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The Fish Commission at the COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION

This is the season of the year when thousands of persons visit the Pennsylvania Fish Commission's exhibit at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, and the major sportsmen's shows throughout the state. With a few exceptions, the exhibit is displayed at various functions within the state, however, according to an article taken from the Report of the State Commissioners of Fisheries for the years 1892-93-94, "Among the acts of the Legislature of 1892-93 was an appropriation of $8,000 to the Pennsylvania Fish Commissioners in order that they might make a creditable exhibit of its work at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. As soon as the measure became a law, the Commissioners began to prepare for an exhibition which would be a credit to themselves and the great Commonwealth which they represented. A kite-shaped space of 1701 square feet was allotted them in one end of the Fisheries building adjoining the space given the state of Wisconsin. Contracts were made for a number of aquaria of French plate glass and iron with J. W. Fiske of the Variety Iron Works, of York, Pa.; for plumbing with E. Baggot & Son of Chicago, and for decorative work with J. J. Stoberniche & Son, of Philadelphia. The management of the whole exhibit was placed by the Commissioners in the hands of Col. John Gay of Greensburg. When the exhibit was in place there was an artistic presentation which for the money expended, in the opinion of many, rivalled the work of some of the other states whose commissioners had at their command nearly or quite double the funds of the Pennsylvania Commissioners.

"The entrance to the exhibit, which was at the narrow end of the kite-shaped space, was surmounted by a cedar and oak bark rustic arch, bearing the Keystone State coat of arms. Directly inside the inclosure were two limpid pools of water fed by the streams of a waterfall which fell from among a realistic grouping of rocks, moss, fern and plants covered to the top of the exhibit. Within the two pools, connected by a model of the Roger's fishway, were many small fish and the ease with which these finny inhabitants of the water constantly passed from one pool to another by means of this ingenious contrivance was a perfect object lesson of its utility.

"In front of the lowermost pool were models of the State hatcheries at Allentown, Corry and Erie, and the sides of the arch at the entrance were ornamented with large photographs of the interior and exterior of the hatcheries and by fifteen beautifully executed colored drawings of fish which frequent the waters of the State. "Behind the waterfall and under the bank over which it tumbled was constructed a tunnel, lined with oak bark and adorned with twisted laurel roots and in the sides were arranged part of the 20 aquaria containing various food fishes of the State. The only light in the tunnel was that which came through the waterfall, and through the water of the aquaria; thus the movements of the fish as they swam about could be observed to the best advantage. There were altogether twenty aquaria, the largest of which were each six feet long and three feet deep, and the water which sustained the fish life within was all filtered lake water and constantly changed.

"The aquaria around the sides of the exhibit, like those in the tunnel, were with the exception of their faces buried within masses of oak and cedar bark, so that the machinery of the exhibit was hidden from the view of the visitor. In the aquaria were shown trout from all ages from babyhood to maturity. There were brook trout, brown trout, California trout and a few hybrids. There were besides five specimens of nearly all the valuable food fishes which thrive in the fresh waters of Pennsylvania.

"To keep these fish alive and healthy was one of the most difficult tasks of those entrusted with the care of the exhibit. The least carelessness in handling or any abatement of vigilance in other particulars would result in the appearance of a fungus on the eyes and bodies of the fish, which, unless checked would speedily cause their death. It is to the credit of those in charge that there was comparatively little mortality from this cause, and in consequence, the Pennsylvania exhibit was particularly noticeable for the fine, healthy appearance of the living fish in the aquaria.

"In a little corner back of the exhibit was the office of Col. John Gay and his two assistants, Mr. Buller and Mr. Brady.

"For visitors to the World's Fair who were particularly interested in the work of fish culture, the Commissioners employed Mr. William E. Meehan, an associate editor of the Philadelphia Public Ledger, to compile a pamphlet on the 'Fish, Fishing and Fisheries of Pennsylvania.' This pamphlet was profusely illustrated and gave an interesting history of the Indian methods of catching fish; the causes which led to the depletion of our streams of their most valuable food fishes, and an exhaustive account of the work of restoration by the Fish Commissioners."
PENNSYLVANIA FISH COMMISSION EXHIBIT
COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION

FEBRUARY—1966
**ICE-FISHING is attracting vast numbers of anglers each winter. The majority are swinging toward “jig-fishing” method.**

**FISHERMEN** dressed in warm winter duds dotted the ice-bound Hunters Lake in northcentral Pennsylvania like mesquite plants in a glaring white desert landscape. Most were jig-fishing. They stood beside ice holes, or squatted on sleds or seat warmers, in closely knit circles, jigging lines in freshly chipped holes while biding time swapping yarns or grilling steaks. A variety of fish—trout, pickerel, perch, bluegills—lay frozen like chunks of firewood on the ice beside the fishermen. Most used odd-shaped jig sticks, many of home crafted designs, to manipulate baits through the ice holes. I marveled that jig-fishing had, indeed, come of age.

To be sure, some ice-fishermen huddled near smoking wood fires on shore. They squinted through binoculars and spotting scopes at far off ice-holes rigged with tip-ups. Every now and then one or two men would get up from their comfortable fireside seats to dash across the ice. If they arrived in time, a fat pickerel or trout soon flopped on the winter blanket.

The vast majority of ice-fishermen on the ice this day conformed to a definite pattern, which indicated that a swift shift in ice methods has come about in recent years. The shift is away from the old, reliable tip-up rigs toward the newer jig-fishing method. At least this swing is noticeable in the folded Appalachian ridge section, located between the Blue Ridge on the east and the Appalachian Plateau on the west.

This shift toward jigging as the most popular form of ice fishing stems, in part, from the phenomenal catch of fish, coupled to the variety of new equipment that has only recently, say the last five or six years, become available. I’m referring to the Korean type insulated boot, the light weight quilted and warmly insulated coat, portable charcoal grill, variety of jig rods currently on the market, namely the “Pimple Pole,” and lastly, the infinite array of excellent ice-lures. On the surface, one hardly expect this equipment to revolutionize winter fishing, nevertheless a quiet evolution has taken place. Consider these facts.

Old fashion felts worn beneath arctics keep feet fairly warm on winter ice. Red plaid deer hunting outfits proved standard attire too. Still, ice fishermen found it necessary to retreat to roaring shoreline fires to thaw the chill. From this remote station, they used binoculars to survey the ice to keep tabs on tip-ups and ice holes. It was a mad dash to get to the hole whenever a flag snapped upward.
to wave in the cold breeze. Sometimes a late arriving angler would find that a pike made off with the minnow bait without getting hooked. Or a yellow perch too small to get the minnow in its mouth properly, caused the flag to spring upward. There are other problems too with tip-up fishing, such as scouring the wintered landscape for suitable live baits.

Modern jig-fishermen have apparently overcome the disadvantages associated with the older style tip-up fishing. For example, insulated boots, many guaranteed to keep toes warm as toast at temperatures far below zero, let fishermen stay out on the ice most of the day. Gone is the need for periodic toe toasting besides shoreline fires. Light weight quilted, insulated jackets and underwear of similar material also add to the iceman’s comfort. The portable charcoal grill, hauled directly out upon the ice and parked beside the ice hole, serves as a dandy hand-warmer and permits grilling hamburgers, coffee, soups, even fish fries for a full course meal. Again there is no need to dash shoreward for these tasty snacks which often continue throughout the day, due in part to the brisk winter air.

Time weighs heavily with fishermen who spend most of their time on the ice. Preferring to be active, rather than passively waiting for tip-ups to spring into action, they have turned their attention to handline fishing or jigging as it is generally known. They walk from one ice hole to another, jigging a polished spoon into the dark water. In a sense they go after the fish rather than await a chance bite on the baited tip-up. By constantly changing location, the schooled fish are eventually located. Action is fast. Fish are pulled topside. When school moves elsewhere, it is a search and jig deployment to other ice holes to encounter the school again. The result is that most jiggers make remarkable catches of winter fish.

Early forms of jig-rods took on a variety of shapes, as varied as there are fishermen. Most used old fly rod joints or spin-poles equipped with conventional reels. Both reels and guides malfunctioned due to heavy coatings of ice. This summer gear was gradually discarded in favor of the specially adapted jig-stick. One design that has caught on fast is the "Pimple Pole," one of the few commercially made rods of ingenious design. This hand rod has a hollowed out handle which serves as a convenient storage box for spoons, split shot, ice flies and hooks. A short, light weight tip, with line storage block, swings away from the handle to provide a short, sensitive jig-stick.

Coupled to these ice-rods are a wonderful array of lures made especially for winter fishing. Weighted trout flies, and the highly polished spinning-size spoons and spinners prove real fish takers. One such spoon, known as the "Swedish Pimple," has made phenomenal catches of trout, walleye and pike.

