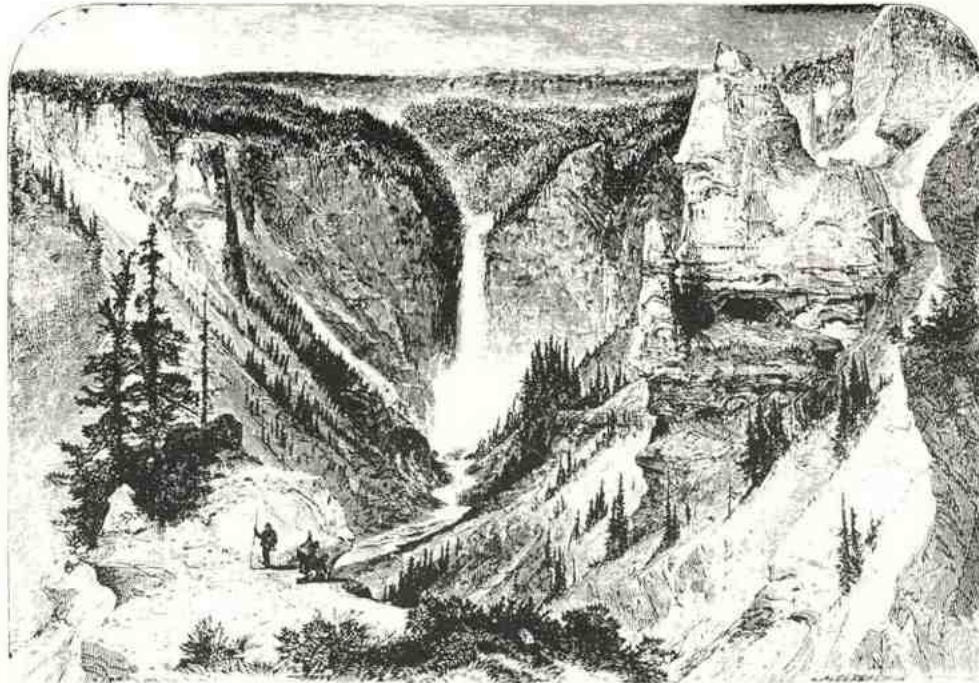




The American Fly Fisher

Volume 8 • Number 3 • SUMMER 1981



West Yellowstone



This year's Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave in West Yellowstone, Montana, on August 20, 1981. We've never had a meeting in the west before, and considering our growing involvement with the Federation it seemed about time.

The meeting is scheduled for 2:00 on Thursday afternoon, and the Federation has arranged it so that there will be no major events to conflict with the Museum

meeting. We know that many Museum members attend the Conclave every year (about a third of the Museum's members are also Federation members), and so we hope to have a good turnout. This is our normal business meeting, which includes approval of the budget, discussion of assorted projects and business, and election of officers. We will not be holding a banquet this year, because there will be plenty of social activities already available during the Conclave.

Anyone needing additional infor-

mation about the Conclave or about the West Yellowstone area should contact the Federation of Fly Fishers Headquarters, Post Office Box 1088, West Yellowstone, Montana, 59758. If you're not a member of the Federation, this Conclave would be a good time to get acquainted with that organization's good work; for many people the Conclave is the high point of their fishing year.



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The American Fly Fisher

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



Volume 8 Number 3
SUMMER 1981

*On the Cover: "The Way it Looks
from the Stern Seat," a photograph
from the 1880s by S.R. Stoddard.
See the article on page 27.*

Maxims and Hints for An Angler by Richard Penn	p. 2
The Daniel Fly Plates by the Editors and R.J.W. Coleby	p. 7
Yellowstone	p. 10
Bunyan Bugs by George Grant	p. 12
Illinois Bass	p. 15
The Howells Leonard Rod	p. 16
Cahills	p. 21
Charlie's Scrapbook	p. 23
Stoddard's Adirondacks	p. 27
Notes and Comment	p. 30
Museum News	p. 31

Editor
Paul Schullery

Assistant Editor
David B. Ledlie

Creative Consultant
C. M. Haller

Production and Printing
Journal Press, Inc.
Poultney, Vermont

*The American Fly Fisher, the Magazine of The Museum of American Fly Fishing, is published quarterly by the Museum at Manchester, Vermont 05254. Subscription is free with payment of membership dues. All correspondence, letters, manuscripts, photographs and materials should be forwarded care of the Editor. The Museum and Magazine are not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, drawings, photographs, materials or memorabilia. The Museum cannot accept responsibility for statements and interpretations which are wholly the author's. Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned unless postage is provided. Contributions to *The American Fly Fisher* are to be considered gratuitous and become the property of the Museum unless otherwise requested by the contributor. Publication dates are January, April, July and October. Entered as Second Class matter at the U.S. Post Office, Manchester, Vermont 05254.*

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Maxims and Hints for An Angler

by Richard Penn



"Beginning Early"



One of the most amusing and charming books in the Museum library is a small volume published in 1842 entitled *Maxims and Hints on Angling, Chess, Shooting, and Other Matters*; also, *Miseries of Fishing*. The author is given as Richard Penn, and the 1842 edition is an enlargement of previous editions of 1839 and 1833. Penn dedicated the book as follows: "The following extracts from the common-place book of the Houghton Fishing Club are respectfully dedicated to his brother anglers by a member of the club, London, March 1833." The book was published by John Murray, London.

The article reprinted here appears as the first part of the book, under the title "Maxims and Hints for An Angler: by a Bungler," with the notation that they are "loosely thrown out, in order to provoke contradiction, and elicit truth from the expert."

Good humor is essentially timeless, and much of the amusement Penn's fellow anglers found in these maxims is still fresh today. The woodcuts that accompany the article are all from the same volume.

I

ARE there any fish in the river to which you are going?

II

Having settled the above question in the affirmative, get some person who knows the water to show you whereabout the fish usually lie; and when he shows them to you, do not show yourself to them.

III

Comparatively coarse fishing will succeed better when you are not seen by the fish, than the finest when they see you.

IV

Do not imagine that, because a fish does not instantly dart off on first seeing you, he is the less aware of your presence; he almost always on such occasions ceases to feed, and pays you the compliment of devoting his whole attention to you, whilst he is preparing for a start whenever the apprehended danger becomes sufficiently imminent.

V

By wading when the sun does not shine, you may walk in the river within eighteen or twenty yards below a fish, which would be immediately driven away by your walking on the bank on either side, though at a greater distance from him.

VI

When you are fishing with the natural May-fly, it is as well to wait for a passing cloud, as to drive away the fish by putting your fly to him in the glare of the sunshine, when he will not take it.

VII

If you pass your fly neatly and well three times over a trout, and he refuses it, do not wait any longer for him: you may be sure that he has seen the line of invitation which you have sent over the water to him, and does not intend to come.

VIII

If your line be nearly *taut*, as it ought to be, with little or no gut in the water, a good fish will always hook himself, on your gently raising the top of the rod when he has taken the fly.

IX

If you are above a fish in the stream when you hook him, get below him as soon as you can; and remember that if you pull him, but for an instant, against the stream, he will, if a heavy fish, break his hold; or if he should be firmly hooked, you will probably find that the united strength of the stream and fish is too much for your skill and tackle.

X

I do not think that a fish has much power of stopping himself if, immediately on being hooked, he is moved slowly with the current, under the attractive influence of your rod and line. He will soon find that a forced march of this sort is very fatiguing, and he may then be brought, by a well-regulated exercise of gentle violence, to the bank, from whence he is to be



"And when he shows them to you, do not show yourself to them."

instantly whipt out by an expert assistant, furnished with a landing-net, the ring of which ought not to be of a less diameter than eighteen inches, the handle of it being seven feet long.

XI

If, after hooking a trout, you allow him to remain stationary but for a moment, he will have time to put his helm hard a-port or a-starboard, and to offer some resistance. Strong tackle now becomes useful.

XII

Bear always in mind that no tackle is strong enough, unless well handled. A good fisherman will easily kill a trout of three pounds with a rod and a line which are not strong enough to lift a dead weight of one pound from the floor, and place it on the table.

XIII

Remember that, in whipping with the artificial fly, it must have time, when you have drawn it out of the water, to make the whole circuit, and to be at one time straight behind you, before it can be driven out straight before you. If you give it the forward impulse too soon, you will hear a crack. Take this as a hint that your fly is gone to grass.

XIV

Never throw with a long line when a short one will answer your purpose. The most difficult fish to hook is one which is rising at three-fourths of the utmost distance to which you can throw. Even when you are at the extent of your distance, you have a better chance; because in this case, when you do reach him, your line will be straight, and, when you do not, the intermediate failures will not alarm him.

XV

It appears to me that, in whipping with an artificial fly, there are only two cases in which a fish taking the fly will infallibly hook himself without your assistance, viz.

1. When your fly first touches the water at the end of a straight line.

2. When you are drawing out your fly for a new throw.

In all other cases it is necessary that, in order to hook him when he has taken the fly, you should do something with your wrist which it is not easy to describe.

XVI

If your line should fall loose and wavy into the water, it will either frighten away the fish, or he will take the fly into his mouth without fastening himself; and when he finds that it does not answer his purpose, he will spit it out again, before it has answered yours.

XVII

Although the question of fishing up or down the stream is usually settled by the direction of the wind, you may sometimes have the option; and it is, therefore, as well to say a word or two on both sides.

1. If, when you are fishing down-stream, you take a step or two with each successive throw, your fly is always traveling over new water, which cannot have been disturbed by the passing of your line.

2. When you are fishing up-stream, you may lose the advantage of raising so many fish; but, on the other hand, you will have a better chance of hooking those which rise at your fly, because the darting forward of a fish seizing it has a tendency to tighten your line, and produce the desired effect.

3. If you are in the habit of sometimes catching a fish, there is another great

advantage in fishing up-stream, viz. whilst you are playing and leading (necessarily down-stream) the fish which you have hooked, you do not alarm the others which are above you, waiting till their turn comes.

XVIII

The learned are much divided in opinion as to the propriety of whipping with two flies or with one. I am humbly of opinion that your chance of hooking fish is much increased by your using two flies; but I think that, by using only one, you increase your chance of landing the fish.

XIX

When you are using two flies, you can easily find the bob-fly on the top of the water, and thus be sure that the end-fly is not far off. When you are using only one fly, you cannot so easily see where the fly is; but I think that you can make a better guess as to where the fish is likely to be after you have hooked him.

XX

Also, when you are using two flies, you may sometimes catch a fish with one of them, and a weed growing in the river with the other. When such a *liaison* is once formed, you will find it difficult, with all your attractions, to overcome the strong attachment of the fish to your worthless rival the weed.

XXI

If the weed will not give way in the awkward juncture above alluded to, you must proceed to extremities. "Then comes the tug of war;" and your line is quite as likely to break between you and the fish, as between the fish and the weed.

XXII

When, during the season of the May-fly, your friends, the gentlemen from London, say that they "have scarcely seen a fish rise all day," do not too hastily conclude that the fish have not been feeding on the fly.

XXIII

The only "rising" which is seen by the unlearned is the splash which is made by a fish when he darts from a considerable depth in the water to catch an occasional fly on the surface. There is, however, another sort of "rising," which is better worth the skilful angler's attention, viz.

XXIV

When a fish is seriously feeding on the



"Where did you take that fine fish?"

fly, he stations himself at no greater depth than his own length, and, making his tail the hinge of his motions, he gently raises his mouth to the top of the water, and quietly sucks in the fly attempting to pass over him. A rising of this sort is not easily seen, but it is worth looking for; because, although a fish feeding in this manner will rarely go many inches on either side for a fly, he will as rarely refuse to take one which comes (without any gut in the water) directly to him.

XXV

If your fly (gut unfortunately included) should swim over a fish without his taking it, look out well for a darting line of undulation, which betokens his immediate departure; and remember, that it is of no use to continue fishing for him after he is gone.

