in a manner similar to that just described.

Observant anglers often utilize profitably for bait such land insects as occur numerous during the fishing season. In this category it seems hardly necessary to mention grasshoppers except to remark that in some localities certain species of hoppers, which pass the winter as half grown nymphs or adults, become much earlier in the season than do the more abundant kinds that live through the winter in the egg stage. These latter seldom if ever are large enough for bait purposes before the last of July in our latitudes while the former usually can be used by late April or early May. I have frequently gathered them from rocky sidehill pastures in Northern Maryland and Virginia at that period. For carrying grasshoppers to be used immediately, my choice, after dunging the phenomenon, is a glass bottle of convenient size and shape. The cylindrical ones commonly used for packing pickled olives in small quantity serve admirably for this purpose. Ventilation is provided by cutting a thin slice from one side of the cork as shown in figure 6. As may be seen from this, the cork is attached to a string which in turn is fastened to the bottle neck, the string being continued to serve as attachment to a trouser loop.

For catching grasshoppers nothing is better than a stout net of bobbinate or curtain cloth, and the best time to use it is in early morning before the hoppers become warmed up by the sun. With such a net the hoppers may be captured at any time of day but labor and exercise are saved by its early morning use. I carry such a net in the trunk of my car all summer—or at least I did so when it was possible to travel in my car.

Ordinary field, or black crickets, also make fine bait but they usually are not plentiful until September or later. They are so soft and fragile that I never leave them on the hook tail first as otherwise the least touch by a fish may ruin the bait without hooking it. For fishing crickets a long shank, number 6 hook is about right.

In an article entitled "Forked Tailed Cats" recently published in the PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER, I extolled the common pestiferous bag worm as bait for these and other fresh water fishes. Smallmouth bass take them eagerly as I demonstrated years ago in the Conodoguinet in the Cumberland Valley. In July and August, this destructive insect may be found desolating our forest trees and other ornamental evergreens and it also feeds largely on black locust at times. When removed from its basket or case, its caterpillar is a round bean, dark green in color, and about an inch in length. It is a remarkable creature of great beauty and it closely resembles the latter insects too, it covers its case with fragments of leaves of the trees on which it may be feeding. This case is composed of an exceedingly tough silk which can not be torn with the

(Continued on page 19)
One of my best friends is The Iron Man. The name suits him, for he is one of those burly, hard-muscled men who always bulge out of their clothes. He fishes to express his power to endure discomfort and hardship; he has learned to "take it" and to do without.

He will eat, wear or sell anything, apparently without even knowing what it is. As he fishes only with me he has never bought tackle, using whatever I have handy. He camps without bedding, sleeping in his padded motorcycle-driving suit. He has ridden a motorcycle for twenty years—and insults me about my numerous blankets. I never dare to let him cook for he cannot be restrained from throwing eggs, raw potatoes, coffee, knives, forks and the other elements of his iron self control into the frying pan, stirring them vigorously and serving them when the first ingredient is cooked. He would eat it, too, I am convinced, without even tasting it.

Black flies, storms, breakdowns, smashups, fights or bad fishing are all alike to the iron fighter. He grinds an iron grin, keeps his head and does what is needed. His tragedy is a difficulty of hearing which, perhaps, has contributed to his iron silence and impassiveness. But when he speaks he is pointed and sometimes cryptic.

One such remark I shall always treasure. I had borrowed him for coming on a fishing trip without a hat.

"Did you ever see a bald-headed Indian?" he remarked.

Figure that one out.

Compare him with Doc Tinckerberry, who can walk the legs off a brass kettle. People who wade where Doc wades derive water to fish with that is all but the kiss of life. Tinckerberry is an M.D., but he is really a veterinarian who turned to doctoring humans when horses became scarce. Doc fishes to express a thirst.