This spoon originated in the Bay De Noc area of Michigan, an Upper Great Lakes region where ice-fishing has become a way of life for the majority of residents. With the chief occupation being the mining and shipping of taconite iron ore, this business comes to a virtual standstill when the Great Lakes blanket under winter ice.

This seasonal employment aims the working force toward ice-fishing with the result that it has become the Upper Lakes region’s chief form of recreation.

Four young fishermen in that area banded together to set up shop to produce suitable ice lures. One of their experimental lures, dubbed the "Swedish Pimple," produced extremely fine catches. The four fellows began turning out the "Pimple" in quantity. Its popularity has since spread like wild fire to far reaches of the continent, wherever ice fishermen gather.

The name is a misnomer. The lure has no resemblance to a pimple which you and I know to be a blemish on the skin. Rather, this highly polished metal spoon resembles many elongated lures, but has an unusual weight placement in the center, thereby giving the lure a unique wobbling, wiggling action in the water. This lure, as are other jig-baits, is manipulated with an up-and-down motion through the ice hole. The unique action, coupled to its bright reflective surface, causes the lure to be irresistible to game fish.

This day on Hunters Lake, and elsewhere in the Appalachian folds, jig-fishing proved by far the most exciting form of winter fishing. This greatly simplified winter tackle is less costly and produces fish. Couple these advantages of tackle to the portable charcoal grill and newer cold weather clothing, and it becomes clear why jig-fishing has now come of age.

Newcomers to the current ice-season will want to investigate this exciting method of fishing through the winter ice.

FEBRUARY—1966
ICE FISHING JIG RODS

THIS IS THE POPULAR "PIMPLE POLE" used by many jiggers on the winter ice.

THE HOLLOWED OUT HANDLE serves as a storage box for extra lures, hooks and sinkers.

ANOTHER VERSION of the "Pimple Pole" is a collapsible, pocket size rod.

THE TINY ROD folds up into a pocket-size article.
HAVE you hesitated getting started tying fishing flies, fearing you may not like this hobby, and then have a sizable group of tools and feathers on your hands? In the first place, who led you to believe that the fish fly hobby requires a heavy investment, or that you need buy anything to make this initial step? Chances are good that you already have the tools and materials lying about the house. You can use these makeshift articles for an initial fly session and turn out some good streamers and/or wet flies.

To begin with, the vise is the indispensable tool in fly tying. This gripping instrument holds the hook firmly, freeing your hands to wind the feathers, fur, and bits of yarn into place. You surely have a mechanic or carpenter tool in the basement workshop that can do this chore. How about a mechanic bench vise, vise-grip pliers, C-clamp, or any one of a half dozen other tools that has jaws capable of gripping a fish hook? These fix-it tools will readily serve in the capacity of a fly vise to get you started in this interesting, if not downright fascinating, fly fly hobby.

Round up manicure scissors, spool of nylon sewing thread, pieces of wool yarn from your wife’s knitting basket, and remove a few feathers from your wife’s bower that style-wise is passé. You now have the makings of trout/bass flies.

To show what can be done with handyman tools, we assembled a typical array of tools that form a part of every workshop. These included the bench vise, vice-grip pliers, several styles of C-clamps, adjustable wrench, side cutters and regular pliers. We tied a bucktail lure, using a different fix-it tool at each step in the fly assembly. We started with a big bench vise, progressing through the assortment from side-cutters to C-clamp.

The tools did a remarkable job pinch-hitting for a conventional fly vise. During this initial test run, we tied a big bucktail on a No. 6-4X long shank hook. Then we tied a No. 10 wet fly, a style of lure that is a bit more involved to assemble. Smaller flies, tied on No. 14’s and upward to 20’s, would be a little more difficult to assemble with these mechanic tool fly vises, but with a little patience, it could be done.

The point we are stressing here, is that fishermen who have a yen to commence tying fishing flies, but hesitate investing in tools and fly materials, or can’t squeeze the cash from the already burdened family budget, should improvise, using workshop tools for this initial test.

Once this initial aptitude test clearly shows an interest and talent in this gem-of-a-hobby, then it’s time enough to spend ten bucks for a good fly vise, and an assortment of materials.

Meanwhile, what about those materials? Here again, there is no expense involved with this initial experiment. Untold amounts of feathers, furs and tails—really quality materials—are bagged by hunters in the field. Feathers from wild turkey, grouse, ringneck pheasant, mallard duck, to name a few game fowls, are all ideally suited for fishing flies. Likewise with fur. That fur from the cotton-tail, fox, deer and squirrel are the best that can be had for feathered lures. Indeed, some of the patterns, famous the world over, are made from these exact wild feathers/fur. Throw in some neck feathers from a domestic rooster, wooly yarn from an old pair of hand knit socks, and the neophyte is as well equipped as the gent who has dressed fish hooks for years.

Convinced? Then let’s say a few words on the utter simplicity of tying that first fly.

A typical fish fly—bucktail, streamer, wet fly, dry, nymph, wooly warm or other—amounts to merely thirty or forty winds of thread to hold bits of feathers/fur-yarn to the hook.

The initial step involves clamping a large hook in the jaws of one of the aforesaid fix-it tools. Knot a two-foot long piece of sewing thread to the hook shank. Use silk floss or wool yarn for the body of this initial fly. Hold the free end of this material on top and parallel to the shank, and wind the tying thread over the yarn and the hook. When the wool material is fastened in place, begin to wind the yarn spirally around the shank, to within a quarter inch of the hook eye. Now wind the sewing thread over the hook and loose end of the yarn to prevent the latter from unraveling.

Now for the wings. Hold two or four hackle feathers, or a bundle of hair (bucktail is fine) on top and parallel to the shank. Wind the sewing thread over this material, binding it securely to the hook at the area where the body material ends.

You may wish to get fancy, adding a second material as topping over this original wing. You may also want to tie some fibers beneath the eye to serve as “gills” on this streamer. Whatever the case, wind the sewing thread over all loose material ends, gradually building a nicely tapered head. Tie several half-hitches in the thread, add a touch of lacquer or glue to the knot, and the bucktail fly is completed. Now that wasn’t difficult!

There you have it, the essence of tying fish flies. You have tools in the basement, feathers in the attic, and hooks in your fishing box. So why not join the feather-fishers? Spend an hour or two experimenting. Bet you, like the rest of us, will become so enthralled with this feather handling, that you’ll spend half the winter tying old faithful patterns and invent some fly patterns of your own. By the time spring fishing season rolls around, you’ll be as well equipped with fly flies as any jobber. Another discovery comes later. When you manage to sock steel into a hefty trout, you’ll discover the fun you have missed all these years.

Get started dressing your own fish hooks. Give yourself an aptitude test by using the tools scattered on your fix-it workbench.
A husky bench vise is capable of holding the hook securely thus freeing your hands for the tying operation. Silk floss is being tied to the hook shank for the fly body.

Pair of side cutters now hold the hook as surplus material is cut from the fly body.

Husky vise-grip pliers hold the hook as we bundle of fur to serve as wings on the streamer.

Vise-grips again hold the hook as peacock topping and a fancy feather are tied in place, the latter to serve as a "cheek" or gill.

A big C-clamp now holds the streamer as we use the whip knot to finish off the thread wrapping.

Finally, clear nail lacquer is painted over the thread to prevent it from unraveling.
MOBY DICK WEATHER VANE
By H. Sibley,

All dimensions in inches.

Cut whale and man from aluminum sheet or 1/8 tempered hardboard. For the former use a fine-tooth metal-cutting blade; on a jigsaw. For hardboard, the same. If power saw not available, a coping saw will do the job. Rivet all parts to an aluminum angle bar, 3/4x3/4x1/8.

Note that weight is carried on pointed end of mast so that vane turns in very light breeze.

END VIEW

Whale

Waves

Grind end to point

1/8

Pin thru collar on 1/2 rod

Wood mast step

Adapt angle to roof line.

Guy wires looped over pin.

 Drill holes in shingles so they will not split when nails are driven to wood below.
FATHER WALTON characterized angling as the contemplative man’s sport, thus classifying anglers among those individuals that normally are less active and less ambitious than their contemporaries. Artists have used their artistic license to further defame the angler with paintings of pastoral landscapes including dreamy skies, shady trees, softly flowing streams and reclining figures of rotund proportions, drowsily watching a propped rod.

While it has been proven that the pursuit of the finny tribes has less hazard than crossing a busy intersection at noon or bucking the free-way traffic during a summer weekend, I resent the implication that the practice of the angler’s art is entirely free of risk and that anglers are lazy individuals of portly frame.

A lady guest at a luncheon meeting of outdoor authorities, many of whom were anglers, observed to a feminine friend that it was about the leanest, hungriest and handsomest group of males that she had observed in a long while. With this statement we dismiss Father Walton and the artists of the past.