XXVI

The stations chosen by fish for feeding are those which are likely to afford them good sport in catching flies, viz.

1. The mouths of ditches running into the river.
2. The confluence of two branches of a stream, which has been divided by a patch of weeds.
3. That part of a stream which has been narrowed by two such patches.
4. Fish are also to be found under the bank opposite to the wind, where they are waiting for the flies which are blown against that bank, and fall into the river.

XXVII

If, during your walks by the river-side, you have marked any good fish, it is fair to presume that other persons have marked them also. Suppose the case of two well-known fish, one of them (which I will call A.) lying above a certain bridge, the other (which I will call B.) lying below the bridge. Suppose further that you have just caught B., and that some curious and cunning friend should say to you in a careless way, "Where did you take that fine fish?" a finished fisherman would advise you to tell your inquiring friend that you had taken your fish just *above* the bridge, describing, as the scene of action, the spot which, in truth, you know to be still occupied by the other fish, A. Your friend would then fish no more for A., supposing that to be the fish which you have caught; and whilst he innocently resumes his operations below the bridge, where he falsely imagines B. still to be, A. is left quietly for you, if you can catch him.

XXVIII

When you see a large fish rising so



"A knowledge of these interesting localities will be very useful to you."

greedily in the middle of a sharp stream, that you feel almost sure of his instantly taking your May-fly, I would advise you to make an accurate survey of all obstructions in the immediate neighborhood of your feet—of any ditch which may be close behind you—or of any narrow plank, amidst high rushes, which you may shortly have to walk over in a hurry. If you should hook the fish, a knowledge of these interesting localities will be very useful to you.

XXIX

When your water-proof boots are wet through, make a hole or two near the bottom of them, in order that the water, which runs in whilst you are walking in the river, may run freely out again whilst you are walking on the bank. You will thus avoid an accompaniment of pumping-music, which is not agreeable.

XXX

Never mind what they of the old school say about "playing him till he is tired." Much valuable time and many a good fish may be lost by this antiquated proceeding. Put him into your basket *as soon as you can*. Everything depends on the manner in which you commence your acquaintance with him. If you can at first prevail upon him to go a little way down the stream with you, you will have no difficulty afterwards in persuading him to let you have the pleasure of seeing him at dinner.

XXXI

Do not be afraid of filling your pockets too full when you go out; you are more likely to leave something behind you than to take too much. A man who seldom catches a fish at any other time, usually



The boy exclaiming, "Damn 'un, I miss'd 'un," instantly threw a second brickbat.

gets hold of one (and loses him of course) whilst his attendant is gone back for something which had been forgotten.

XXXII

If your attendant is a handy fellow at landing a fish, let him do it in his own way: if he is not, try to find a better man, or go home. Although so much depends upon his skill, you will rarely derive much comfort from asking him for his opinion. If you have had bad sport, and say to him, "Which way shall we go now?" he will most probably say, "Where you please, sir." If you ask him what he thinks of the weather, he is very likely to say that last week (*when you were in London*) it was "famous weather for fishing;" or he will perhaps say, that he expects that next week (*when you are to be at home again*) it will be very good. I never knew one of these men who was satisfied with the present hour.

XXXIII

Do not leave off fishing early in the evening because your friends are tired. After a bright day, the largest fish are to be caught by whipping between sunset and dark. Even, however, in these precious moments, you will not have good sport if you continue throwing after you have whipped your fly off. Pay attention to this; and if you have any doubt after dusk, you may easily ascertain the point, by drawing the end of the line quickly through your hand,—particularly if you do not wear gloves.

XXXIV

No attempt is here made to give directions as to the best seasons for cutting the woods which are fittest for the making of rods, or as to the mode of preparing them; because the worst rod which is kept for sale at the present day is probably as good as the best of the first few dozen which any amateur is likely to make for himself.

XXXV

Lastly—When you have got hold of a good fish, which is not very tractable, if you are married, gentle reader, think of your wife, who, like the fish, is united to you by very tender ties, which can only end with her death, or her going into weeds. If you are single, the loss of the fish, when you thought the prize your own, may remind you of some more serious disappointment.

POSTSCRIPT.

I FORGOT to say, that, if a friend should invite you to his house, saying that he will give you "an excellent day's fishing," you ought not to doubt his kind intention, but you certainly ought not to feel very sure that you will have good sport. Provide yourself for such a visit with everything which you may want, as if you were going into an uninhabited country. Above all things, take a landing-net with you. Your friend's (if he has one) is probably torn and without a handle, being a sort of reticulated shovel for taking fish out of

the well of a punt. Take warning from the following story:—

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Thompson went last week to the house of Mr. Jenkins, for a few days' fishing. They were received with the utmost kindness and hospitality by Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, and on the following morning after breakfast, the gardener (who was on that day called the fisherman) was desired to attend them to the river. Thompson, who had a landing-net of his own, begged to have a boy to carry it. Jack was immediately sent for, and he appeared in top boots, with a livery hat and waistcoat.

Arrived at the water-side, Thompson gave his gnat-basket to the boy, and told him to go on the other side of the river, and look on the grass for a few May-flies. Jack said that he did not exactly know what May-flies were, and that the river could not be crossed without going over a bridge a mile off. Thompson is a patient man, so he began to fish with his landing-net for a few May-flies, and after he had necessarily frightened away many fish, he succeeded in catching six or seven May-flies.

Working one of them with the blowing-line much to his own satisfaction, and thinking to extract a compliment from his attendant, he said, "They do not often fish here in this way—do they?" "No," said the boy, "they drags wi' a net; they did zo the day afore yesterday."

Our angler, after much patient fishing, hooked a fine trout; and having brought him carefully to the bank, he said, "Now, my lad, don't be in a hurry, but get him out as soon as you can." Jack ran to the water's edge, threw down the net, and seizing the line with both hands, of course broke it immediately.

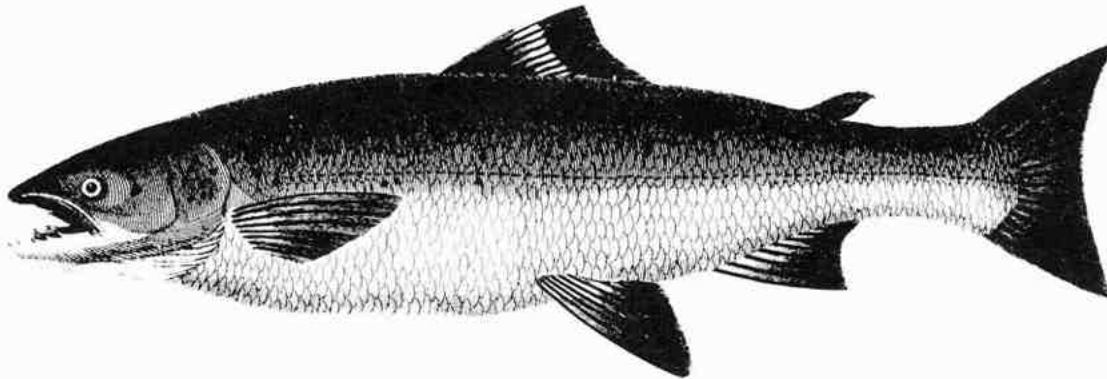
Nothing daunted, Thompson now mended his tackle and went on fishing; and when he thought, "good easy man," that the very moment for hooking another trout was arrived, there was a great splash just above his fly;—and the boy exclaiming, "Damn un, I miss'd un," instantly threw a second brickbat at a rat which was crossing the river.

Mine host, in order to accommodate his friends, dined early; and when they went after dinner to enjoy the evening fishing, they found that the miller had turned off the water, and that the river was nearly dry.—so they went back to tea.





Two salmon flies and a salmon, from the first edition of Daniel's *Rural Sports*.



The Daniel Fly Plates

by the Editors and R.J.W. Coleby

In last winter's *Museum* magazine (Volume Eight, Number One), there appeared an article by Assistant Editor David Ledlie about the first angling books to contain color illustrations. The article concluded that though it may yet be impossible to know for certain what book first contained color plates of trout flies, at least we can be sure that *The Fly Fisher's Guide*, by George Cole Bainbridge (1816), was the first to contain color plates of salmon flies. We now find that our certainty was premature.

Among the several comments we received regarding this matter, the most lengthy and detailed was from the British book dealer R.J.W. Coleby, who has for some time been researching the matter. The book that might precede Bainbridge with color salmon fly plates is *Rural Sports*, published in several multi-volume editions, the first edition apparently appearing in 1801/1802. The author was the Reverend William B. Daniel. According to the important Nineteenth Century bibliographers Westwood and Satchell (writing in their *Bibliotheca Piscatoria*, 1883) some copies of the 1805 edition of Daniel's book had hand-colored plates. The *Museum* has an earlier

edition of Daniel's work, but not the 1805 edition; we have, however, seen reproductions of the color plate of the salmon flies in the 1805 edition, and they are superb. Daniel's illustrations are truly excellent in most cases, being far better than those found in many subsequent books. We reproduce a few of the illustrations here, from the *Museum* copy, to give you an idea of the quality.

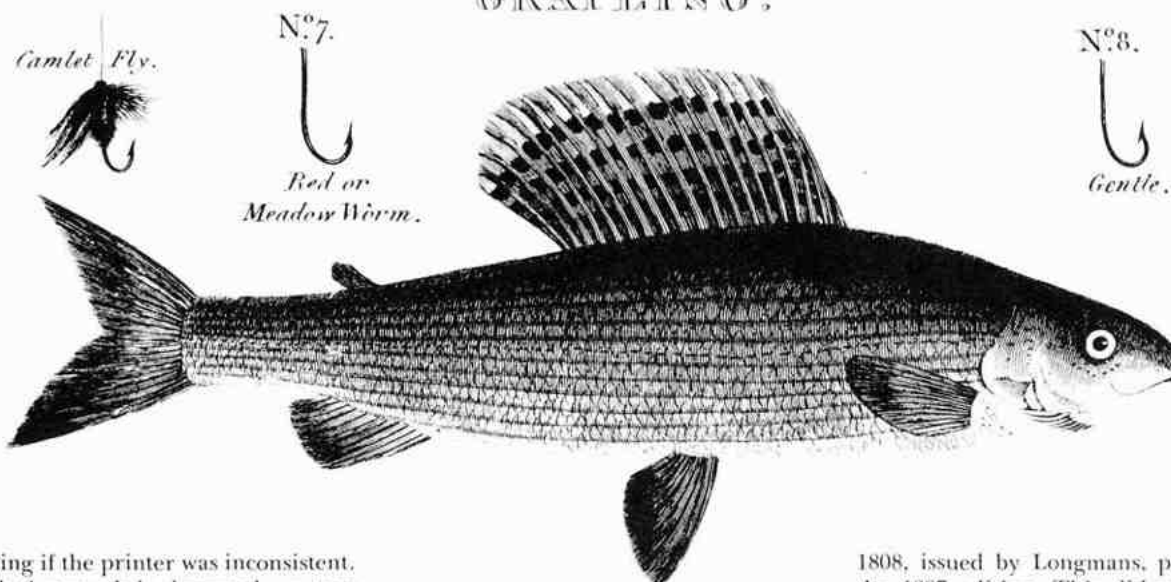
There has long been some question about the authenticity of the Daniel color plates. As it happens, unscrupulous book dealers often embellished old volumes to enhance their saleability, and so far no contemporary references (that is, references concurrent with the publication of the books) have been found that indicate the Daniel plates were colored by the publisher. Ron Coleby has investigated the subject in some depth, and from him we learn that, since Westwood and Satchell wrote, color plates *have* been found in a few copies of the 1801/1802 edition.

Ron has further suggested that the colored plates, if authentic, might have been missed for so long because only a few copies in each edition were colored, or because angling book collectors might have

simply overlooked the book because it deals with hunting and other sports as well as angling. Thus, the nitpicker could say that even if Daniel's are authentic, Daniel's book is not an angling book and therefore is in a separate category from Bainbridge. We are not impressed by that sort of nitpicking, because what we really want to learn is how far back colored plates of salmon flies go, wherever they appeared.