His fishing is not fancy. If you want to hear some purple-embroidered language served up by a man who spent forty years of his life trying for most of the game fishes of a river, he is not your man. But when he speaks he is pointed and sometimes cryptic. He always says sheepishly that he saw a snake, but he never produces one, although he is a gun bug. He is a deadly shot. He grins an iron grin, keeps his head and does what is needed. His tragedy is a difficulty of hearing which, perhaps, has contributed to his iron silence and impassiveness.

He has seen, or practiced every conceivable method of taking most of the game fishes of one stream he knew. When I called for him he is supposed to be teaching him dry fly fishing, but he makes small progress. I give him his lesson and go off to fish the upper stretch, leaving him to practice. Soon, I hear the slapping reports of an automatic or the bong-a of a black-powder 45. He always says sheepishly that he saw a snake, but he never produces one, although he is a gun bug.

How deadly, a star on his sleeve testifies. It commemorates a black and bitter midnight when an ominous citizen stepped from a car and threatened the life of the fishing game, starting as a barefoot boy with a cut pole. It follows that he had been all through the game.

Superficially, his existence seems ideal. His work brings him in contact with all kinds of anglers and if he were to accept all the invitations he gets he could live a life of leisure. No, he is a gun bug. He is a deadly shot. He grins an iron grin, keeps his head and does what is needed. His tragedy is a difficulty of hearing which, perhaps, has contributed to his iron silence and impassiveness. But when he speaks he is pointed and sometimes cryptic.

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SOIL AND FOREST ESSENTIAL FOR PENNSYLVANIA PROSPERITY

(Continued from page 2)

For forest utilization has been drafted to areas, wildlife and other essentials of sound Regulations which guarantee the protection of smaller trees, watersheds, recreational areas, wildlife and other essentials of sound forest practice are provided in the contracts, timber cutting is a function of the immediate supervision of the Department. Every day inspections are made to see that the contractor is carrying out the provisions contained in the agreement.

It is a pleasure to report that Secretary Kelliher has formulated an excellent post-war program for improving the State Forests. Various projects have been set up, with the estimated number of man-days for each project. These will give work to returning veterans who may have trouble in finding employment.

We must take care of the trees we have. We must plant more. Intelligent care of this great and growing asset is paramount. For several years, later, we have been preventing floods and restoring the soil. Both are vitally important to Pennsylvania. Forests and rich farms are a permanent asset to set up against the staggering debt that our children and their children must assume. We have been short-sighted and unfair to the coming generations. What can we do to rectify our mistakes we must do. We must carry over our progressive spirit into the future.

This has been a progressive nation. Free enterprise in America has won the battle of production. We have made more guns. We have made better guns. We have made more and better planes, trucks, ships and preserved foods than any other nation. Our living standards have been higher than those of any other Country in the world. Why?

Because of our great natural resources, converted to our use by inventive genius and hard work. Because of the mighty spirit of free enterprise that gave every American his opportunity in a free society.

Now we have come to a time when we must be more conservative. Through our research laboratories and technical skill we must make our raw materials stretch farther and farther. In this great undertaking government must see that all are treated fairly. Government can provide the results of research and see that these are free and open to all. Government can aid, but government must lead.

Government can help in the tremendous undertaking of creating new forests on our submarginal lands. We no longer need this acreage for agriculture. Modern methods of farming have made it possible to produce so much more per acre and per person that this possibility of war is bringing back this business in many parts of the United States. It should be brought back in Pennsylvania. No State among the older States has a better opportunity. Government can do a great thing, if it will. It can restore freedom of action.

That is what our armed men are fighting for and they must have it when they come home. If men, at any time in human history, ever earned the right to pursue happiness, they have earned it. To be able to pursue happiness is the freedom of action which really embodies all of freedom.

Today we are thinking in terms of war. We are acting in terms of war and will be until this war comes to a successful conclusion. We hope and pray that success will crown our efforts and that the war will end during this Administration.