There are times when the angler is exposed to dangers and difficulties while practicing his art. Whether the elements turn out to be tragic or merely remembered experiences, many of them with a touch of humor, may be avoided in most instances by taking the necessary precautions. Occasionally the incidents are dictated by circumstances beyond the angler’s control but these are few.

One such incident frightened me considerably. It was mid May. With a companion I was fishing one of the long Moshannon flats. The water was somewhat over our knees with here and there a deeper pocket that had been dug by the current around partly submerged boulders. Alders grew in a solid wall along both banks. My partner was wading one bank while I followed the other. There was a good hatch coming off the water and the trout were cooperating beautifully. We had proper flies and had no thought except the business at hand. Suddenly a deer came sailing over the alders and landed in the stream so close that I could have touched it with my hand. I ducked so emphatically that I was wet to the waist. Two others followed in rapid succession, fortunately a bit upstream from my position. They were close enough that I was thoroughly wet from the splashes they made when they struck the water. They dashed across, paying no attention to my friend, bolted through the alders and bounded up the hillside. Although I escaped with no damage except a fractured dignity and a thorough bath, I will skip the pleasure of observing the ventral surface and sharp hooves of deer, within inches of my head . . . especially if the animal is frightened.

Among my angler acquaintances is a man with whom I have associated for many years. I had the pleasure of introducing him to the sport and he became an ardent follower of Father Walton immediately. I say man because he is above six feet in height and well over two hundred pounds in weight. Being above middle age he is obliged to wear corrective lenses and has the habit of tilting his head back and to one side as he follows a
Boating fly. This habit keeps him somewhat off balance. He was standing a few feet from the bank reaching for a good fish that was hidden under an overhanging branch. He managed a backhand cast that dropped the fly at just the right spot and when the trout struck it jumped very near the brush. My friend stepped backward and stumbled on the slippery, glass smooth cobbles. Fighting to avoid falling, he stumbled backward and fell full length on the sod. He escaped with nothing more severe than a wrenched back and a broken rod. I shudder to think what might have happened had he fallen on the loaf sized cobbles that lined the shallows.

A lady angler of my acquaintance was less fortunate. With her husband she was accustomed to fish a fast slippery stream that flowed through the mountains a few miles from their home. They each had their favorite water and because of the smallness of the stream, fished apart from each other. The husband would drop his wife beside the road that paralleled the stream then go on to another part of the stream to fish undisturbed. This routine was followed several times each week during the summer evenings. One night the lady somehow wedged her foot between two stones and fell, breaking her ankle. Fortunately the road was only a few yards above the stream at the point of the accident. She crawled painfully up to the road where her husband found her a short time later. Small wonder that she lost much of her enthusiasm for trout water . . .

A friend with whom I followed the trout for many years felt that trout fishing was the ultimate in sport. He fished from opening morning to closing evening at every opportunity. He spent the time between seasons tying flies and getting his equipment in order for the next campaign.

One day when we were fishing a deep quiet stream I heard his urgent call and hurried up to find him sitting in water up to his ears. Only by tilting his head backward at a sharp angle was he able to keep his face above water. In some manner he had become entangled in a set of bed springs that some misguided individual had dumped into the pool. I had considerable difficulty extricating my friend and was in hearty agreement with his opinion of those responsible for his predicament. His French ancestry may have had something to do with the torrent of eloquence with which he expressed his displeasure.

It was early season. The water was beautifully clear and a bit above normal. These are the days when the trout have not filled out the lankness of winter and the larger specimens have not yet learned caution. The Moshannon split around an island. Against the ledge on the far side was a pool that had been the home of a portly brown during the previous season. If I could cross to the island I felt sure that the streamer I was using that morning would tempt him, however, the channel was barely wadeable with hip boots. Common sense advised caution, but what angler is sensible when the big trout are on the prowl? I looked the water over carefully and decided the best place to cross was the shallows just at the head of the island. Cutting a stick for a wading staff, I made my way cautiously through the deeper channel. Although I had to struggle to keep my footing, all went well until I ap-
"GETTING DOWN TO TROUT"

TYING sequence of the Wire Body.

CLOSE-UP of the wet-fly and streamer-fly versions.

CLOSE-UP of soft copper wire and hooks used for tying the Wire Fly.
**By A. I. “Pal” ALEXANDER**

**Have** trouble opening day? Did the kid with the spinning rod and oversized galoshes embarrass you by asking how many fish you caught—and in such a loud voice you couldn't ignore him?

It seems like every opening day, and the first couple of weeks that follow it, are always the same. The streams and rivers are a swollen, roaring torrent, and the trout are sitting on the bottom.

Strange faces, and outfits, are everywhere. Old friends like Epeorus pleuralis and Iron fraudator are nowhere to be seen. It isn't even necessary to remember which vest pocket holds the stream thermometer—not with ice in the guides, it isn't!

This is, perhaps, the most difficult and discouraging time for the fly-fishermen. Sure, there will be other times, later on, when the trout are so extremely selective they could bring Theodore Gordon to tears, and you can't stick a ridiculously small tippet through an eyeless fly in the dark while the trout bomb all around you. This is frustrating, to be sure, but, at least then, you will be alone.

During the first few cold weeks, trout take their refuge on the bottom of the stream, and, as they have all winter, seek their food in the form of immature aquatic insects and small bait fish which are also there on the bottom where the water is warmer.

The experience of the preceding winter months has taught the trout that his food is on or close to the stream bed—and it is there he is looking for it. Because of his reduced rate of metabolism, the trout is not forced to cruise the varying depths of his immediate area to satiate his food requirements. His appetite is now at its low ebb, and he will not become voracious until the water temperature approaches the 50° F. mark. Then, his increased need for food will necessitate covering a wider range of water, including the surface film, providing the delight known as dry-fly fishing.

The fact that trout are relatively immobile in the early spring, and are feeding on the bottom, is readily evidenced by the howling success that bait fishermen have scoring the bottom with live bait.

The usual approach to a stream or river in the spring is, perhaps, a shallow, medium speed fly, when there is no visible activity, is to fish a streamer or wet fly blindly—and hope. Unfortunately, the fly seldom gets within range of the fly. The fly addict isn't confronted with a refusal; his fly isn't even seen by the trout on the bottom.

The conventional wet fly swims too close to the surface, travelling a foot or so down at the most, and frequently not even at this depth.

Selectivity is at a minimum; the problem is to get down to the bottom, and with a reasonably life-like presentation.

As a fly-fisherman and flytier, I experienced and pondered this seasonal plight of the fly-fisherman annually. Finally, after numerous experiments with split-shot on the leader, lead-wire wraps, sinking lines, and weighted flies, I evolved a reasonable solution.

*Does it always work? No, of course not, but, at least, I have a formidable piece of artillery to work with until the water warms up, and more pleasant conditions prevail.*

My approach was to tie a deep-sinking attractor fly, which I call the Wire Body, that goes down like a diving bell, in view of those bottom-trout, giving them the opportunity to "take".

The material and tying of this fly are somewhat unconventional, although the materials are readily available, and the tying is quite simple.

The necessary materials to dress the Wire Body are 4/0 yellow tying thread, white rabbit hair, Royal Coachman Brown hackle, and copper wire approximately .016 of an inch in diameter. Copper trolling wire, 18 to 20 pound test, will do. For hooks, use heavy wet-fly hooks in size Nos. 8, 10, and 12 with 2X long shanks. For streamers, use 4X long shanks in the same sizes.

The tying procedure is as follows:

1. Tie in the thread at the eye and closely wind, do not spiral, to the bend. Tie in a few Royal Coachman Brown hackle fibres for the tail. Wind the thread back to the eye.

2. Lay the copper wire along the top of the shank starting a little way behind (2") where the head is going to be. Wind the thread tightly and closely over the wire and back to the bend.

3. Wind the thread back to the eye. Bend the wire sharply over itself and wind closely back toward the eye, stopping where the wire was first tied in. Sever the wire on the top of the hook and gently press the cut end to secure it. Lacquer the wire body to resist tarnishing.

4. Build up a gradual taper from the end of the wire to the eye with the thread to provide a platform for the wing. Cut a medium size bunch of white rabbit hair, pulling out any extra long guard hairs, and tie in on top of the tapered thread. Any excess rabbit hair in or around the eye can be neatly disposed of by the judicious use of a red-hot needle.

5. Turn the fly over in the vise, and tie in a sparse beard with a few Royal Coachman Brown hackle fibres. Tie off the head with a whip finish knot and lacquer.

Both the wet-fly and streamer dressing of the Wire Body are light enough to cast easily and heavy enough to sink quickly for the longest presentation to the bottom-feeding trout. Its flashing copper body and the breathing quality of the rabbit hair wing make it a successful attractor, putting the fly-fisherman in the ball game in the early part of the season.