The tough, if not impossible, thing in this is establishing whether the plates were colored by the publisher when the book was being produced or were colored later. The coloring could have been done innocently by some enthusiastic angler, or less innocently by some bookseller (who could have been an angler, too). Because in those days the coloring was done by hand, one plate at a time, variations from one book to another might not prove anything. As Coleby has told us, in the colored copies he has seen, the number of colored plates varies from fifty-eight to sixty, with sixteen or seventeen of the angling-related plates being colored. What with five editions of Daniel's book appearing by 1812, many larger than others and many in a variety of bindings and volumes, it would not be

GRAYLING.



surprising if the printer was inconsistent.

With that much background, we turn the story over to Mr. Coleby for his latest thoughts:

"I had for some years known of Westwood & Satchell's statement in *Bibliotheca Piscatoria* that colored plates occur in the 1805 edition of Daniel's *Rural Sports*, and I was puzzled by the fact that this edition was ignored in all the writings on early colored fly illustrations which had come to my notice. The widely-recognized excellence of the Daniel plates made this oversight more surprising. My latent interest in the subject became an active interest early in 1978 because of two things. Firstly, a York bookshop sold a colored copy of the first edition (1801/1802) of Daniel; this particular copy was in a very fine contemporary binding by Staggemeier of London, which partly accounted for the high price of 875 pounds. Then, within a matter of weeks, I myself acquired two copies of the same edition, also colored, one of which I still have.

Even though the coloring may seem to be contemporary, there remains the question of whether this was done before original purchase of the book, or after. Clearly this is a vital point. If colored copies were offered for sale by either the

publisher or the author, then this is relevant to the history of early fly illustrations. If, on the other hand, coloring was carried out after purchase, by or for the owner, then while it would still be interesting, I don't believe that it would invalidate accepted notions of the sequence in which the earliest colored flies appeared. It was this aspect which I believed to require further investigation. What I had in mind was a search of sporting journals of the period (such as the *Gentleman's Magazine*) and if I were able to find either contemporary reviews or advertisements which referred to colored copies, then I would consider that this justified rewriting the history of early colored flies. This search entails a visit to the British Library in London and I fear that I do not envisage being able to manage it during 1981, such is the pressure of my day-to-day work!

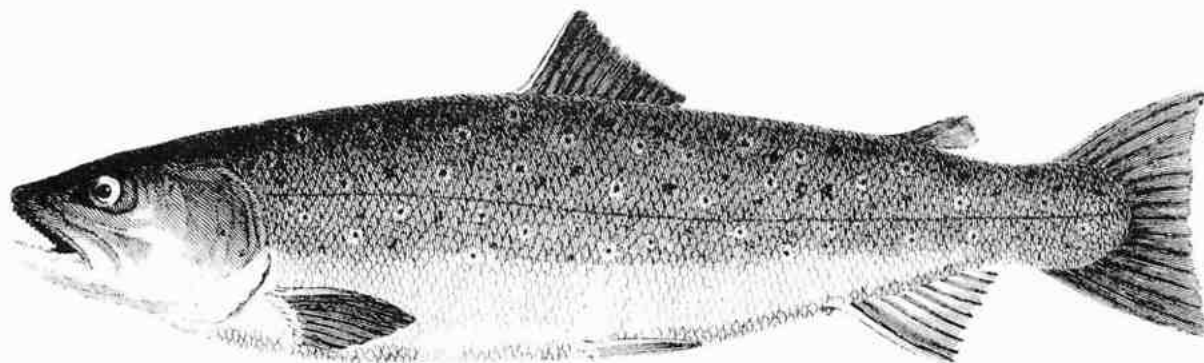
The only contemporary advertisement which I have ever seen appeared in May,

1808, issued by Longmans, publisher of the 1807 edition. This did not refer to colored copies, but as I have never in any case seen any reference to colored copies for sale of this 1807 edition, which is printed on rather poor paper, it is not too surprising. In the two colored 1801/1802 copies which have passed through my hands, the coloring differed in the two.

It is perhaps appropriate to mention here William Osbaldiston's *The British Sportsman*, which appeared in 3 London editions between circa 1794 and 1812, with a Dublin edition (retitled *The Universal Sportsman*) in 1799. This compilation includes a certain amount of angling material and the 40-odd plates include one of fishing tackle, which includes a few flies. Since colored copies of both the London & Dublin editions turn up from time to time, it may seem relevant. But the engraving of the plates is crudely done, compared to Daniel, and the coloring of the single such copy to come my way was cruder still, a daub of brown in the middle of each of the rudimentary flies. So Osbaldiston cannot seriously be considered in any worthwhile sense. And too, one has the same problem of ascertaining when the coloring was carried out.

Finally, may I add that I have had a report of a copy of an otherwise unknown

TROUT.



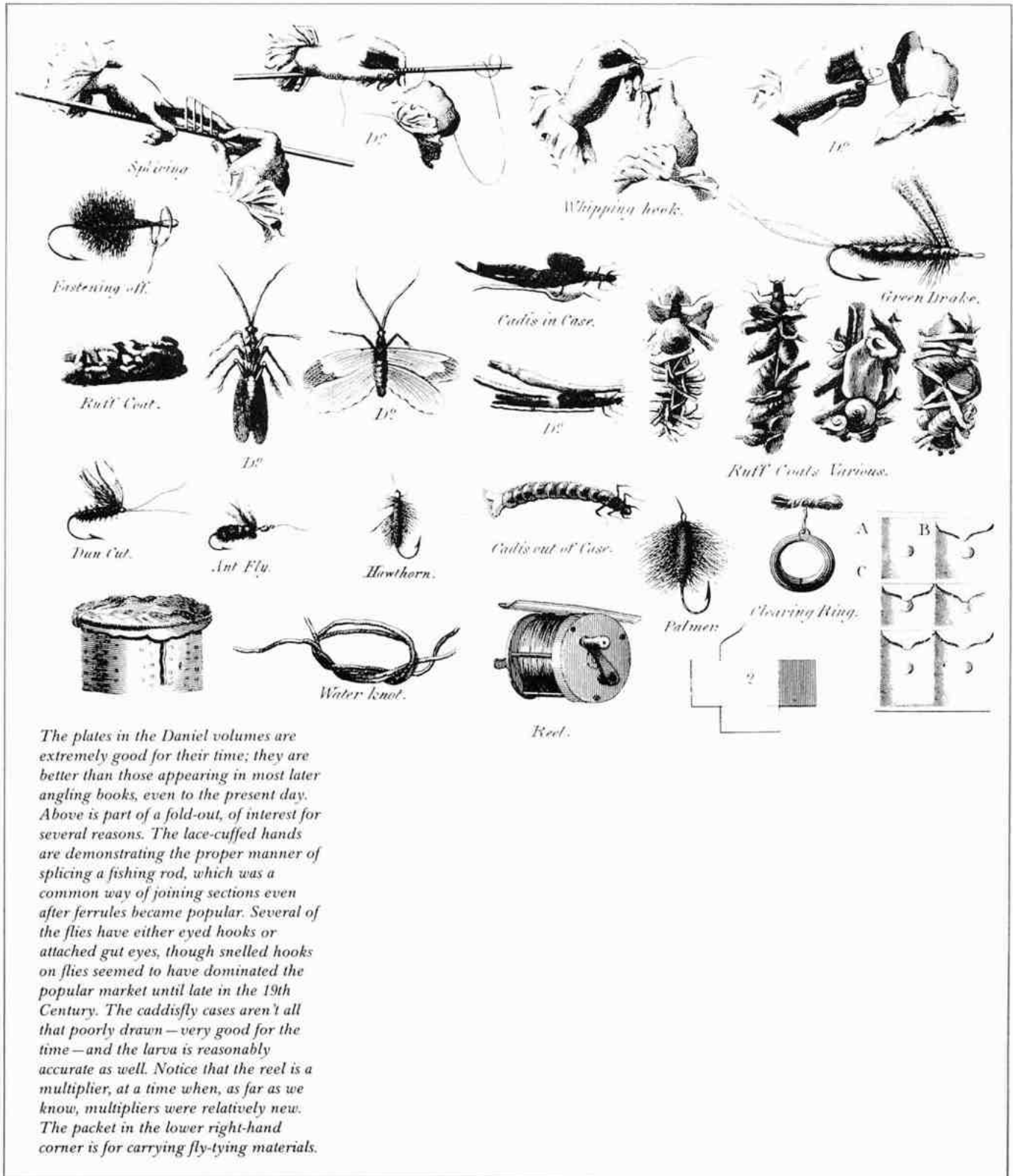
book dealing with Irish salmon flies, published in the 1790s, author possibly named Vass, with a colored plate of flies. This book may or may not exist, but if it does, then it really will upset accepted ideas!"

It appears that for some time to come

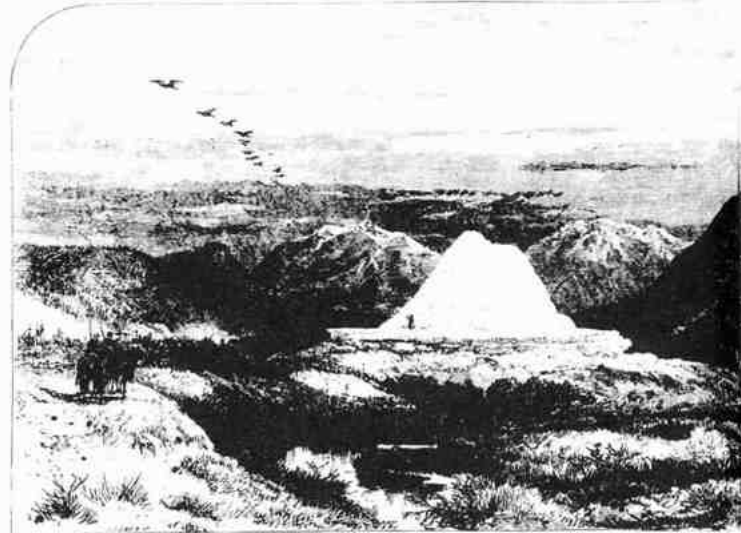
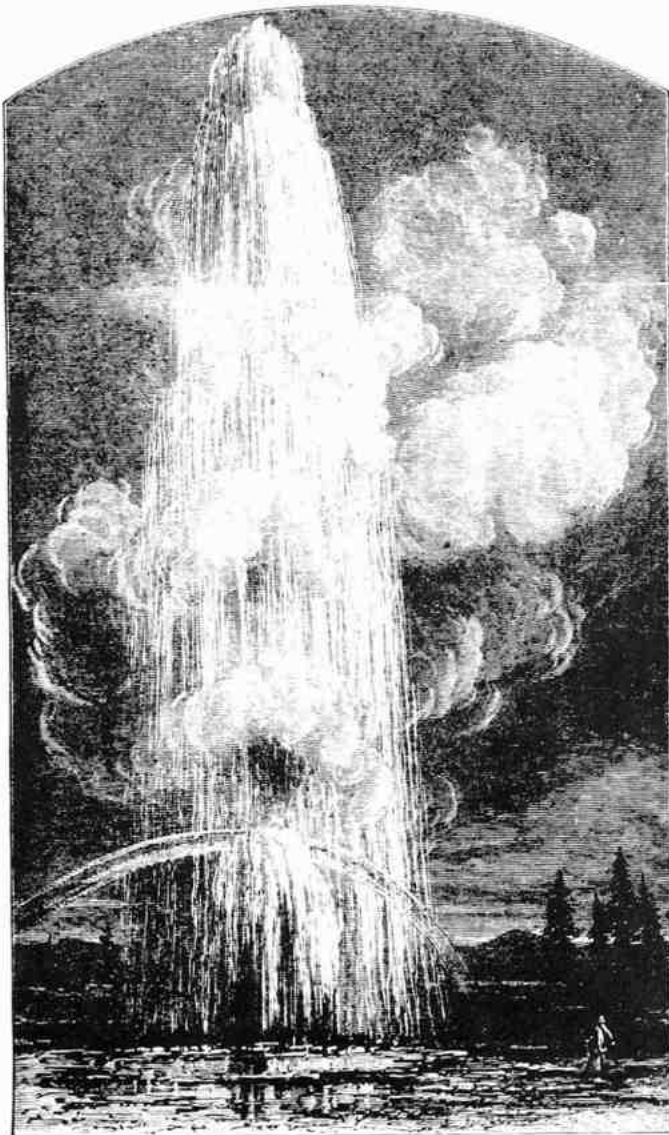
it will be unwise to claim primacy for any book in the matter of colored fly plates. It also appears that some interesting bibliographical sleuthing will be done in the next couple years, and that some very exciting literary finds are still in the future. All of this is good news, and keeps us from feeling badly that we were hasty in giving

Bainbridge credit for publishing the first colored plates of salmon flies.