Peace will bring a multitude of problems. They will be equally as pressing as those confronting us now in these years of battle.

First to receive our attention and consideration will be the soldier as he comes home. Under no circumstances must we permit the millions of veterans to become another lost generation, perplexed, worried and unable to find themselves. Wherever possible the soldier must be returned to the job he left, if he wants it.

Work, care and consideration he must have. It may be that thousands of them can find freedom of action and the future pursuit of happiness in the Penn's Woods of tomorrow.

FISH FOR TROUT FOR FUN

(Continued from page 8)

on hour. A check on Holland Lake, Luce County, that same year showed that 18 fishermen on trout lakes before 8:00 a.m. on opening day. The same story came from creel census checks made on other small lakes which were stocked with legal-sized fish.

Probably one of the best arguments for attainable limits is psychological. Ken Reid, National Izaak Walton League head, tells the story of meeting two fishermen on a stream when the limit there was 25 trout. Each was close to the limit but each felt he had failed that day because he had not attained it. The limit in Michigan would satisfy more anglers on the first occasion.

It is reasonable to suppose that a lower limit in Michigan would satisfy more anglers and would help to spread the fishing for hatchery-reared trout in small lakes and in streams. Results from the studies reported suggested that different limits should be placed on trout taken from lakes and streams because they are more easily caught out in small lakes and because the average size of a trout from lakes is much greater than the average from streams. Several states impose limits as low as 2 per day in certain waters, especially in lakes, and in a number artificial lures only are permitted on certain waters. It is recognized that this might present some enforcement problems but other states do not seem to have found them insurmountable nor have such problems been reported here in enforcing the special limit of 5 trout in force on Lake Charlevoix and Birch Lake.

Based on research and observation, it would seem that the limit on streams might properly be set at 10 and on trout lakes at 5.

PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER

This Lake Pleasant, Erie County rainbow was taken by B. P. Hoofring of Vandergrift on a gold Devon. It weighed 5 lbs., and measured 21 inches in length.

EARLY SEASON TROUT REPORTS

(Continued from page 12)

of Rose Garden. Competing with older and more experienced fishermen, the 12-year-old New Castle lad also had three other smaller trout.

Fred W. Rockey, Enola, reported catching a 19-inch trout and another one that measured 14½ inches.—Harrisburg Evening News.

Coatesville

Angler Catches 'Biggest' Trout

Fishing in Birch Run, Jesse Labeck, Coatesville, caught a rainbow trout which measured 23½ inches. It is believed to be the record trout caught in this section so far this season. Labeck said the fish gave him a long battle before he landed it.

—Coatesville Record

Dear Charlie:

On May 11 I had a shipment of brown and rainbow trout arrive here at New Wilmington for stocking in Deer Creek near Pulaski. There were about a dozen sportsmen turned out to assist in the stocking and among them was Lawrence County's oldest fisherman, Mr. John P. Rae, 322 Locust St., New Castle. Mr. Rae is in his 90th year and each year since fishing licenses have been issued he and his wife have always purchased their license. Both are also members of the Lawrence County Sportsman's Association. He was accompanied by his son Harry M. Rae and they both really got a kick out of helping to stock the trout and both remarked that they never would have believed such beautiful trout was being stocked by the Fish Commission had they not been present to see them. Mr. Rae has a very keen mind and would stand there and tell some of his experiences of fishing and hunting. To have reached this ripe old age and still have it in your blood is really something and I trust you will write up a little item on this.

Our trout for stocking this year have been wonderful. The early season did not prove out too good, but during the past two weeks the fly fishermen have been doing very well. We had some dandies taken: 23½-inch brown being the largest taken in Slippery Rock Creek, then there have been eight around 20 inches and quite a number 17, 18 and 19 inches. There are more fishermen out this year than last.

With best regards,

WARREN ROSS WRIGHT,
New Wilmington
American Progress In Fly Fishing
(Continued from page 5)

known. Each joint is made to slide into another, and the whole is contained in a hollow butt similar to the walking cane."