Maybe next spring when the freckle faced kid with the loud voice hails you with, "Hey mister! Catch anything?" You'll have an answer.
Excerpts from the "Report of the Commissioner for the Restoration of the Inland Fisheries for the Year 1870"

"In the early settlements... the fishing was so abundant, that it did not seem to be in the power of man to reduce them, and laws in respect to them seemed almost acts of supererogation. But abuses have crept in, and grown to such an extent, that even the most important of all the fisheries along the coast, bid fair to be finally consumed and destroyed.

From the reports of the British provinces, and of all the New England States, and from what we see before our eyes, it seems to be certain, that the production of almost, if not all of our land-locked and migratory—or as it is now fashionable to call them—anadromous fish, has been reduced to the facility of a manufacture.

Ninety per cent of the eggs of trout can be impregnated and raised to maturity, notwithstanding that it takes nearly two months to hatch them. There are establishments rising up all over the country, where trout will live, that actually succeed in that extraordinary proportion, carrying on the affair as a regular mechanical business.

Attention was drawn to this subject by the report of your Commissioner in 1869, and it seems not without some perceptible effect. Trout manufactories are springing up everywhere. All that is wanting is a spring sufficiently copious to supply three successive ponds with water, in such quantity as that the temperature of these ponds will not rise above 60° Fahrenheit, during the summer. This is a rule quite easily understood, and it must be complied with, or there will be failure.

The three ponds are: No. 1, for the troutlings—say little fellows born in the winter, who would be preyed upon by their older brothers and sisters; No. 2—trout of the second year, who, although perhaps not often preyed upon and swallowed, are a tempting morsel for the older ones, and No. 3, a pond for the mature trout—furnishing spawn for the factory, and messes for the table. In the third pond they may be let live for years, until they attain the weight of three and four pounds.

From the lower pond (No. 3) to the head of the spring there is a fish ladder constantly ready for the adults to ascend when under the influence of the propagation instinct; which, as soon as it assumes power, is invariably obeyed, and the males and females ascend to be caught in a convenient reach of the little stream, and be relieved of their respective burdens; not by the Caesarian operation exactly, as Macduff was brought into the world, so that it could not be said of him, that he was "one of woman born," but by a very gentle process of manipulation in the hands of an expert; whereby the common product of both the sexes is passed out into a tin trencher scarcely larger than a pie dish, in which impregnation of thousands of the ovae takes place, and is effected by a mere movement of the dish similar to that which our grandmothers used to employ to cool their tea in a saucer.

In twenty-five minutes after the commixture of the milt and the roe has been effected in the dish, impregnation is certain, and the ovae assumes the form of opaque amber beads about the size of early spring peas. These, so long as they preserve this orange tawny color, are known to be sound. If, however, they become in the least addled, they assume a creamy hue, and must be removed, or the mortality would spread rapidly to the healthy ones. They are then, with the utmost care, handled by extremely delicate and ingenious instruments, and ranged upon rods, a system of glass rods placed just below the surface of the water, the rods being placed near enough to each other so that the ovae will not fall through. The water must be kept constantly fresh and at an even temperature between 50° and 60° Fahr.; and in fifty or sixty days the little fry breaks its shell and drops from between the rods into the lower depths of the water in which it is free to paddle about.

For three weeks it is sustained in this water (ever running, ever fresh, pure and cool) by a yoke sack which it brings into the world out of its parent egg, and requires no other sustenance. At the end of that time, however, the yoke sack sloughs off and the perfect troutling is obliged to sustain itself thereafter.

From its cradle or crib trough it is then removed by means of fine dip nets and placed in an artificial running stream for a few weeks more, fed by its proprietor with small quantities of curdled milk or chopped liver, (calves'), until it is deemed to be strong enough to be thrown into pond No. 1; here it finds grass and "small deer" of one kind and another, and is occasionally treated to worms or other food by the owner or custodian of the ponds until the next spring, when it is transferred to pond No. 2, a respectable little "chappy" five or six inches long, full of life and animation. In No. 2 he plays about for a year with his mates, growing in vigor and size until the following spring, when he is allowed to associate with the adults in No. 3, (being somewhat too large for a mouthful), until he is impelled by the instinct of propagation to ascend the ladder toward the place of his birth; there he and his lady love are obliged to submit to the manipulation of the
There are several establishments of this kind in Pennsylvania, and they are growing every day in numbers.

The cultivation of trout, then, may be said to be thoroughly started, and may be well left to the individual energy and enterprise of the American people—an energy and an enterprise which have never yet failed of success in whatever direction they have turned their hand."

...The great movement has commenced. Let the streams be prepared. First by protection from piracy, then by opening the dams. Let artificial hatching then be inaugurated and the fisheries of these rivers will yet rank amongst the most valuable of these material interests."
Boating

With Robert G. Miller

SOME folks like to collect stamps, others prefer antiques and there are quite a few who like to build boats as a hobby.

None of these are unusual, as far as hobbies go, but when you tackle a project, or hobby, like that of Frank and Violet Foulk, of New Providence, Pa., you've got something a bit on the unusual side and after two years of work you've got it by the tail and you can't let go.

Foulk is an engineer by vocation, plus a darn good carpenter, but he and his wife have since entered the boat building field. However, instead of starting out small with a package deal, where all you have to do is supply a hammer, screw driver, saw and elbow grease, they began at the other end of the scale and are working on a 51-foot, double cabin, cruiser and a steel hulled one at that.

Consequently, at this stage of the game, when someone else is having a lot of fun fishing one of the two well stocked lakes on their property, Frank or Violet are down in the hold wielding a paint brush or fitting out the interior.

The "VARCLIFF" or "VARCLIFFS," the "S" stands for a daughter-in-law who joined the crew since the boat building project began; had its start around Christmas, 1963, when the Foulks and son, Bud, began purchasing the first material required for construction.

Before that it was a dream for 20 years or more. The Foulks have an unsatisfied interest in boating, in camping out in inaccessible areas, but have never owned a boat of their own and hope their cruiser can eventually become their home away from home.

The "VARCLIFF" is planned along the lines similar to that of a double cabin cruiser shown in a boating magazine ad some years ago and in order to build a hull of similar design they first purchased an inboard cruiser, a wood craft, which has been used as a pattern for the larger craft.

An unsuccessful attempt has since been made to dispose of the original craft so the Foulks are gradually stripping it of any usable equipment which will be incorporated into their new cruiser.

The keel to the new craft was laid, just a few feet from their front door, on April 23, 1964. It is two feet wide, one inch thick and made up into three sections, welded together, for the entire length and stem of the 51 foot craft.

The ribs, made of one and one quarter inch "T" iron and welded at the center to the keel, were slotted and formed around the exterior of the pattern hull to provide the right shape.

Not being a welder, Foulk has had to call in professional help for this phase of the building program and when it came time to start applying the steel sheeting Mrs. Foulk was on hand to lend assistance. Foulks are using thirty-six of an inch steel sheeting which measures six feet wide, by 20 feet long.

One end of the sheet was first welded to the bottom of the keel. Then, with a lot of push on the part of Mrs. Foulk, and some pull on the part of a chain hoist, the sheet was gradually worked in against the ribbing where it was first tacked into place before the final weld. This procedure was required for each sheet of steel and a lot of sheets went into the covering for a 51-foot long hull.

Originally the Foulks felt it would take at least three years to complete the craft but they have since found it takes a lot of time and money. Unfortunately the former is easier to come by than the latter and it has become a matter of working when the funds are available.

This is to be a diesel powered craft with two 150 hp engines supplied by four fuel tanks, each capable of containing 250 gallons of fuel. Both engines will be water cooled with the water, after cooling the engines, running through square tubing welded to the exterior of the hull near the water line, where it will cool from contact with the salt water. On some craft this line runs down along the keel but in this case it will appear to be a splash rail and easily accessible in case repairs are required.

Each of the two cabins, one forward and the other amidship, will provide about six feet, three inches of headroom; will contain two heads and a galley in the forward section. The forward cabin will be equipped with an air conditioning unit from an automobile.

To eliminate the squareness in the cabin roof design as indicated on the original illustration, Foulk has obtained several station wagon roofs, containing sliding windows, which provide just the right roundness. Since they are not wide enough to cover the craft, from port to starboard, they have been cut down through the center and will be joined by a piece of sheet steel.

The craft is large enough to sleep six but in an emergency it will accommodate at least four more persons, some of whom could stretch out on the aft deck which will be covered with a canvas canopy.

The exterior of the hull was given a coat of black epoxy paint, up to the waterline, and Mrs. Foulk is now spending most of her spare time trowling a fast drying material, similar to that used by auto body men to fill in dinge areas, over the areas where the sheets of steel join.

Foulk's skill as a carpenter now comes in handy. He plans to line the entire interior with wood, part of the forward cabin is already paneled in maple, and this requires a lot of drilling through steel in order to bolt the initial pieces in place.