Our thanks to Ron Coleby for his report, and to Alec Jackson for additional research assistance in this matter.

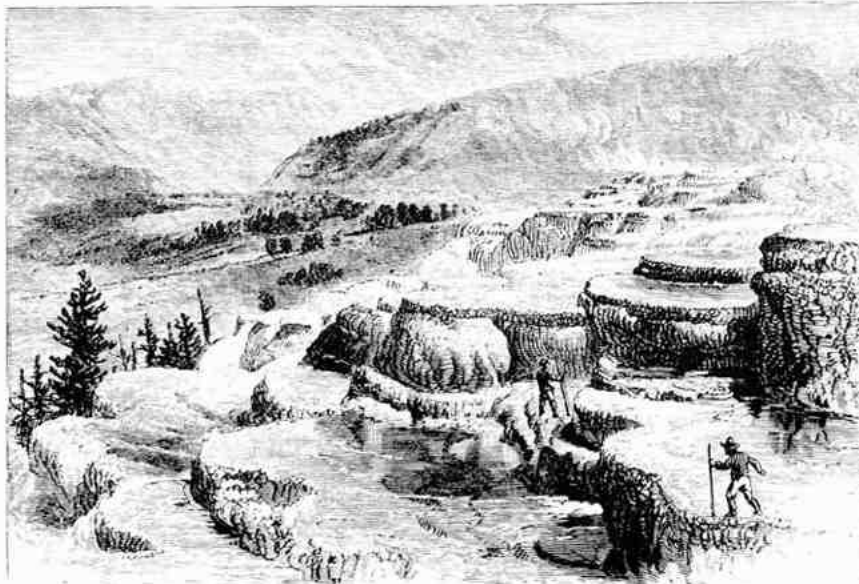


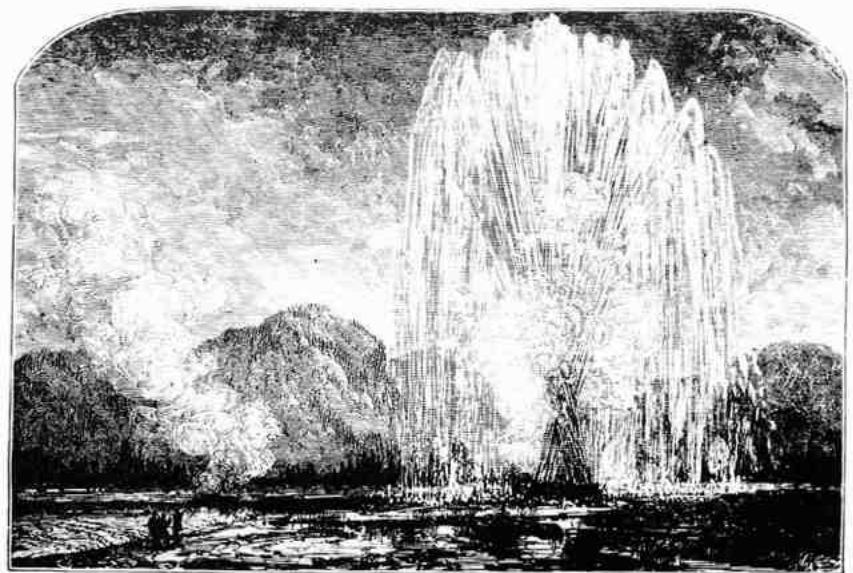
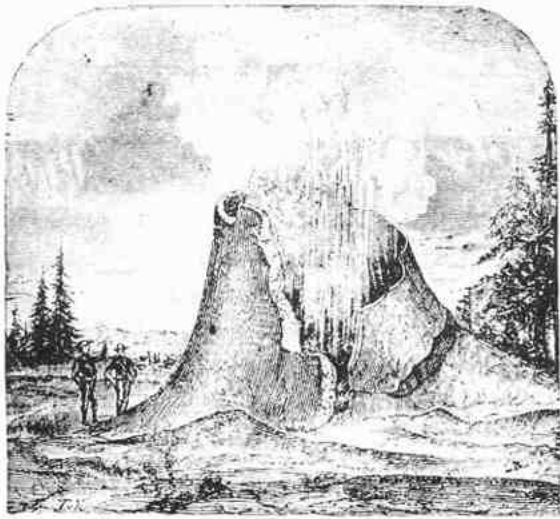
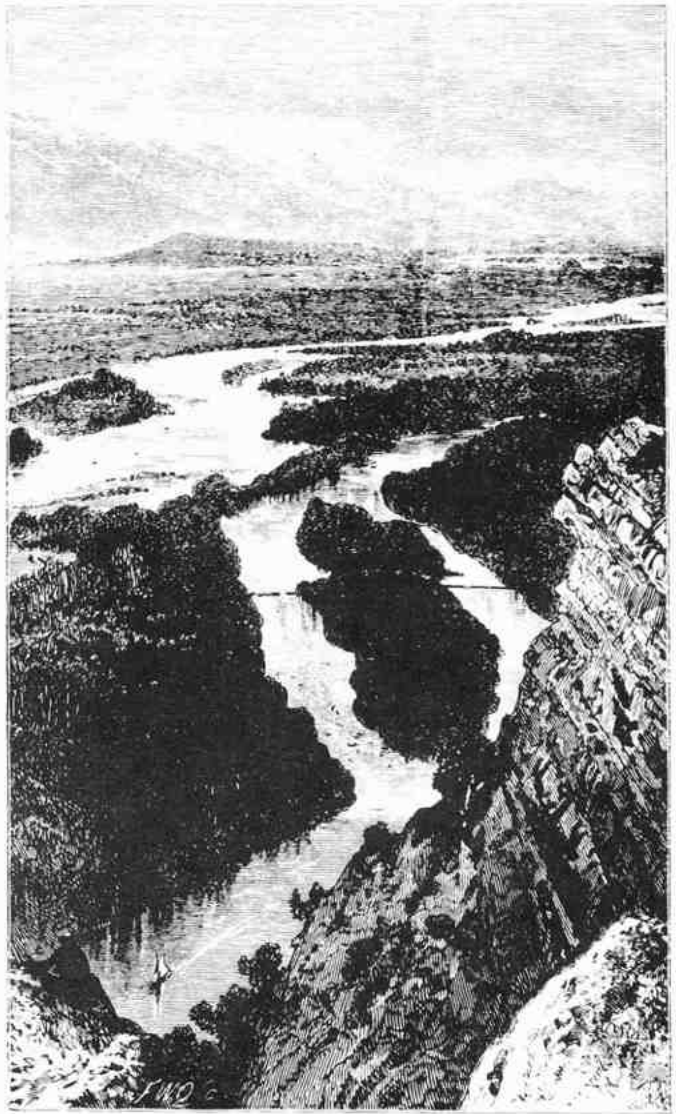
The plates in the Daniel volumes are extremely good for their time; they are better than those appearing in most later angling books, even to the present day. Above is part of a fold-out, of interest for several reasons. The lace-cuffed hands are demonstrating the proper manner of splicing a fishing rod, which was a common way of joining sections even after ferrules became popular. Several of the flies have either eyed hooks or attached gut eyes, though snelled hooks on flies seemed to have dominated the popular market until late in the 19th Century. The caddisfly cases aren't all that poorly drawn—very good for the time—and the larva is reasonably accurate as well. Notice that the reel is a multiplier, at a time when, as far as we know, multipliers were relatively new. The packet in the lower right-hand corner is for carrying fly-tying materials.



Yellowstone

In anticipation of our August 20th Annual Meeting in West Yellowstone, we present some early views of Yellowstone, taken from a variety of periodicals and books; the area generated considerable excitement and curiosity when it was first publicized in the 1870s, and pictures like these were often disbelieved. To the immediate left is Giantess Geyser, one of the park's largest. Below it is a portion of the limestone deposits at Mammoth Hot Springs. Bottom center is probably the Upper Geyser Basin along the Firehole River, and bottom right is Fan Geyser, also near the Firehole. Far right is the Yellowstone River, possibly just north of Paradise Valley in Montana. Near right is Giant Geyser, and above it is the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Above is Soda Butte, a hot spring deposit near Soda Butte Creek (a tributary of the Lamar River).





Bunyan Bugs *by George Grant*



Norman Edward Lee Means is the name of a man who was born in Davis, West Virginia, on October 11, 1899. He came to Montana in 1921 and spent the next four years studying Forestry at the University of Montana. There are not many

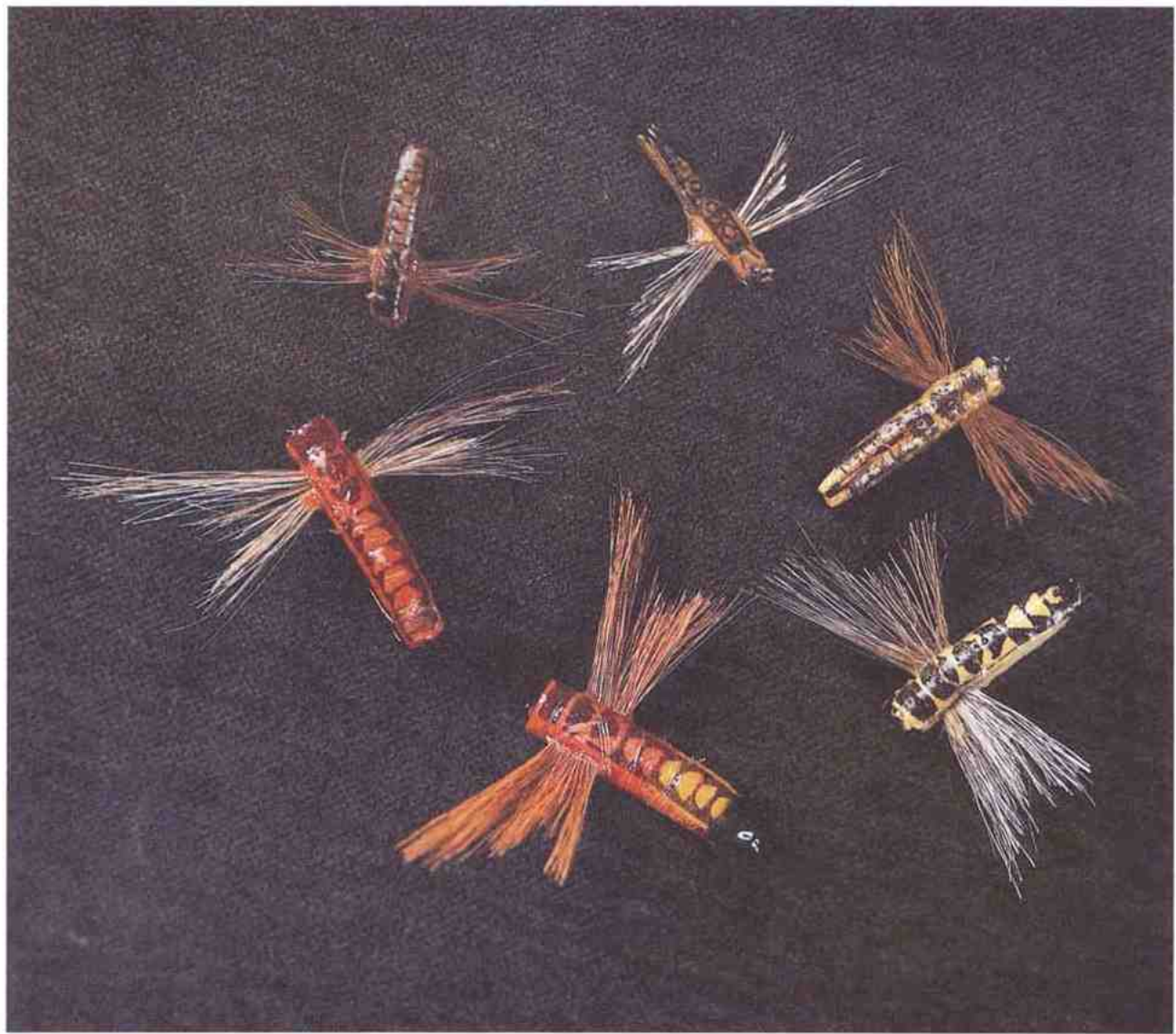
people in Montana, or elsewhere, who know this man by his true name, but there are few fishermen in this state or most of the West, who have not heard of Paul Bunyan and his famous Bunyan Bugs.