As a matter of interest, this telescopic walking cane rod, was first mentioned by Dame Juliana Berners, Prioress of Sopwell, and author of "A Treatyse Of Fysshynge With An Angle" 1496.

A few additional items of interest to Pennsylvania anglers follow: "In some parts of Pennsylvania, a fly called the Professor is used with good success. It is made on a number 4 trout hook, and is dressed with a bright yellow worsted or silk body, and a light grey mottled wing." As the majority of you know, this fly was named after Professor John Wilson (Christoopher North), supposed to have been the best Scottish fly fisher north of the Tweed, around the year 1825.

Brown also mentions that: "The fin of a trout is successfully used in certain parts of Pennsylvania, for taking the trout. It is used by casting and drawing, similar to roving with a minnow, or in the manner of throwing the fly."

As an encouragement to fly fishing aspirants, who were sadly in the minority in those days, Brown offers the following in his fourth edition that appeared in the year 1859:

"The scientific and graceful art of throwing the artificial fly, is a beautiful accomplishment, but not so difficult as is generally imagined. In the months of May and June, the raft and lumbermen from the Delaware and rivers of Pennsylvania, are seen in the fishing tackle stores of New York, selecting with the eyes of professors and connoisseurs the red, black and grey hackle flies, which they use with astonishing dexterity on the wooded streams of their mountain homes. Those therefore who have never tried this method of fishing, with such untutored examples before them, should make a little effort towards the successful practise of this branch of the art."

In the year 1847 the first American edition of Izaak Walton's "Complete Angler" appeared, under the nom-de-plume of the American Editor. The book is sprinkled with copious notes and annotations relating to the then present day fishing practices, and the work was in reality edited by the Rev. George Washington Bethune. Of all the Walton editions this book has received more praise than any of the others. Suppose we note what changes have been wrought up to this time. Of the rod, Bethune comments: "As few persons in these days make their own rods, it may be well here to give some directions how to choose or order a rod to be made. A trout fly rod should not be more than fourteen feet and a half at furthest. The butt solid, for you will need weight there to balance the instrument, and the spare tips will be carried more safely in the handle of your landing net. A rod in three pieces is preferred at the stream, but inconvenient to carry, and, if well made, four will not interfere materially with its excellence; i.e. the butt of ash, the first joint of hickory, the second of lancewood, and the tip of East India bamboo, or, as I like better, the extreme of the tip of whalebone, well spliced on. The proper elasticity is when a quarter of an ounce weight attached to the tip causes it to descend, five feet below the horizontal line of a rod, fourteen feet long. The entire weight of the rod, should not exceed a pound."

Hair lines were still in vogue, and Bethune states that: "Few anglers in this country will make as good lines, or make them as cheaply as they can be had at the tackle shops, but it must be noted that angling in our mountain streams requires an adaptation of their color to that of the water. As
a general rule, in a shaded forest stream, the grizzly grey line is best; in a more open country, the pale sorrel, light slate, or amber, may be better at times.

"Flies are divided into flies proper with wings; and Palmers, or hackles, without wings. No angler goes unprovided with plenty of brown, black and red (of different shades) hackles, made on several sizes of hooks. The red hackle is the Queen of all occasions. He naturally spent much time about the year 1848. Mr. Phillippi was an angler of some local repute, and died about 1878. Mr. Charles H. Luke, a veteran angler of some local repute, and died at a time, making split bamboo trout fly rods, in which, being a fine and exacting workman, he took great pride.

"Mr. Charles F. Murphy, of Newark, New Jersey, famous as one of the best makers of split bamboo rods, and who has few, if any, superiors as a fly fisher, corroborates Mr. Lukes testimony, and says that Phillippi used split bamboo for fly rods, certainly as far back as 1848, and further says: 'I am certain you can give Phillippi credit for the discovery of split bamboo for fly rods, without fear of contradiction.'"