Frank, Violet and Bud still have a lot of work ahead of them but they are taking their time and trying to avoid as many mistakes as possible so that when Frank retires he'll be able to sit back, relax and enjoy their home away from home.
Finally got around to having a courtesy inspection made of my craft last summer by the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and can't help but feel a bit proud to have that decal on the windshield.

A cumulative activity summary of USCGA activities, based on the first nine months of 1965, indicates that 153,122 such inspections were made.

A recent release from U. S. Coast Guard headquarters pointed out that almost half of all lives lost in boating accidents are caused by boats capsizing with overloading as the major cause.

As a result the Coast Guard, in cooperation with the boating industry and state boating administrators, has been encouraging manufacturers to affix a boat capacity plate inside the boat to give the operator a good idea just how many passengers and pounds of equipment he can safely carry under normal operating conditions.

Four things to remember when loading a boat are:
1. Distribute the load evenly;
2. Keep the load low;
3. Don't stand up in a small boat;
4. Don't overload.

I might add a 5th point: Don't load the boat to such an extent with equipment that there is no room for the passengers and someone, in order to eliminate a second trip, is allowed to sit up on the bow.

I saw this happen last summer on Lake Clarke and the owner of the craft, a sleek looking inboard-outboard model, promptly received a summons from the watercraft safety officer. Some folks just can't seem to get it through their head that a fall from this point could result in death, or severe lacerations at least, when struck by the prop.

Incidentally, for you folks who haven't gotten around to painting your mooring buoys white with a blue stripe to conform with the uniform marking system, I found on the market a kit for doing this job right.

For a little over $3 you can buy a can of white styro-
MODERN CAMPING

By DEL and LOIS KERR

SURELY everyone by now is aware of family camping. It is recognized as the fastest growing family-participation form of recreation in history. But it may surprise even confirmed, dyed-in-the-wool campers to learn how extensively the sport has taken root here in the Keystone state.

The following information is not drawn from imagination, or even a projected estimate. It is based on fact. Today, over 200 family-type camping areas are open in Pennsylvania, offering a combined total of well over 13,000 campsites! As the crow flies, the greatest distance from any point in the state to a public camping area is now a scant thirty-eight miles.

Where are all of these campgrounds? Anywhere and everywhere. They are located along nearly every main highway, perched atop high mountains or nestled in lush, green valleys. A few are right in town (some trailer parks now welcome overnight camping) while others are deep in remote, heavily-timbered forests. Wherever you find outstanding recreation, impressive scenery or points of interest; no matter which direction you travel, you will have a place to camp.

Most people realize that we have thirty-seven state parks which permit camping. National and federal campgrounds make up another small portion. But few people know that the largest number of areas by far are found in the form of private campgrounds. At the time of this writing a grand total of 176 private areas are open for business with more under construction. Before this year is out, the number of private campgrounds alone could well surpass the 200 mark!

Is a private campground an exclusive club-type resort? Absolutely not! The reference to "private" comes from the fact that the campground is owned by a private citizen rather than having state or federal connections. We know owners with professions such as a retired drug salesman, a minister, a newspaper editor, factory workers, etc. But in nearly every case, the owners are also campers with years of experience and have constructed their areas according to campers' needs.

The rate is slightly higher than state parks, usually $2.00 to $2.50 per night. The benefits are also greater. Most areas have flush-type sanitary facilities, hot showers, dumping stations for trailers and for a nominal fee of 25c to $2.00 per night, you can have electricity right at your campsite. You can also make reservations ahead of your visit to insure a good site when you arrive.

It must be understood that all private campgrounds cannot be classed as a campers' paradise. As will happen in any type of business, a few enterprising individuals have opened campgrounds merely to cash in on a "good thing." These widely scattered few can be quickly spotted by a lack of facilities and an extra charge for nearly everything.

The legitimate owner, on the other hand, is a man to be respected. As a camper himself, he knows that trailers need large, easily accessible sites. Showerhouses are kept spotless and sanitary and grounds immaculately clean. He is ready to assist the novice camper in selecting a good campsite or in any way possible. This owner is eager to direct you to nearby fishing "hotspots." Repeat business depends on your enjoyment!

Private campgrounds vary from one area to another. They may range from 10 to 250 campsites, the average around 50. If located in or near a highly attractive region, the campground may cater to overnight, traveling campers. Facilities will be first-rate, but recreation at the campground is unnecessary. The camper in this case is mainly interested in touring the district and taking in points of interest.

Other campgrounds attract the vacationing camper. These may have huge complexes of organized recreation including life-guarded swimming, fishing, slide shows, lectures, horseback riding and hayrides, well-marked hiking trails and other forms of entertainment. Camp stores are often located right on the property.

Still another variety absorbs the overflow from state parks. Nearly all state parks which often employ the "No Vacancy" sign will have private camping areas very near the park. Many of these are within walking distance. The camper then has the use of public recreational facilities at the park and the added benefits of the private campground at the same time!

Of course, many, many campgrounds cater to the sportsman. Areas along the Susquehanna, Delaware, Allegheny and other rivers, plus those by sparkling, fast-running mountain streams offer the fisherman and boater hours upon hours of prime recreation.

It is not our wish to imply in any way that our many state parks do not have truly great places to camp. They are so attractive, in fact, that most of the more popular parks fill to capacity nearly every weekend. As a result, shoulder-to-shoulder camping exists and many people are unhappy turned away. It is our considered opinion that private campgrounds represent a logical and welcome solution to an increasingly difficult problem.

Various areas with good fishing potential will be mentioned through this column in future issues. If you would like a free directory listing many private campgrounds throughout the state write to us: Campground Association of Pennsylvania, Dept. A, Mercer, Pa. 16137.
Midges—FOR TOUGH TROUT

PART II

By ED KOCH

Part one of this series gave a brief explanation as to why
I started fishing midges, how I arrived at the conclusion
they would work and a description on how to tie the size
24 herd midge in four colors. Let's get on with part two,
more development, tying and finally trying.

A great deal of my time during the middle and late
forties was spent on Spring Creek, Bellefonte, both in and
out of the Paradise project. At that time the fly hatchies
were excellent and the dyed in the wool dry fly man who
enjoyed the "sport" of fooling, catching and releasing his
tout was easily spotted among the hundreds of anglers
vising for their lunch. Evening was the time for the best
hatch so we had 6 or 8 hours of all day fishing to pass the
time in anticipation of the evening rise. We fished the gen-
eral run of the mill patterns in dry, wet, streamer and a few
nymphs. We were never much interested in seeing how big
a fish we could catch but in how many we could catch
and release. Today our log still hangs in the kitchen
closet of our home back in the coal region. The date of
the trip, weather conditions, what type fly used and in
the last three columns how many trout released. When I
refer to "we", I will probably mean my father, Ed, Sr. and
my brother Norman whom we called "Mickey" and myself.
All of us tied flies and of course were interested in proving
that our own particular flies were best. Mine over my
Dad's and my brother's and vice-versa. Some days were
good, some not so good and at first we weren't too in-
terested in finding out why. We were fishing, having fun
and that was our main interest. One of our favorite flies
was the old wet or hard back ant—tied with black thread,
lacquered, with a soft hackle in front and fished wet.
Size was generally 10, 12 or perhaps a small 14! Gradually
we started tying the ant smaller and smaller and found
we were more and more successful, until our fly boxes con-
tained nothing but 18's, 20's, 22's and 24's. A few 12's
were carried "just in case" but I can't ever remember going
back to them. The small ant carried us through the day-
time fishing enabling us to release as many as 30 to 40
tout before sunset. Almost always, we fished for trout
that we could see. Trout laying in the moss pockets in
quiet water, trout laying along the grass lined banks
waiting for terrestrials to accidentally find their way on the
water and trout lying in the riffles and glides where the
fast water rushed over the wing walls and dams bringing
the trout an abundant supply of all types of insects.
By working over visible fish we could generally see our
fly, but more important we could see the trout's reaction
as the fly drifted past. We could see our quarry rise,
inspect, and reject or take, in the slow water. Dart right or
left to gulp in the fly in the faster water where he had only
a matter of seconds to decide whether it was good or had,
real or artificial.
Endless hours of this type of fishing finally
began to put a polished edge on our prowess with the short
rod, small flies and fine tippets. At that time I was using
a 7½ ft. glass rod with 2 lb. tippet material. Casting had
to be accurate in fast water in order to put the fly in the
path of the trout's feeding station or at least near enough
so that a slight turn to the right or left would permit the
quarry to snatch the fast moving artificial. In the quiet
water the cast has to be "right on the nose" so that the
fly would float directly to the trout without drag. This
meant that it could not hit too far in front or too near
before the current straightened the curve of the leader
and started dragging the fly. So, though we weren't catching
the largest trout in the stream we were slowly but surely
learning the finer points of casting, drift, drag, reaction
time, but most important trout reactions. For a good many
years, had anyone given me a choice of one fly to use all
season long, I would have gone with the hard back, black
ant.