These unusual flies were first tied by Paul about 1927, and now, over fifty years later, they are as popular with fly-fishermen and as effective in taking trout as they were when first offered for sale to the public. While most fishermen are familiar with the very large Bunyan Bug that imitates the giant stonefly (*Pteronarcys californica*), commonly called "salmon fly", there are only a few who are aware that the series consists of a wide variety of insects—at one time there were about thirty-five distinct artificials.

Because of his education at the University of Montana, plus his own curiosity as an amateur naturalist, Paul Bunyan was able to study the aquatic and terrestrial insects of western Montana and develop patterns to imitate those that he considered important as fish food. He gave them names that fishermen could understand, pronounce and remember, and he also provided anglers with a short summary showing the months of the year that each fly was most effective. Such names as Big Orange Salmon Fly, Rusty Stone Fly, Very Pale Green Caddis, and Grey Wing Brown Drake were typical Bunyan designations.

The construction of the Bunyan Bug is unique and has no parallel among other Montana or western trout flies. It is a reflection of the ingenuity of its originator. All of the "bugs" were and are intended to be used as floaters, and the bodies of all

There seem to be very few photographs surviving of Paul Bunyan; the only portrait-size image George could locate was irreproducible. We asked artist Georgine MacGarvey to reproduce the photo as a drawing, which we show here.



patterns are made with hand-shaped cork. The wings are inserted into a slit in the body near the eye of the hook so that they protrude at right angles to the body, a position which fly tiers usually describe as "spent-wing".

The wings of the Bunyan Bug are made with hair taken from a horse mane. This hair is rather coarse and stiff, but not nearly as much so as the tail hair of a horse, which is not suitable for this purpose. For many years the hair was inserted into the cork so that it would lie flat, but in the early 1940's a curve was cut in the end of the cork, which made the wings have an upward swing and gave them a more lifelike appearance. A patent (#2,754,612) for this improvement was granted in 1952.

On some of the larger imitations there are attractive and very lifelike designs, which, at first, were painted on by hand. Later, drawings were prepared from var-

ious insects, engravings were made, and the designs were printed on fine tissue paper. When these designs were affixed to the bodies and varnished the paper seemed to disappear.

No history of Montana trout flies or fly fishing could be considered complete without a discussion of the "Bunyan Bug". It is a prime favorite throughout the year on the Blackfoot River and Rock Creek in the Missoula area. During the "salmon fly" season on the Big Hole, Madison and Yellowstone Rivers, the pattern representing the large female "salmon fly" is widely and effectively used by those who float these rivers. The fame of these great flies has spread into every corner of Montana and they are well known throughout the west.

Paul Bunyan, like most of Montana's early fly tiers, is an expert fly fisherman. It is said that he was using dry flies in his

Author George Grant donated these Bunyan Bugs to the Museum when he submitted the article to us. All are authentic ties, and some were tied by Paul Bunyan several decades ago. The bottom fly is a Female Salmon Fly (the black tip on the body represents the egg sac). Above it to the left is the Male Salmon Fly, and above that is a Trout Fly. Upper right is an Olive Stone, below it is a Brown Stone, and below that is a Large Yellow Stone.



FISHERMANS FIESTA



WED. SEPT. 18

PRESENTING
ON OUR STAGE



~ Paul Bunyan ~
Montana's
Beloved Sportsman

DISPLAYING

The art of roll casting
and the best way to
catch mammoth trout.
ALSO on the screen.



Fishing for Mountain trout
and other sportman's delight.

Left: a poster advertising an appearance of Paul Bunyan at a sportsman's show some years ago. Above and below: two pictures of Paul Bunyan fishing in 1929. These were taken by Enos Bradner on his first trip west from Michigan that year and were loaned to us by Enos.



native West Virginia at the age of ten. He was so accomplished in his mastery of the roll cast that he was often requested to demonstrate his skill at sportsman's shows.

That he was a rugged individual is attested to by the fact that well into his fifties his wading equipment for the icy waters of Rock Creek and the Blackfoot consisted of shorts and tennis shoes. Holding a fly rod in one hand he often swam from one side of the river to the other as the occasion demanded. The father of six children, he found it necessary to work hard, yet he often closed his shop to take a visitor to a difficult-to-find fishing spot. In Missoula he is often referred to as "Mister Fishin".

In addition to his talent as a fly tier, Paul was also a skilled maker of split bamboo fly rods, and those who were fortunate enough to own one would not have traded it for a Leonard or a Thomas.

Several years ago he turned his business over to his son, Norman Means, Jr., who often finds it difficult to meet the continuing demand for Bunyan Bugs. It is interesting to note that most popular flies are copied by other commercial tiers, but the "Bugs of Bunyan" have been produced only by Paul and his immediate family in a manner that is satisfactory to the discriminating fly fisherman.

The name of the elder Norman Means is probably useful only for the legal authenticity of deeds, wills, lease and similar documents, but to the fishermen of Montana, and to a good part of the entire fishing world, the name of Paul Bunyan is more important and will be remembered as long as there are trout in our streams, and even longer. He has long since become known to his intimates as Paul Bunyan, and even signs his personal checks with that name.

Paul Bunyan is a true pioneer in the art of flytying in Montana and must be recognized and honored as an individual who contributed substantially to the sport of fly fishing in the West. He lived in an era when trout were wild, streams were clear and cold, and fishing was an exhilarating adventure that seldom knew the restrictions of encroaching civilization. It is a pleasure for me to write about him while he is still among us and able to participate in what still remains of a great trout fishing heritage.

George Grant is a long-time advisor of the Museum, and a frequent contributor to the magazine. His most recent book is The Master Fly Weaver.



Illinois Bass, 1840



As late as the 1880s, there were still quite a few American fly fishermen who doubted that bass (largemouth or smallmouth) could be caught on flies. Sporting periodicals, especially Forest and Stream and The American Angler, printed ongoing dialogues on this point, submitted by various correspondents who either had, or had not, been able to catch bass on flies.

While perusing one such exchange of letters in the November 6, 1873 issue of Forest and Stream, we came upon this reminiscence of earlier fishing. It is notable because we have very little information about fly fishing in America as it was practiced in the 1840s, and virtually nothing about fly fishing for bass in that era. We excerpt only the fly fishing matter from the article, which was actually a letter to the editor. The writer's name was not given, but he is responding to earlier letters that disputed the question of would bass take a fly.

Over thirty years ago I was in the habit of taking the black bass in this way in western waters. I found, however, that it was only in rapid water that they could be taken by casting. In lakes and still rivers I trolled with three gaudy flies of a large size. In the Rock and the Fox river in northern Illinois and in a small stream in Waukesha County, in Wisconsin, called

Back river, I have taken both the black bass and the rock bass by casting with bright colored flies. In the Calumet, a river twelve miles south of Chicago, which winds through extensive marshes of wild rice, I used to have great sport, trolling for bass and pickerel along the edge of the weeds. That was before the introduction of the spoon, and my favorite bait was a strip from the white belly of the dog-fish, (*amia calva*), which being as tough as leather, would resist the teeth of the pickerel.

In July, 1841, two of us killed in that river in one day's fishing, 110 bass and pickerel, weighing 250 lbs. My largest bass weighed six and three quarter pounds, and being taken on a fly rod, gave me great sport for ten or fifteen minutes. My largest pickerel was about eight pounds, though I have encountered them in that river of much larger size, and have repeatedly had twisted brass wire bitten off by them. Although this river has Lake Michigan for a reservoir, it has been depopulated by thirty years' fishing and netting, and three years ago I fished it carefully for two half days, and only got half a dozen small pickerel and bass and two or three dog-fish.

In 1840 I used to anchor a skiff a short distance up the north branch of the Chicago river, and catch a mess of black and rock

bass there in a very short time. One day while fishing along side of a sunken wreck in that river with small frogs for bait, one of them escaped and swam to the wreck, and climbed upon a part of it which was above water. He had not sat there long when a black bass rose from under the wreck and lifting his head from the water picked off the frog and descended with him to the depths below. At the present time not even a dog-fish could live in those fetid waters.

There is a fine sheet of water in McHenry County, Illinois, which is known as the Crystal Lake. About 1840 I visited it; there was then only one house near it, and there being no boat upon it I could not fish it. The next winter I sent out a skiff upon the sled of the nearest inhabitants and in July, 1841, my friend and I drove to the lake and had a day's fishing. We trolled all round the lake, which is perhaps three miles long, and we killed fifty black bass, averaging three pounds each, two fine specimens of the northern pickerel of about five pounds each, and a half bushel of rock bass and perch—about 200 lbs. of fish. Now there is a village of 2,000 inhabitants on the banks of the lake, and a row of tall icehouses, from which the Chicago people cool their summer drink by the aid of a branch railroad to that fair city.



The Howells Leonard Rod



As we announced in our last issue, the Museum has acquired the extraordinarily significant 1873 Howells Leonard rod, the first known six-strip rod built by Hiram Leonard. Hiram Leonard is often described as the most important of the pioneers of split bamboo rod building, and this is an exceptionally early—and magnificently crafted—specimen of his work. In Volume Six, Number One of the magazine, Mary Kelly examined the early career of Hiram Leonard in great detail, and so here we'll concentrate primarily on telling you about the rod.

It's a three-piece rod, ten feet long. There are two tips, one of which is perhaps an inch and a half short. The guides are typical of that time, loose ring-and-keeper type, and the fittings are elegantly simple. In his recent book *Trout*, Ernie Schwiebert has given the measurements of the rod in specific detail, for those interested in tapers and such.

As can be seen, the handle is a swelled extension of the butt, with cedar inlays between the strips of cane. The upper ring on the reel seat is inscribed "H.L. Leonard to H. Howells, 1873."

The story of the rod's acquisition is an interesting part of its history. Through

Dave Inks, a west coast friend of the Museum, we learned that Gary Howells, one of America's foremost bamboo rod craftsmen, was considering selling the rod, and wanted most for it to go to an appropriate museum. Thinking ourselves as appropriate as possible, we expressed interest, and, through a \$3,000 grant from the Johnson Wax Company we were able to purchase the rod. It will occupy a place of honor in the museum exhibits, the most important element of our growing collection of Leonard memorabilia and easily one of the most important objects in the entire collection.