"Phillippi's rods were made in three pieces or joints, two of which, only, were of split bamboo, the butt being ash, and stained to imitate bamboo; but the bamboo joints were made on the same principle as those of to-day, though composed of but four strips. Phillippi's rods seem poor things now, but at that time they seemed wonderful." It must be remembered that the above was written in the year 1881, and that remarkable strides had occurred in the interim.

In the year 1849, Henry Herbert, writing under the pen name of Frank Forester, came out with "Fish and Fishing." Suppose we check its contents to see if any changes had been wrought since Bethunes work on 1847 and the credit given to Phillippi in the year 1848. Of the rod, Forester says:

"The trout rod should be twelve feet long, and as pliant, almost as a coach whip, equally bending from the butt to the tip. It should be composed of hickory, lancewood, or bamboo, with a solid butt of ash, at the extreme lower end of which should be attached a simple click reel with a balance handle, but without a stop, capable of containing thirty yards of London made hair or silk line, tapering equally from the reel to the point. The bottom, or leader, as it is generally called in America, should consist of about five yards of round tapering silk worm gut, and the flies should be three in number. Plain rings should be used on a fly rod, and not the new tubular metallic guides, which stiffen it too much, and prevent its equal curvature under a strain.

Concerning flies, Forester comments: "The flies which I hold best are the red hackle, the ginger hackle, the black hackle, oc-
cationally varied with bodies of gold or silver tinsel, the March Brown or dun drake, the pale yellow dun, and the blue dun—both very killing flies—the cowdung fly, the stone fly, alder fly, the green and grey drakes, and for twilight fishing, any of the grey, cream colored, or mealy moths. Of these, however, the fly which is considered quite wealthy, is the black gnat, a fly which is black and glistens with a black body. In many waters, some of the coppery golden and green peacock hares are found to kill well, and last season, 1848, nothing was so successful on Long Island as the Scarlet Isis with a gold tinsel body.

For my own fancy, however, I decidedly prefer the hackles of almost every color and variety, from the ginger, through all the shades of: cock, grouse, partridge, woodcock, up to jet black, and my favorite cast is a rosy coxy bondhu, or soldier palmer for my stretcher, a ginger hackle or blue dun for my second, and a black palmer or dotteril hackle for my first dropper.

Frank Forester writes of the most prolific writers on outdoor subjects in his day, and his tragic and untimely end by suicide came as a deep shock to readers of his works throughout the country.

In 1862, Robert B. Roosevelt, uncle of President Theodore Roosevelt, wrote his first book, "Game Fish of the Northern States and British Provinces." This book was more or less of a landmark, for it was the first work that treated on the subject of entomology, in so far as it concerned the fly fisher. Of the rod, Robert B. or Barnwell, has the following to say:

"Dr. Bethune, page 97, in "The Complete Angler," says, the rod should not exceed one pound in weight. Indeed it should not, and in reality, it exemplifies the old maxim, so far as to have a fool at one end. If we could fish by steam, a rod exceeding a pound and measuring over fourteen feet might answer well, but in these benighted days, while wrists are made of bone, muscles, cartilages and the like, the lighter the better. A rod, and if perfection is absolutely indispensable, a cedar rod of eleven or twelve feet, weighing nine or ten ounces, will catch trout. Cedar rods can only be obtained in America, and then only on the Pacific coast, but this wood makes the most elastic rods in the world. They spring instantly to every motion of the hand, and never warp. They are delicate; the wood is, like woman, cross grained, but large barrelled, and fastened to the butt with a leather strap. The line, silk covered with a preparation of oil, tapered if possible, at each end, and thirty to forty yards long."