During the evening hatch we generally fished the grizzly
hackle yellow, or "dangler" as we called it. The fly was tied
with a grizzly tail, yellow wool body and grizzly hackle.
No wings at that time, a high school lad wasn't interested
in turning out quality, but quantity. Wings were just
too hard to tie and I lost too many flies to pain over tying
on a perfect set of wings and having fly and tippet dis-
appear in the first good trout that rose. Size 14 was
average for the dry. All we knew was that if we got our
fly to the rising trout, we had as good a chance as anyone
else of the hungry browns or rainbows coming up and
slurping in our imitation. The thrill of catching a trout
on a dry fly made me quickly forget everything I had
observed during the course of the day. All tact was for-
gotten at a time when it should have been most remem-
bered. Thinking the trout became foolish and careless
during a hatch, I did the same. Casts were not perfect,
flies were allowed to drag and consequently the number
of trout hooked during the evening was always less than
during the day. It took several seasons for the light to
finally dawn, that these trout were just as finicky, even
more so, than those I was able to fool during the day with
the tiny ants. When I began to settle down, cast well,
keep alert and remember what I was doing all day long,
the trout came easier and oftener. We finally worked our
way down to a size 18 grizzly hackle yellow but never any
smaller. The size 16 and 18 were excellent trout producers
and we were content.

The "dangler" name for the same fly came for want of a
better word to describe what we observed many old timers
doing during the evening hatch. Four or five foot of leader
was left hanging from the tip of the rod and the angler
would walk up and down the bank watching for trout lying near the grass. The fly would be dangled at rod's length out over the water and allowed to blow in the wind, touching the water occasionally. Often times the angler would raise and lower his rod tip "dapping" the fly on the surface as the English call it. Trout would jump four, five and six inches out of the water for the fly and hook themselves on the way down. Skeptical but interested, we tried it and found it worked, very well indeed. I still use it on occasion today on open water as often as the opportunity presents itself.

Let's get on with the tying of three midges now that will give the angler a well rounded selection of hackle flies for all season long.

They are the black hackle, brown hackle and grizzly hackle yellow.

Hook size—18, 94840 or 94842
Thread—Ed Koch's nymph thread, black, brown and yellow

Hackle—Black, brown and grizzly.

Insert hook in vise, fig. 1. Pick up bobbin in right hand; hold end of thread between thumb and forefinger of left hand, fig. 2. Holding thread against shank of hook—left hand below—right hand above—fig. 3. make 4 or 5 wraps with thread toward the bend of the hook so thread that is being wrapped on shank is over the thread held in left hand, fig. 4. Clip off excess thread. Using three hackle fibres, tie on tail, fig. 5. Tail should be approximately as long as the shank of the hook, fig. 6. Wrap body of black nymph thread to within 1/32 inch of the eye of the hook, fig. 7. Tie in one size 18 black hackle, fig. 8. Butt first. Wrap two or three turns of hackle and tie off, fig. 9. Whip finish head, lacquer and fly is complete.

Brown hackle—use brown thread, brown tail and brown hackle.

Grizzly hackle yellow—use yellow thread, grizzly tail and grizzly hackle.


During the past few years the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh to Tarentum has rehabilitated itself to the point where catches of game fish, notably large and smallmouth bass and walleye, are becoming commonplace. During August and September minnows by the millions infested the river and fishing was excellent in the area around Lock No. 3. Brian Galecki of Oakmont, and Tom Sechrist of Cheswick, on September 12, from 8 A.M. to noon, caught and released over 90 large and smallmouth bass just below Lock No. 3 at Acme Point. The largest was 13\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches. Bill Rose of Acme Point, on September 20 caught two 18-inch largemouth in the same area and released many small ones.—District Warden STANLEY PAULAKOVICH (Allegheny).

Ten years ago Game Protector John Troutman and I were checking a fisherman’s minnow bucket at Koon Lake, Bedford County, when we noticed that the fisherman had some tadpoles which had started to grow legs. The fisherman admitted that these were called, and I answered, “Nearfrog”—(tadpole closer to becoming a frog than remaining a tadpole). Much to my surprise, on September 24, 1965, while at Koon Lake, a man spoke to me and said he was the fisherman who had the nearfrogs, and said he had never been able to find any book that explained what a nearfrog is. So after ten years I explained what a nearfrog is. This is a local name and I am not certain when it started, perhaps ten years ago.—District Warden WILLIAM E. MCLINNAY (Bedford and Fulton).

Game Protector Richard Ruths, of Galeton, answered a complaint from a farmer that beaver had taken over his farm pond and were doing considerable damage. Upon investigation, Dick found that a large beaver had taken over the pond. Dick proceeded to set the trap near the location of Shawnee Lake. The fish and tadpoles we saw in the Schellsburg area, Shawnee Creek, which is now the location of Shawnee Lake. The fish and tadpoles were furnished by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Within the week for additional open heart surgery. The fisherman then told Mr. Burns that he was going to enter the hospital later in the week for additional open heart surgery. The gentleman then went about the task of fishing. Surely this man can be called an “avid sportsman”.—District Warden JAMES DONAHUE (Jefferson).

In late October I came upon a fellow along the Susquehanna River near Danville, carrying a shotgun in one hand and a spinning rod in the other. When I asked whether he was hunting or fishing, he gave this explanation, “The bass and walleye are hitting and the ducks are flying, so I decided to go after both, and I’m glad I did.” He had taken three nice walleye and a duck.—District Warden ROBERT J. PERRY (Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland).

While working at the Open House at the Benner Spring Research Station, a gentleman handed me a sum of money and said he wanted to subscribe to the PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER. I apologized for not having my receipt book with me, but assured him I would forward his money and that his subscription would start with the next issue. His reply was, “Even if you forget to send it in, you can consider it a donation for the wonderful exhibit I’ve seen here today.”—District Warden JAMES T. VALENTINE (Huntingdon-Fulton).

Thirty years ago the Bedford County Game, Fish and Forestry Association stocked eight cans of tadpoles and 20 cans of brook trout in Friends Cove, Cove Creek and in the Schellsburg area, Shawnee Creek, which is now the location of Shawnee Lake. The fish and tadpoles were furnished by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. By my time the opening day of a frog season was like the first day of small game season. Hundreds of people hunted frogs in Bedford County. We still have quite a number of frog hunters, but nothing like it was twenty to thirty years ago.—District Warden WILLIAM E. MCLINNAY (Bedford-Fulton).

While on patrol with Deputy Game Protector Germaine the first day of small game season, we discovered a small fire which was just getting started near a new house.
knocked on the door and asked if they knew the fire was there. They didn't, and we proceeded to put it out. The lady couldn't understand how it could have started. I showed her the glass jars and tin cans which were thrown there and explained how a jar with water in it could act as a magnifying glass and easily start a fire. It would help both fishing and hunting if people would think of this before they dump their trash anywhere along a stream or in the woods.—District Warden CLOYD W. HOLLEN (Blair).

During the experimental fall stocking of Buffalo Creek, I noticed that while the men were fishing, women would be sitting in the cars reading or knitting. Then I saw one in reverse. For seven days in succession I checked a lady angler whose husband was sitting in the car. About the fourth day, my curiosity got the best of me, so I asked her why he wasn't fishing and he said that he didn't have the patience to fish.—District Warden ANTHONY DISCAVAGE (Armstrong).

The Potter County Anglers Club did a considerable amount of work on their nursery this past summer. They increased their water supply by running 200 ft. of eight-inch tile and taking water from the West Branch of Pine Creek. They are in the process of building a hatch house where they will hatch their own eggs. Keen Buss, the Fish Commission's chief aquatic biologist, will assist the club in setting up the hatch method of hatching. The club is planning to stock 5,000 one and one-half to two-year-old trout in Lyman Lake, Potter County, for ice fishermen.—District Warden KENNETH AIEY (Potter).

Peter Galenas, of Scranton, hooked a largemouth bass while fishing in Mud Pond. The bass, which weighed about three pounds, leaped in and out of the water trying to shake the lure. Finally it jumped into the boat! Mr. Galenas said it was the first time in forty years of fishing that he landed a fish with a boat.—District Warden WALTER G. LAZUSKY (Lackawanna).

While attending the Fish Commission's live fish display at various fairs this year, I found it very amusing to watch the reactions of the ladies when they saw the hellbender and tadpoles in the aquariums. Two young girls were watching them and the eel would open and shut its mouth and the eel would do a little movement at the same time. The one girl said it appeared that the eel was saying "jump" and the hellbender was doing it—just like a sergeant giving orders to a private. I think this would be a good spot for "Candid Camera" to visit.—District Warden CLOYD W. HOLLEN (Blair).