Gary Howells is the grandson of Herbert Howells, the gentleman to whom the rod was inscribed by Hiram Leonard. Gary recently wrote us and traced the rod's history for us. What follows is his account of its travels. We consider ourselves doubly fortunate to have Gary as the rod's biographer, first because of his family relationship with its previous owner and second because his own eminent position in the field of rod building qualifies him to interpret the rod's character and form with singular expertise. We asked him if he knew why Hiram Leonard would give his grandfather a fly rod, noting that Ernie

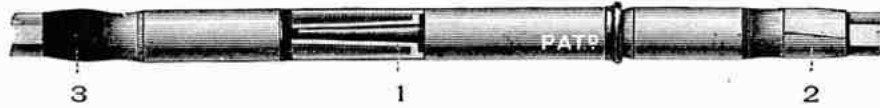
Schwiebert, in *Trout*, suggested that it might have been in payment for some services rendered to Leonard. Here is Gary's answer:

"What service my grandfather rendered for Hiram Leonard is sheer speculation. Since he had a legal background, Ernie guessed that the help may have been legal. It may have been technical. My grandfather, Herbert Howells, was educated mainly on the continent and fished extensively in England and Scotland—my father told me he caught a forty-pound salmon in Scotland and an eight pound brook trout in Maine. He may have brought back rod making innovations, a source of Calcutta bamboo, or helped with advice on Leonard's early ferrule designs. All this is speculation.

From Maine, my grandfather and the rod moved west. He fished extensively in Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon, and later California. My father, Harry Herbert Howells, inherited the rod in about 1920.

I grew up in a home filled with fly rods, wicker creels, and five double shotguns and was fly fishing when I was about five. With all the rods we had, the old Leonard was the only one that I was

The Patent Ferrule.



No. 1 Shows Waterproof Cup in Ferrule (Patented October 26, 1875.)

This prevents any moisture from reaching the wood, and the Ferrule from becoming loose. The constant wetting and drying of the Bamboo must rot the wood, and make other makes of rods less durable than Leonard's.

No. 2 Shows Split Ferrule (Patented September 3, 1878).

This split thoroughly strengthens where the ferrule is joined to the wood, which is the weakest part of a rod, and where so many of other makes of rods (bamboo especially) break. Mr. Leonard has yet to hear of a single instance of breakage at this point since the PATENT SPLIT FERRULE has been applied. We consider this the GREATEST IMPROVEMENT that has been introduced in rod-making since rods have been made.

No. 3 Shows Split Ferrule Whipped with Silk as it appears on the Rod.

Within six years of building the milestone Howells rod, Hiram Leonard saw patented what were probably the two most important technical advancements (aside from perfecting the six-strip rod) to come from the Leonard firm. Above is his famous watertight ferrule, as explained in a Mills catalog from a few years later. Below is the Leonard reel, invented by Francis Philbrook, a friend of Leonard's in Bangor, Maine. There seems to be some question whether Philbrook's reel or a similar-shaped reel sold by Thomas Conroy was the first commercially available fly reel to feature raised pillars, but in either case the new design was quite popular for many years.

H. L. Leonard's Patent Click Reel.

HANDSOMER, STRONGER, LIGHTER, AND WILL HOLD MORE LINE THAN ANY OTHER REEL OF SAME DIAMETER.

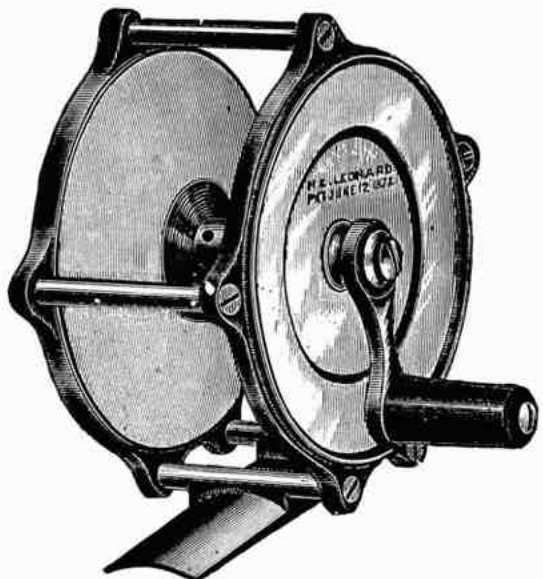
ALL METAL (two colors), and **RUBBER AND GERMAN SILVER.**

Every reel warranted perfect in workmanship and quality, and all clicks are guaranteed against breakage.

2¼ inches diameter, weight about 3½ ounces, capacity 35 to 40 yards	\$8 00
2½ inches diameter, weight about 4½ ounces, capacity 50 yards..	8 50
3 inches diameter, with Black Rubber Panels, very narrow Spool which winds the line very fast, Balance Handle, weight 6¼ ounces, capacity 60 to 75 yards.....	11 00

For Salmon and Grilse.

Grilse, with Balance Handle.....	\$12 00
Salmon, with Balance Handle, Rubber Panels, and our new Graduated Adjustable Drag. (See page 32)	23 00





drawing by Kathleen Jessica J. O'Leary

forbidden to touch. Even then, I knew it was something special. Forbidden fruit is always the sweetest. I snuck the Leonard out one day and caught a sixteen-inch sea-run cutthroat with it. This was in the Hoquiam River in Washington state. My father caught me putting the rod back and gave me a terrible talking to. This, needless to say, was the last time I fished with the rod.

I inherited the rod in 1964, and it has been the pride of my small rod collection ever since. Many other collectors have tried to buy it from me. Only when Dave Inks assured me that it would go to the Museum could I agree to part with it.

From a rod maker's and rod collector's viewpoint, I think the 1873 Leonard is an exceptional find. This is the only Leonard that has turned up that with certainty can be said was personally and completely

made by Hiram Leonard. Though dated 1873, the rod was probably made in 1872, his second year in business.

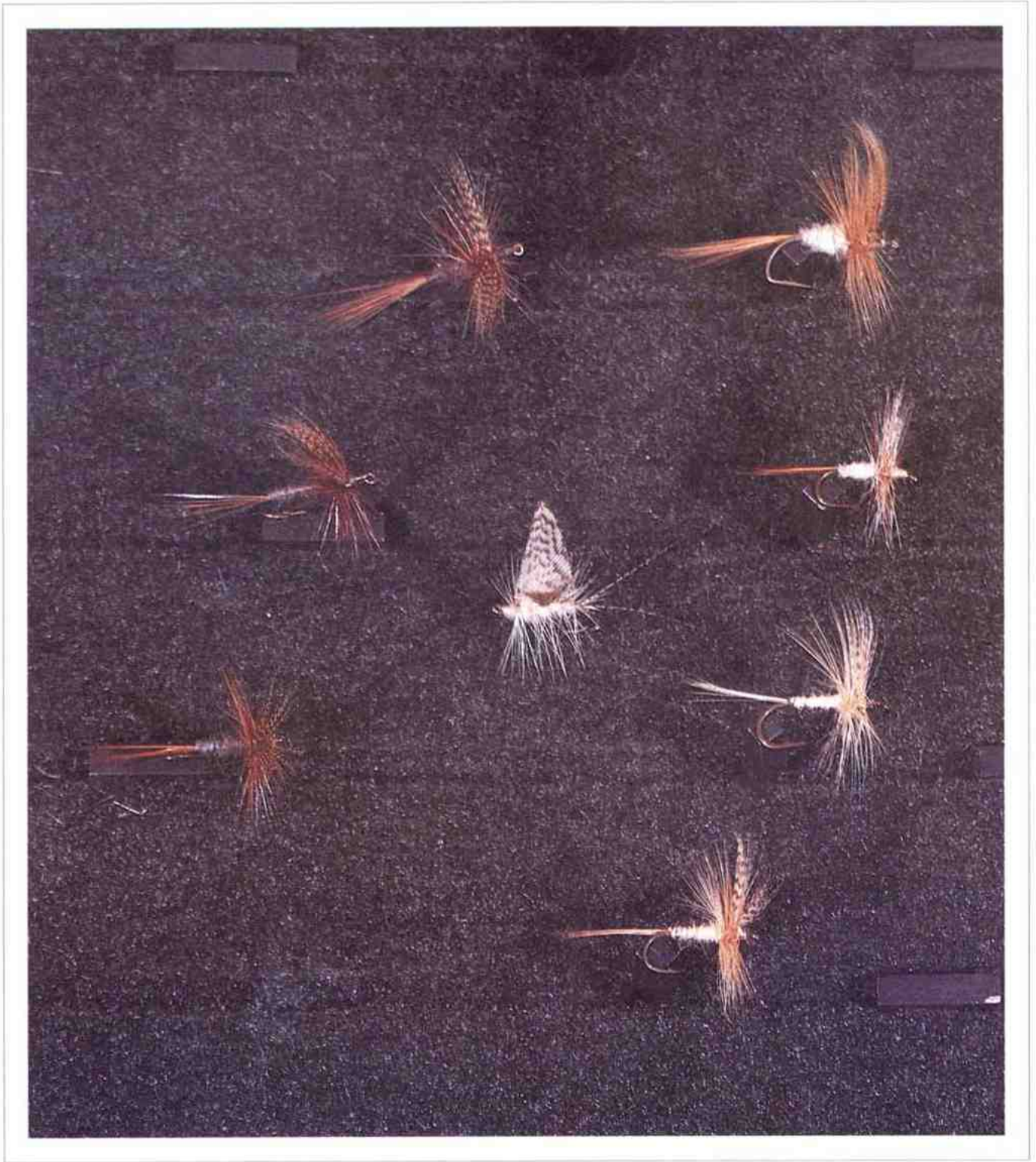
As a rod maker who was an amateur many years before he became a professional, I see many amateur touches in the old rod. And I also see great skill, and the working of the handle gives a glimpse of a staggering potential that set the world's standard for fly rod design for the next fifty years.

Marty Keane has a four-strip Leonard that he speculates may have been Leonard's first try at a bamboo rod, and suggests it was an exact copy of a Murphy rod. I don't think that Leonard's early rods were copied from anyone. The individuality of the 1873 Leonard proves that to me. Where did the copy of the Murphy (Marty's rod) come from then? I'm sure the answer is very simple. Some customer sent Leonard

a Murphy rod and asked him to copy it exactly. Four strip rods are one-third easier to make than six strip rods, and Leonard needed to make a living. Rod makers get this type of request frequently.

The more I write about it, the more I miss the old Leonard. Please take good care of it and give it a good spot in the Museum."

We might mention that Gary's own work as a rod builder was the subject of a chapter in Martin Keane's book *Classic Rods and Rodmakers*, for those who are not familiar with his work. We thank Gary for his comments, and again we thank Johnson Wax for their generosity. John Harder of Manchester hand-carried the rod from San Francisco to the Museum. The photograph was taken by Ron Coppock.



The varied interpretations of a favorite American fly pattern

Cahills

In Volume Seven, Number One of the magazine, Charlie Brooks told us the story of the Cahill in its earliest forms, and also started an exchange of letters in subsequent issues that shed more light on the origins of this important fly pattern. We now offer a group of Cahills, some light, some dark, to show how some of our best known tiers have interpreted the pattern.