No mention is here made of any other type of rod, so it must be inferred that Phillipi's split bamboo, had not yet attained any degree of popularity—if it had, Roosevelt would undoubtedly have owned one, for he was considered quite wealthy, and a fanatical on modern equipment. Concerning flies, the following excerpt is most interesting, for he strongly condemns the hackles and palmers that had served the people so well before him:

"The May and stone flies are good, and of late years, a fly of mixed red and black, with wings, called by some, from his colors, the devil fly, has come into vogue. The palmers are only to be despised and avoided. In selecting the midge for a fly, the alder fly, the little cinnamon, the black gnat, the black and red ants, and in fact all others, are attractive. The water is then covered with myriads of many colored flies, and there is hardly any artificial but will find its representative among the real life."

From the above selection of flies, as well as those found in Frank Foresters "Fish and Fishing", it is apparent that both of them—as well as those writers following—were influenced to a great extent, by patterns that were described and portrayed in English fishing books. Notable among such works might be mentioned, Alfred Romans, "Fly Fishers Entomology" 1836, the plates which were etched and water coloured by the author, and a work of art, that remains unsurpassed up to the present day. Another may be credited to William Scrope, Esq. whose "Days and Nights of Salmon Fishing" 1843, will live long as a great classic. Both of these volumes are in the authors collection and are among his most prized possessions. It is interesting to note, that both of the above writers, mention the style then in vogue, of attaching the reel on a belt bamboo fly rod has been attributed to him. We must remember that up to this time, the reel had never been made of brass. How ever in looking over Norris's book little reference can be found concerning bamboo from which we may conclude that the material had not yet come into common use.

"For the lively tributaries of the Susquehanna, Delaware, and Hudson, the streams of New England, and for brook fishing generally, where wading is necessary, a rod from seven to nine ounces in weight, and from twelve to fourteen inches in length is most suitable. A rod of this size is so light, that incessant casting does not weary one, and the size of the fish does not make a rod of greater power necessary. The butt of the rod fly, should be of well seasoned white ash, the middle joint of ironwood, and the tip of quartered and spliced bamboo.

"A small light reel that will hold twenty five yards of line is best for trout fishing. One with a short axle, which brings the plate of the reel closer together, is to be preferred; as it winds the line more compactly on the spool."

"A plated or twisted line of hair and silk-tapering for the last five or six yards, is by all means the best."

"A leader should taper gradually from the end where it joins the line, to the end to which the stretcher fly is attached, and should be from five to six feet in length."

Unlike Roosevelt, Norris still clung to the hackle, and Palmer flies that had been used so successfully in the past. He had the shrewdness to observe that: "the great desideratum would be, to keep the line wet and the flies fresh, and by cracking the moisture from their flies, that the stretcher and dropper would fall so lightly and remain so long on the surface, that a fish would rise and deliberately take the fly before it sank."

"One instance of this kind is fresh in my memory; it occurred at a pool beneath the fall of a dam on the Willemack, at a stage of water—none running over. The fish were shy and refused every fly I offered them, when my friend put on a Grannom for a stretcher, and a minute Jenny Spinnet for a dropper. His leader was of the finest gut, and his flies fresh, and by cracking the moisture from them between each throw, he would lay them so lightly on the glassy surface, that a brace of trout would take them at almost every cast, and before they sank or were drawn away."

The above is undoubtedly the first known reference to dry fly fishing in America. How far have we traveled since this time?

It was probably a year or two after Norris wrote the "American Anglers Book," that he started to make the three piece split bamboo fly rod. That he was a master craftsman no one can deny. W. C. Prime, in "I Go A Fishing" 1873 says that: "The next two rods are facsimiles one of the others, long, made with the utmost care by an experienced fisherman, each joint thoroughly tried, and the whole rod subjected to every proper test before it was regarded as complete. The tip bends to the butt, and back to a straight line. With one of these light rods, I have during five years use, killed..."
Biany hundred pounds of fish in Europe, haddeus Norris, of Philadelphia, an accomplished angler, and author of one of the best fishing books we have. These two rods are for the one fellows who are fishing, on: lake, river, or brook. I have one Norris rod lighter still for occasional use."