For the first time, the Fish Commission had a major display at the Juniata County Fair and the reception we received and the interest shown by visitors to the Fair was most gratifying. One interesting sidelight was the comment of our immediate neighbor, who displayed household furniture and appliances. He was very much impressed by our display and commented that our display brought more people than ever before to that area of the exhibition hall and his volume of sales had increased accordingly.—District Warden RICHARD OWENS (Mifflin and Juniata).

I was having lunch in a restaurant near Hills Creek Lake when a young boy, whom I had observed earlier fishing from the boat dock, came into the store and asked for a certain type of bobber. The type he wanted was not in stock so he took the smallest round bobber they had available. He ran back to the dock and started fishing again. About 15 minutes later he returned and said the bobber was no good and he wanted his money back. Seems he had just caught a perch about 5 inches long and the bobber didn't go under, so he figured it was not a good bobber. The clerk gave him his money back.—District Warden RAYMOND HOVER (Tioga).

People are really beginning to be litterbug conscientious. One day recently I pulled into one of the Fish Commission's access areas and observed a fisherman eating his lunch. After he completed his lunch he neatly bagged the sandwich wrappers and deposited them in the trash can nearby. He returned to his station wagon, took his ash tray, and deposited its contents in the can. I walked over to where he was getting his boat ready and asked what luck he was having. His first words were, "I know who you are". This surprised me, as I had made only one previous trip to the area since transferring to Somerset in June.—Regional Supervisor JOHN BUCK, (Region 2).

At a recent sportsmen's meeting the subject of frogs and frog hunting came up. After a time, the conversation turned to what had been found in the stomachs of frogs. Included in the list was about anything that would fit, such as snakes, tadpoles, other frogs, mice, shrews and turtles. Some of the men wondered what species of wildlife took the greatest amount of frogs for food. The Game Protector pointed out that he had inspected the stomach of an illegally killed Great Blue Heron and found fifty plus frogs and tadpoles. Apparently this had been his day for frogs.—District Warden THOMAS L. CLARK (Crawford).

From all the requests I've had by local sportsmen regarding ice fishing (seasons, creel limits, equipment needed, etc.), it appears that this sport is growing to be one of the most popular winter pastimes in our state.—District Warden JAMES T. VALENTINE (Huntingdon-Fulton).

This poem was passed on to me by Mr. John Zaganohl of the Columbia County Soil Conservation Service. I don't know its origin, but the writer surely shared the sentiments of a great many fishermen.

When the hills begin pillin' high,
The kids need shoes, and the cow's goin' dry,
And the clouds are darknin' up the sky,
Well, that's when I go fishin'.

When there's no refund on income tax,
And I split my toe with the darned old ax,
And my wife says, 'Will, you must face the facts.'
Well, that's when I go fishin'.

It doesn't matter if you're poor or rich,
If you govern a state or dig a ditch,
The fish don't care whose hook they snitch,
And that's why I go fishin'.

—District Warden ROBERT J. PERRY (Columbia, Montour, Northumberland).
GOVERNOR SCRANTON is presented the State “Conservationist of the Year” award for outstanding overall conservation effort and achievement by Joseph D. Hughes, of the National Wildlife Federation Endowment, Inc.

GOVERNOR SCRANTON HONORED AS “CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR”

Ten outstanding Pennsylvania Conservationists were honored in Harrisburg on December 7 at the First Governor’s Conservation Awards Banquet sponsored by the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation and the Sears-Roebuck Foundation.

With some 500 leading sportsmen, conservationists and outdoor writers in attendance, including a delegation of 11 members of our Association, the ceremony was highlighted by the presentation to Governor William W. Scranton of the State “Conservationist of the Year” award for outstanding overall conservation effort and achievement.

Awards presented were:

- Wildlife Conservationist of the Year—Robert E. Fasnacht
- Conservation Educator of the Year—Charles W. Stoddard
- Soil Conservationist of the Year—Ivan McKeever
- Water Conservationist of the Year—William E. Guckert
- Forest Conservationist of the Year—Dr. Maurice K. Goddard
- Youth Conservationist of the Year—Penna. Youth Forestry Camp No. 1
- Legislative Conservationist of the Year—John F. Laudadio
- Conservation Communications Award of the Year—The Pittsburgh Press and Fred Jones
- Conservation Organization of the Year—Penna. Federation of Women’s Clubs.

Identical programs are being sponsored in each of the 50 states. All ten Pennsylvania winners will compete for the national awards next in Washington, D. C. President Johnson has tentatively agreed to attend the National Awards Banquet and to personally make the presentations.

FORMER FISH COMMISSION PRESIDENT DIES

Paul F. Bittenbender, of Kingston, former president of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, passed away in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital on December 20, 1965.

Mr. Bittenbender was appointed to the State Board of Fish Commissioners in August, 1947, and was elected president of the Commission in July, 1953, after having served as vice president.

An enthusiastic fisherman from an early age, he was adept at the art of fly tying.

He was a native of Philadelphia and an alumnus of Wyoming Seminary and Wesleyan University.

Mr. Bittenbender was associated with a Wilkes-Barre brokerage firm for the past 30 years, and was a member of various organizations in the area.

He is survived by his wife, the former Dorothy Renard, and a sister, of Kingston.

FISH AND GAME LAWS ARE VERY, VERY OLD

In the time of the Roman Empire, nearly 2000 years ago, fish and game regulations read as follows: (1) Fish and wild animals in a state of nature belong to no one person. (2) Fish and wild animals become the property of the person who first reduces them into possession. (3) The sea and public rivers are not capable of individual ownership. (4) No citizen can be prevented from fishing in the sea and such rivers by any person.
FEDERATION FISH COMMITTEE MEETS AT HARRISBURG

Members of the Fish Committee of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs met with representatives of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission on January 4 in the office of Executive Director Robert J. Bielo to analyze various aspects of the Commission’s program. Items discussed included the extended trout season and the type of areas which should be selected and the possible development of a program for 1966 to answer additional questions on this subject; the Commission’s policy concerning high-pressure stocking areas and policies governing the establishment of such areas; Project 70 activities to date; fish salvage and the type of areas which should be included; and the Commission’s policy on lease back arrangements with local governmental bodies on P. L. 566 projects which return control of the lake and all areas around it to the local government with the exception of activities relating to fish management.

Left to right on the above photo are Basse Beck, Sunbury; Leon Reed, Honesdale; Les Secoy, Point Marion; Miss Oller; Robert J. Bielo, Executive Director of the Commission; Marion Brooks, Weedville; Warren Singer, Assistant to the Executive Director; Gordon L. Trembley, Assistant Executive Director; Jim Biery, Allentown, and Edward Balderson, Morrisville, Chairman of the Fish Committee.

MORE STREAM IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULED IN BUCKS COUNTY

Stream improvements projects are catching on in Bucks County. District Fish Warden Miles Witt reports that the Park Board of Milford Township, in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of the Quakertown area and the Milford Township Rod & Gun Club, have undertaken a large scale stream improvement project on Unami, or Swamp, Creek in Milford Township. They have purchased wire for wire baskets, and have already installed the first of many proposed devices in the Creek. The area will remain open to the public, and will add many new acres of fishable water to the Unami Creek. The project is receiving wholehearted community support.

WEST CHESTER INSTALLS GABIONS

The West Chester Fish and Game Association has installed five gabion stream improvement devices, which were furnished by the Brandywine Valley Association, in West Valley Creek. Clyde Smith and his committee placed these baskets across the stream, making a solid dam breast which not only backs up the water, but forms a natural waterfall to aerate the water and furnish excellent cover for trout. The club recently had electricity installed at their trout pond and purchased a pump to aerate the water during hot, humid periods.

More than 160 youngsters turned out for the club’s 15th annual fishing rodeo this past summer. The fish cooperated and the youngsters were kept busy pulling them out. Fishing outfits were awarded to those who caught the largest fish.

“"We have destroyed more of our environment than any nation on earth. Since World War I, the U.S. has consumed more natural resources than were consumed in the entire previous history of mankind.”—Dr. Francis J. Trembley, professor of ecology, Lehigh University.

FEBRUARY—1966
CENTURY OLD ICE FISHING RIG
Photos By JAMES YODER

100 YEAR-OLD combination tip-up and jig sticks with original lines attached.

JIG STICK RIG is shown here, the hole at the end serving as a guide to the line.

USED AS A TIP-UP, a small green twig is cut to fit the pivot hole long enough to prevent rig from being drawn down the hole by a striking fish.

WHEN FISH STRIKES BAIT, rig tips up alerting fisherman to bite. At same time allows line to uncoil butt end as fish runs with the bait.

WARDENS Praised

District Fish Warden William McIlhany, of Bedford County, and Student Fish Warden James R. Beatty, Jr., who was then assigned to Bedford County, were commended for their assistance in investigating a hit and run accident on December 1, 1965.