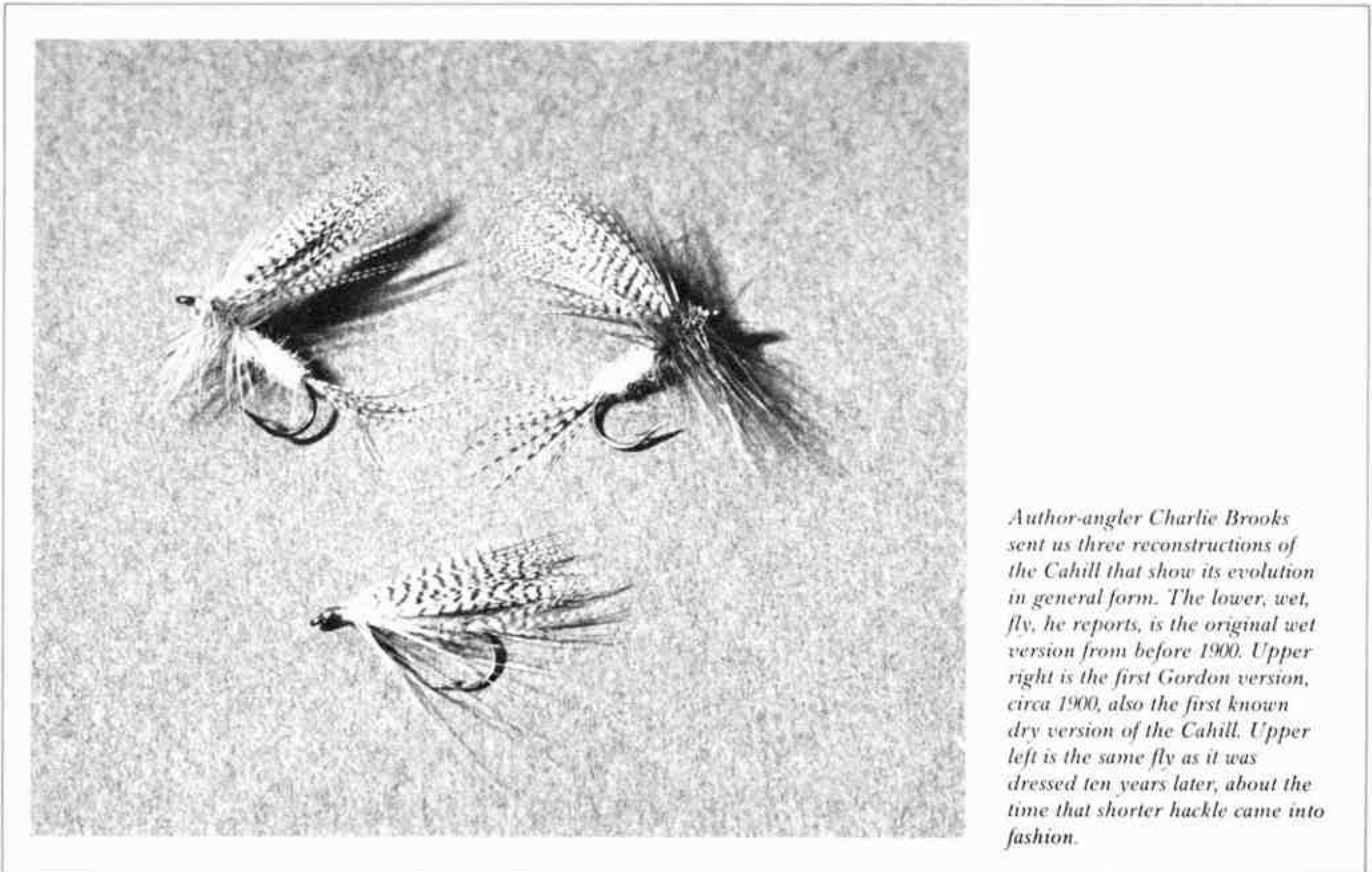
At the upper right is a Ginger Cahill tied by Ray Bergman, probably in the

1940s. Below it is a fly tied just recently by Art Flick, who donated a set of his *Streamside Guide* patterns to the Museum a couple of years ago. Below that is Rube Cross's version, probably tied in the late 1930s or early 1940s. Bottom right is John Atherton's version.

Upper left is a Dark Cahill by Ray Bergman. Below it is the same pattern by Edward R. Hewitt, and below that is another Rube Cross fly. In the center is a

modern palmer-tied dun intended to imitate the same flies for which the Cahills were tied; it was tied and donated to the Museum by the well-known Pennsylvania tier-author, Chauncy Lively, in 1978.

The Bergman, Cross, and Hewitt flies were donated to the Museum by Alvan Macauley, and the Atherton fly was donated by Maxine Atherton.



Author-angler Charlie Brooks sent us three reconstructions of the Cahill that show its evolution in general form. The lower, wet, fly, he reports, is the original wet version from before 1900. Upper right is the first Gordon version, circa 1900, also the first known dry version of the Cahill. Upper left is the same fly as it was dressed ten years later, about the time that shorter hackle came into fashion.

Charlie's Scrapbook

One of the most fascinating and yet hardest to share items in the Museum collection is the personal scrapbook kept by the Orvis family from about 1870 to after 1900. It's full of clippings, business cards, random notes, drawings, and the accumulated printed debris of a vital and important tackle firm in its youthful prime. We'd like to take a few pages here and share with you a sampling of the scrapbook's contents, starting with this fish-tracing sent from the west coast to Charles Orvis in 1892. There's no great message here; just a quick look at a personal side of fly fishing as it was a century ago.

Height 5 pounds full.
Length 22 ⁷/₈ inches.

This "Rainbow Trout" was caught
by Bishop Morris in Williamson
River Klamath Co Oregon July 29, 1892

on a lance hood Ovis rod, with
a brown hackle fly - The day before
a young lady - Miss Oskel Matthews -

caught two trout in the same
stream weighing respectively

7 pounds 2 oz - 2 pounds

10 oz - - This same

young lady caught a trout
a few weeks before weighing

8 1/2 pounds.

This trout was taken by

Bishop Morris of Portland Oregon -

Wholesale Prices

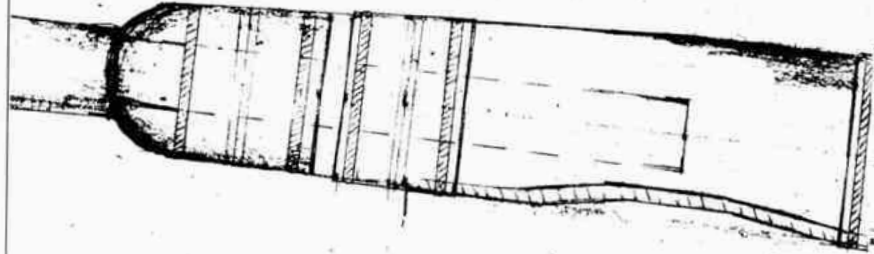
-OF-

Braided Fish Lines,



Trade Mark.

Finished Sep



S.

WORKS, 1st AVENUE, 27th to 28th STREETS.

aims for allowance to be made within 10 days of Date of Bill.

New York,

Oct 30th 1870

M. P. W. Orvis,

Bought of

Manhattan Brass & Mfg Co.

83 READE, Cor. CHURCH STREET, N. Y.

SHEET BRASS, BRASS AND COPPER GOODS.

H. H. HAYDEN.

TERMS CASH.

J. H. CRANE.

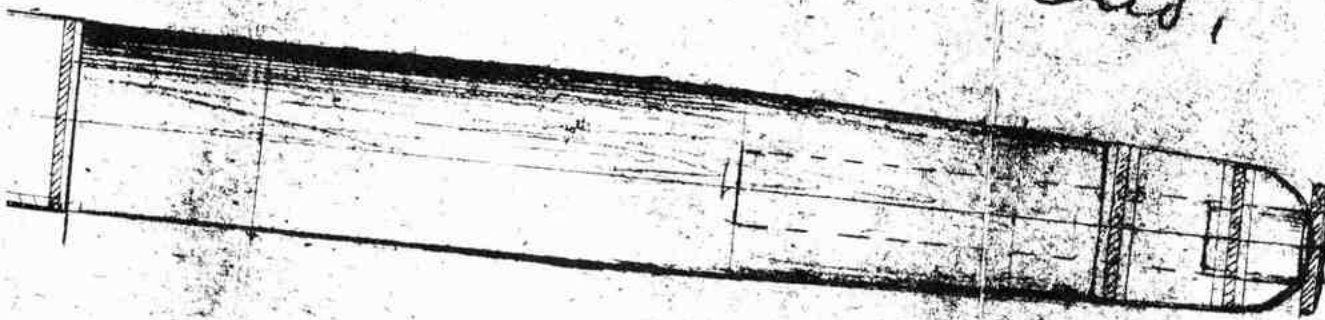
H. L. COE.

J. H. WHITE.

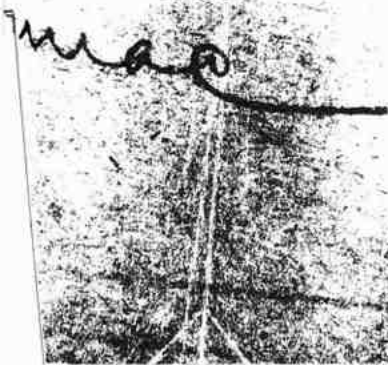
Tools for Putchey Rev. Fish Reel.
2 sets of Steel Stamping dies for flanges
1 " " Perforating " " Studs
1 " " " " " " 1/2" center hole

	LIBS.	CTS.	
<i>The Manhattan Brass & Manufacturing Company built the famous Orvis 1874 reel; this seems to be one of the very first bills for the tooling-up costs associated with reel construction.</i>			18.00
			20.00
			22.00
			16.00
			11.00

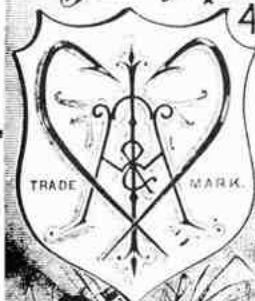
Mr Fred S Chase
 41-24th 1885
 La Fayette
 Ind.



Like most manufacturers, Orvis took custom orders and did a lot of repair work. The above reel seat/handle appears to have been a special order for a reversible handle that would convert a fly rod to a casting rod.



Abbey Imbrie
 48 MAIDEN LANE,
 New York.



G. F. Orvis
 W Y
 APR 13



JAMES A. GARFIELD.

FOR PRESIDENT.

VOTE AS YOU PLEASE,
 BUT SMOKE THE
Up and Up Cigar.

ONION & CORNWALL

Importers, Manufacturers, Agents, and Dealers in

Guns, Rifles, Pistols, Gun Metal

Fishing Tackle

Sporting Apparatus, &c. &c.

Swamp Angel Revolver.

No. 48 WARREN STREET

Great Broadway,

WM. H. ONION,
WM. M. CORNWALL

NEW

BLENDERMAN & STOWELL,

DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF

Birds, Pigeons, Rabbit
FOWL, GOLD FISH, AQUARIA &

BIRD CAGES AND SEED OF ALL KINDS

Mocking Bird, and Fish Food.

No. 86 BROADWAY

Near Third Street,

BROOKLYN,

All kinds of Birds Stuffed at the shortest notice

Price List

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FLEXIBLE WATERPROOF

SILK LINES,

MANUFACTURED BY

JOHN SHIELDS & CO.

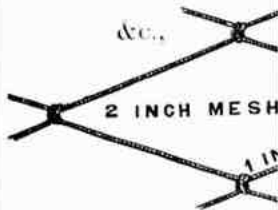
Brookline
Mass

A. A. FRENCH

Nettings, Seines,

GILLING THREE

&c.,



No. 210 FULTON

NEAR GREENV

New Y

AUG. MEYER

(Successors to James)

DEALERS IN

Hardware, Tinware, Castings,

AND ALL KINDS OF

FISHING TACKLE,

H. L. LEONARD,

Fine Fishing-Rods and Tackle,

BANGOR, ME.

MACALISTER & BARTLETT,

SUCCESSORS TO

GEO. W. READ & Co.