That these rods were tops, Prime illustrates by recounting another expedition taken on Diamond Pond, a small lake about a thousand feet in diameter, located near Colebrook, N. H. To quote Prime, the natives said that: "Our Norris rods would not lift a trout to the surface, much less Natives said that: "Our Norris rods would not lift a trout to the surface, much less lift a trout to the surface, much less water; plain old-fashioned rain water. In the end of a short line and long stiff rod. The trout are very shy there.' Reply: 'We can throw a fly seventy five feet with these rods.' Rejoinder: 'Incredulous smiles, and a murmur in the corner of the room that we native Pennsylvanians owe the FARM PONDS head is thus secured and the easiest method of planting with various kinds of fish. Every farmer through such a pond can have his own personal supply of fish for the table. He need only the watchman, who would help him build the dam a life membership for fishing in it. There are hundreds of spots of waste land all around us that are simply begging to become beautiful little lakes in their own rights.

If we can get the sportsmen to help the farmers build them, let us do it. If we need money to promote the plan, let us raise it. I have driven, hither and yon, seeking live water to Harrisburg. Let us start plans for conserving the rain God gives us in the spring each year to be used when we need it each summer. A thousand more fish ponds will help in the current child delinquency problem, and many other ways worthwhile.

BAITS FOR STREAM FISHING

(Continued from page 13)

FARM PONDS

By Seth L. Myers

Northwestern Pennsylvania Sportstmen

"If you want a 'thank you' job done in a hurry, give it to a busy man" has often been said, and the busy man will find time to take on a little more work. There is a greater need for certain conservation measures now than ever before, because of the tremendous war drain on our natural resources. The one we have in mind is water; plain old-fashioned rain water. In the early spring we always have plenty, and more too. By mid-summer we begin to worry about the dry spells. We worry about the farms, which should be kept alive for children's pleasure as well as food. When the streams dry up it deprives the livestock of a fresh water supply, and makes it necessary for farmers to spend time hauling water for them which he could well use in tending his crops, which in turn is our food supply in the cities and towns. What is being done about it? There is scarcely a farm but what has a small brook. But since the thread composing there is a spot of waste land or swamp suitable and located where it can be damned. It may not become the best of reservoir immediately, but it is a reasonable time it can be made to hold a sufficient supply of water for all needs of the farm. The water will eventually become clear and fine for stocking with various kinds of fish. Every farmer through such a pond can have his own personal supply of fish for the table. His watchman, who would help him build the dam a life membership for fishing in it.

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BAITS FOR STREAM FISHING

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Hackle and hair on fly rod surface lures give them lively action without which they would not catch fish. Keep this in mind when buying such lures. See that they have plenty of adornments that will make them look alive when they are cast and retrieved.

Shoes used for wading should never be dried in the sun, for this will cause them to crack and rot. Spread them as far open as is possible and put them in a shady place where the air can get to them. Even leaving them inside the trunk of the car is better than standing them where the hot sun will beat on them while they are still wet.

It's our opinion that squeezing an undersized fish to keep a grip on it with wet hands kills more fish than does rubbing off a few scales in the process of releasing the fish gently with dry hands.

A fish that bleeds slightly, perhaps from the wound of a hook, can often be returned to the water with fair assurance that it will live. But any fish that has suffered a gill wound of a hook, can often be returned for the first sign of a striking fish cannot be felt.

There are a number of ways to interest trout in an artificial lure when the fish are rising freely to a generous hatch, but any of them includes the likelihood that the fish will not happen to take the artificial, no matter how ably it is presented, in the midst of all the naturals. The proper procedure is to select one rising fish and keep casting the fly to it. That may take time, but it is a fascinating and nerve-testing maneuver.