The accident involved an intoxicated operator who subsequently resisted arrest.

Sgt. William Kauffman, of Troop G, Pennsylvania State Police, said, “both Mr. McIlhany and Mr. Beatty conducted themselves in the best tradition as State Fish Wardens . . . being mindful of their responsibilities which is indicative of their cultivation of dedication to the service of the people of the community.”

Mr. Richard Owens, District Fish Warden Lewistown, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Owens:

The Board of Directors and myself would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the fine exhibit you supplied for our 1965 Juniata County Fair.

Our people and fair management appreciated your fine cooperation in helping to make the 1965 Juniata County Fair our greatest.

We shall strive to keep going ahead and are hopeful we can solicit your continued support. Again my thanks—

Sincerely,

JUNIATA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
/s/ C. L. Goodman, President

PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER
BIG RAINBOW BOWS OUT

This female rainbow trout, loaded with eggs, was taken from a pool in the mouth of Walnut Creek by District Fish Warden Norman Ely and Special Fish Warden Reginald Exley (Erie County). Upon examining the trout to determine the cause of its death, they discovered the spinning lure which is hanging from the mouth of the trout in the photo in the throat of the fish. The lure appeared to have been cut from a monofilament line. Warden Ely surmised that the fish was landed during the closed season and the angler, instead of keeping the fish, cut his line to release the fish instead of killing the fish to recover his lure.

The fall run of rainbows had been in the mouth of the Creek for about three weeks and over 50 trout ranging from 15 inches to about 26 inches were counted in this same pool. These trout were the only fish for which the Creek and obviously some fishermen were fishing for the run of catching them and relobalting them.

MIGHTY BASS, an 8-pounder, caught by Stuart and Herbert Hirsch, Hawley, Pa., at Lake Wallenpaupack last season.

Save the heavy bags from self-service ice machines to make handy moisture-resistant garbage sacks while camping.

Hungars Church at Birdnow, Virginia, which was built in 1751, is said to have had the first pipe organ in America. Its pipes were melted into sinkers for fishermen during the Revolutionary War.—Raymond C. Otto.
DIRECTORY OF BLUE BOOK AGENTS

Additional places for subscribing to the PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER and where the latest and newest Pennsylvania Fish Commission FISHING REPORTS and INSTANT INFORMATION are available.

Berks County—Kagen’s Inc., Reading, Penna.
Bucks County—Andrew Maroney—Andy’s Sport & Hobby Shop, Yardley, Penna.
Cambria County—Shoff Sporting Goods, Ebensburg, Penna.
Chester County—Daniel W. Bullock, Berwyn, Penna.
Franklin County—P. Paul Overcash, Chambersburg, Penna.
Jefferson County—Deman’s Sporting Goods, Brookville, Penna.
Lackawanna County—Eynon Drug, Eynon, Penna.
Lehigh County—Gerald T. Chapleski, Allentown, Penna.
Lehigh County—Paul Daubanspeck, Allentown, Penna.
Lehigh County—Pete Nestor, Nestor’s Sporting Goods, Inc., Allentown, Penna.
Northampton County—Charles Schwartz, Bethlehem, Penna.
Schuylkill County—Joseph Kopena, Mary-D, Penna.
Susquehanna County—Halls Sporting Center, New Milford, Penna.
York County—Harry Haines, Lincoln Highway Garage, York, Penna.
York County—Squab’s Outdoor Shop, York, Penna.

FREE COLOR CHART

COMMON FISHES OF PENNSYLVANIA WITH ALL NEW AND RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO Pennsylvania Angler

Enclosed is $______________ for my (New) (Renewal) (Gift Subscription)

1 year (12 issues) $2.00
3 years (36 issues) $5.00

Please send to:
Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
Town __________________ Zip Code __________

Make check or money order payable to the Pennsylvania Fish Commission
Mailing address—Pennsylvania Fish Commission
HARRISBURG, PA.

Cash sent at your own risk. STAMPS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

By C. BOYD PFEIFFER

CLOTHESPINS

Next time your wife has you hanging out the wash (ahem) think of how many ways you can use a spring type clothespin. If you have to replace a guide on a rod this winter, the spring clothespin will hold one foot of the guide in place while you start wrapping the other one. Bass bug builders (say that rapidly, seven times) can use spring clothespins as a small custom clamp to hold a bug while gluing the hook in the slotted body. Fly tyers can use spring clothespins as large hackle pliers for big flies. Clamped on a vise shaft, the clothespin can easily be flipped in the way of a bobbin to prevent unraveled thread when selecting the next material. With the ingenuity of fishermen, I am sure other uses will come to mind, but I just remembered I have to put the wash out.

To buy an air mattress that fits your needs, remember to measure the length and width while it is inflated. A deflated mattress appears much larger.

“THEY SAY they’re demonstrating, but if you ask me, it’s just another of their cotton-pickin’ deluxe coffee breaks!”

PENNSYLVANIA ANGLER
BUYING that first trout fishing outfit is an important event to most young anglers, but many throw away their money on the wrong equipment. Too late, they learn that unsuitable tackle can turn what should be an enjoyable sport into a frustrating experience. If possible, have an experienced angler (who is a good caster) help you make a selection. If not, here are some tips that should help:

Good fiber glass fly rods are available ready-made or in kit form. Kit rods are less expensive and are fun to build if you have the ability. Not everyone has. Choose the proper length for the waters you fish. 7½ foot rods are fine for small to medium streams; 8 or 8½ footers for medium to large streams and lakes. The 5'6" to 6 foot "Reel rods" are handy on small, brushy streams, but are a bit tricky for the beginner to cast with.

Whatever the length, the action should be correct, and this is difficult to determine. Whip the rod back and forth carefully. A rod that bends near the grip and feels tip-heavy should be avoided for fly fishing. Most of the action should be in the tip one-third.

Two-piece rods usually have better action than three-piece ones. Examine the ferrules. They should fit tightly with no wobble. Good rods have lots of guides—the more guides the smoother the line will flow through them. Guides and tip-top should be free of rough spots, windings should be smooth, tight, and well varnished. Check the reel seat and be sure it is firmly cemented in place.

Reels for fly fishing need not be expensive. An ordinary single-action reel with an adjustable drag, or brake, will do nicely. If you plan to use it on a large rod be sure it will hold all your heavy line. Reels that have extra, interchangeable spools will be appreciated later on when you acquire additional lines.

Automatic reels are convenient, but are heavier than single action reels and usually cost more than the average young angler wants to pay.

The fly line can be the most expensive part of your equipment, but it is almost impossible to do good fly fishing with a poor line. It should be of the permanently floating type, limp and kink-free, with a smooth, slippery finish.

Fly lines come in level, double-taper, and weight-forward construction. The level line is of uniform diameter throughout, and is the cheapest. The double-taper has a heavy middle tapering to smaller at each end. The weight-forward line has a heavy section near the forward end for long casts. The double-taper is probably the best bet for most fly fishing. It casts well, the fine ends will lay a fly on the water without a splash, and it can be reversed for double line life.

It is of utmost importance to match your rod with a line of the proper weight. Follow the rod manufacturer's recommendations, or refer to the following chart, keeping in mind that the actions of rods vary even among those of the same length:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROD LENGTH</th>
<th>LINE SIZE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6'</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7½'</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8'</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8½'</td>
<td>7</td>
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How To Catch Fish Through The Ice

1. NECESSARY EQUIPMENT FOR ICE FISHING INCLUDES ICE CHEST, TIP-UPS, MINNOW BUCKET AND BASKET FOR FISHING GEAR.

2. CUTTING THE HOLE WITH THE ICE BAR OR CHISEL. FIVE SETS ARE ALLOWED AND SHOULD BE SPACED SO THEY CAN BE QUICKLY ATTENDED.

3. LOOSE ICE SHOULD BE CLEARED FROM THE HOLE WITH WIRE BASKET, SCREEN OR PERFORATED DIPPER.

4. SOUNING THE DEPTH OF THE WATER IS IMPORTANT. BAIT SHOULD BE SUSPENDED ABOUT ONE FOOT OFF THE BOTTOM.

5. PLACE A MINNOW ON THE HOOK AND REEL OUT THE PREDETERMINED AMOUNT OF LINE THEN LOWER IT CAREFULLY.

6. SETTING THE TIP-UP. FLAG IS BENT DOWN ON TRIGGER AND TIP-UP PLACED IN THE HOLE.

7. FLAG UP. SETS SHOWN ABOVE ARE SPACED CLOSELY AND CAN BE ATTENDED QUICKLY.

8. LET FISH MAKE HIS RUN, SET HOOK AND PULL IT IN.

9. JIGGING REQUIRES CONSTANT UP AND DOWN MOTION OF THE BAIT. PERCH EYES, MEAL WORMS, ASSORTED JIG FIES AND PLASTIC BAITS ARE ALL GOOD.