In dry fly fishing, do not be too hasty in picking the fly up off the water. Rather, let it float as long as it will, for even a cast that looks poor or that has failed to go to the desired spot may attract a nice fish that would be badly frightened by an abrupt picking up of the line, leader, and lure.

Brawling currents are poor places in which to try fishing with the dry fly, for trout feed most of the time beneath the surface of such areas. They are ideal spots, therefore, for angling with wet flies, streamers, and nymphs.

Getting a worm into a pool by casting it like you would a fly often results in tearing the garden hackle off the hook. If water conditions are suitable, you can avoid this mishap by using a long rod and drop rather than cast the worm. Spot-fishing, it is called.

Suggestions for the beginner at fly fishing: For dry flies, acquire a size range from 10 to 16, with the bulk in sizes 12 and 14: for wet flies, a size range from 6 to 14 is advised, with Size 12 in the majority.

Wade when fishing only when it is absolutely necessary. Fish from shore when it is possible to do so, and when this method is out of the question, then wade as closely as possible to the shore from which you are casting. Fish are keenly aware of the vibrations resulting from human feet moving on the bed of a stream. Even hard-packed sand will transmit such disturbances.

There are more than 600 different patterns of trout flies, but don't let that fact worry you. Color is the thing. Have a selection of flies in brown, gray, blue, white, and black, and you will be prepared to catch trout under almost any circumstances, provided of course the flies approximate in size and general shape the natural insects upon which the trout are feeding.

Many anglers have vexing difficulty simply because they use leaders that are too light at the butt end, where they are fastened to the line. The lighter the butt, the harder it is to striper out the leader in the cast. The ideal leader is about half the diameter of the end of the line to which it is attached.}

**Pike 'Tagged' in 1939**

Ann Arbor, Mich.—(UP.)—A northern pike tagged April 26, 1939, and caught recently by an ice fisherman in the north bay of Houghton lake, was found to have grown 144 inches and gained 7 pounds, 11 ounces in the intervening four years, the state conservation department reports.

The pike was found not far from the spot where it had been tagged. The fish was one of 300 wild northern pike tagged on the 1939 spring spawning run.

The tagging experiments were begun in 1939 to obtain information on the spawning habits, growth rate, and feeding habits and migration of fish to improve fishing.

**FISHING LEADS TO GREATNESS?**

By MERION LOWER

Most really big men all seem to come from the ranks of the rural or small-town Americans. Perhaps this is so because these boys have to learn to work hard very young, or perhaps it is because they have had more opportunities to spend a lot of time fishing which leads to contemplation, which leads to thinking of the serious things of life. The association with streams, brooks, rivers and oceans always leads to aquatic sports, and the young boy learns to swim at the same age he learns to fish. When the exigencies of war arise, these fellows feel right at home with a fox-hole shovel or a pick, a motor truck or a jeep, in the water or on the field. In fact, they are better soldiers than the city-raised youth in many ways.

We can all improve our physical and mental selves by taking heed to the call of Mother Nature when she beckons to us in the spring to enter into the worth while pleasures of out-of-door recreation and especially to get in on the trout fishing, golf, tennis, swimming, in fact just sitting in the warm sun is something that will help us all after a long winter of war and work.

—Ardmore Chronicle
Look at them nuts—came all the way out here and I'll bet they live next door to a fish market!

And they call us dumb animals.

Whoopie! Thar she blows!

If you'd stop blowing and row awhile, I could catch something.

See? The fish swallows the worm, then...

What? Fish eat worms? Ugh! I never want to eat another fish!

Hey—get that mutt away from my plate!

Gee, Sally, don't you know it's service men first?

Will somebody pass the cream?

Coming right up... producer to consumer, direct!

I like summer. That's when I wear the pants in the family. In summer, his wife just wears shorts—she wears slacks in winter!

Pst, Sally! Get me a knife!

Oboy! Are her shorts short!
OVER THE TOP and ON TO VICTORY
Invest Your Money in Government Bonds