HARDWOOD LUMBER & VENEERS,

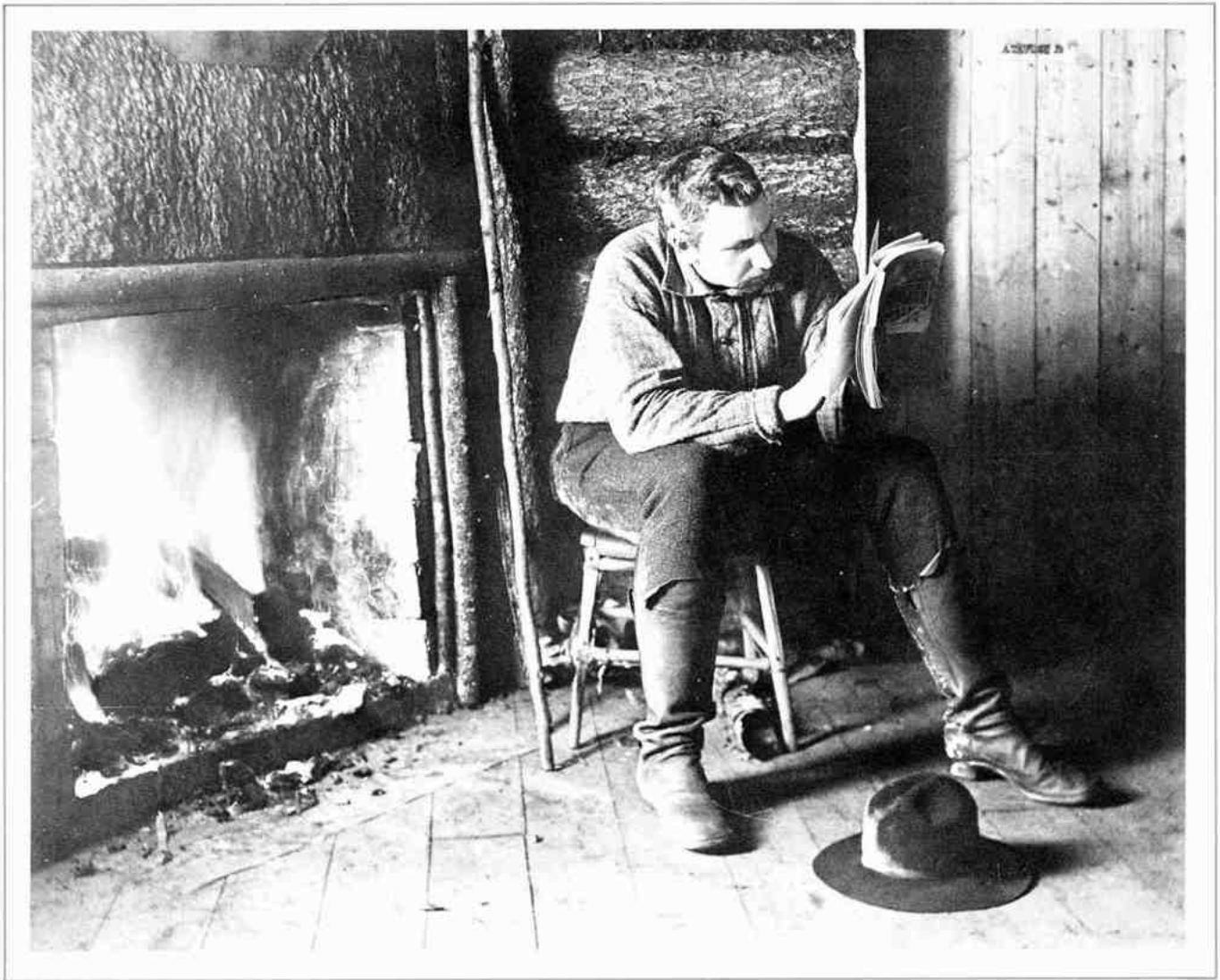
No. 200 LEWIS STREET,

W. Macalister,
H. T. Bartlett.

Dear Sir:

Yours of 20th recd. We
can supply the Red Cedar placed
to you at 8 1/2 per foot This is
by the Log - (which is the only way we sell
Red Cedar - Yours Respy M & B

Mr Chas F. Orris
Manchester
New York, Feb 21st 1888



Stoddard's Adirondacks

S.R. Stoddard was perhaps foremost among late Nineteenth Century photographers of the Adirondack region. From his studio in Glens Falls, New York, came a steady flow of excellent views, many dealing with the sporting world. Through Hank Barendse of Manchester, we were recently given the opportunity to copy a group of original Stoddard photographs for our files; we feature them here.

The above picture is entitled simply "Absorbed," and was taken in 1888. We can't tell for sure what he's reading, but it looks like a tackle catalog.

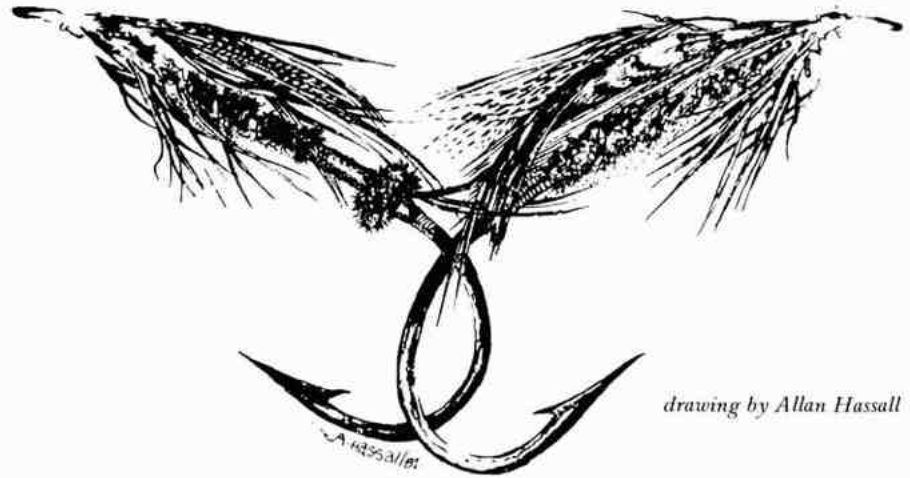
On page 28, above, is a larger version of our cover picture, entitled "The Way it Looks from the Stern Seat." Below it is "Raquette River, Canal into Simon's Pond," dated 1888.

On page 29, the upper photograph is "Drowned Lands of the Lower Raquette, Adirondacks," also dated 1888. Stoddard was quite concerned about the careless and abusive management of portions of the Adirondacks, and, whether he intended to or not in this picture, he caught the forlorn mood of a wasted resource. The lower photograph is "Bog River Falls, Adirondacks."

Our thanks to Hank for arranging this loan. We might add that the original photographic images from which these were taken are available from Jeffrey Adler, Nineteenth Century Photographs, R.D. 2, Salem, New York, 12865.







drawing by Allan Hassall

Notes and Comment

THE WEBSTER BROOK TROUT: AN ONGOING SAGA

Few articles printed in *The American Fly Fisher* have received the publicity accorded Professor Kenneth Shewmaker's "Daniel Webster and the Great Brook Trout," which appeared in Volume Eight, Number One. A number of outdoor columnists picked up the story, announcing to a much wider audience than ours that the Webster brook trout was probably fictitious, and this magazine's Editor got some mileage out of it in a recent promotional article in *Rod & Reel*. At the same time Ken's original article appeared, there also appeared, in *Outdoor Life*, a sympathetic rendition of the original story retold by Pete Kaminsky. Pete had been in touch with us while researching the story, and so he knew what we were going to publish; his article, like Ken's, left the reader hoping that somehow Daniel Webster really had caught the giant brook trout of legend.

THE WEBSTER SPORTING LIBRARY

The interest in Websteriana that has surfaced recently within the pages of the "American Fly Fisher" prompts me to report additional, albeit obscure, intelligence concerning this bygone elder statesman.

On Tuesday, June 8, 1875, and following days, the private library of Daniel Webster was sold at auction by Leonard & Co. (Auctioneers) at 50 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. A total of 1310 lots were sold—1302 were officially listed in the sale catalog—which included "many important works on Parliamentary & Political History, Debates, valuable Historical and Philological Works, Encyclopedias, Works on Natural History, etc." Included among

the "etc." were a selection of sporting books which are enumerated below:

- Davy, Sir H., *Salmonia, or Days of Fly Fishing*, 1851
The Field Book, or Sports and Pastimes of the United Kingdom, 1835
 Fisher, P., *The Angler's Souvenir*, 1835
 Hawken, Lt. Col. P., *Instructions to Young Sportsmen*, 1824
 Herbert, W.H. (Frank Forester), *Field Sports of the United States & British Provinces*, 1852
 Herbert, W.H., *Fish & Fishing of the United States & British Provinces*, two vol., 1851
 Herbert, W.H. *Works with Additions & Corrections*, 1842
 Johnson, T.B., *The Shooter's Companion*, 1823
 Lanman, C., *Adventures of an Angler in Canada*, 1848
 North, R., *On Fish & Fish Ponds*
 Smith, J.V.C., *Natural History of the Fishes of Massachusetts*, two vol., 1833
 Walton, I., & Cotton, C., *Complete Angler* (Hawkins), 1815
 Wilson, J., *The Rod & Gun*, 1840

While by no means rivaling the exhaustive sporting library of his contemporary, George Washington Bethune, it, no doubt, epitomized that of the well-heeled dilettante angler of the day.

S. Fuscum
 Union, New Jersey

FISHING EXHIBIT AT HARRISBURG

We have received word that the William Penn Memorial Museum, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, has arranged an exhibit entitled "The Lure and Lore of Fishing." The exhibit will continue through March

of next year, and we encourage members in that area to attend.

Gail Getz, Associate Curator at the Museum, has given us a brief report, which included the following remarks:

"The Lure and Lore of Fishing," in the first floor alcove gallery of the William Penn Memorial Museum is calculated to evoke memories of great fishing days in the Keystone State.

This gathering of vintage fishing and camping gear from the Golden Age (ca. 1850) to the present should be especially interesting to local anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. Of particular interest to fly-fishermen is the elegant split bamboo rod made by Solon Phillippe of Easton, Pennsylvania. A tour de force of the tacklemiths craft, this rod sports engraved silver fittings, ivory and mother-of-pearl reel and a finely carved hand grip. Excellent contemporary craftsmanship is also represented by the collection of flies tied by John Shollenberger of Tower City."

Gail also told us that the exhibit includes camping gear, a great variety of tackle, and photographs of Pennsylvania outdoorspersons of the past.

FLY FISHERMAN INDEX AVAILABLE

Many of our more bibliographically-minded readers might like to know that a good index to the first twelve years of *Fly Fisherman* magazine has been produced, and is now available for sale.

The index is the work of Mark Kuipers, and is available for \$6.95 postpaid (Washington residents add \$.35 sales tax) from FFF Index, Post Office Box 661, Pullman, Washington, 99163.

We have acquired a copy for our library, and it is well produced and very handy. We recommend it, and congratulate Mr. Kuipers on a job well done.

Museum News

SAN FRANCISCO AUCTION SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER

Our second annual San Francisco auction will be held on Thursday, December 3, at the University Club. West Coast Membership Chairman Art Frey is already at work on the advance arrangements, and we hope you will plan to join us that evening. Last winter's auction in San Francisco was a lot of fun, and we're looking forward to renewing acquaintances with both new and old friends in the west this December. We'll keep you posted on the auction as it gets closer.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

In our last issue we reported that the Federation of Fly Fishers (we, like they, are getting out of the habit of calling them the Federation of Fly Fishermen) had retained the services of a professional fund-raising firm to investigate the fund-raising potential of the Federation and the Museum for a new facility in West Yellowstone. As of this writing (early June), the investigation has just been wrapped up. The firm, Douglas Lawson Associates, Inc. of Los Angeles, conducted what they call a preliminary audit—a survey of a select group of potential donors—aimed at projecting how much money could be expected in a major fund-raising drive by the client. Lawson Associates report that their audit yielded very promising results, and that the prospects for the building fund drive are excellent. The Federation, working closely with the Museum Officers, has now engaged the services of an architectural firm in Bozeman: Mattson, Prugh & Lenon. The architects are now preparing preliminary designs and models which will be essential for presentation and promotion

during the fund-raising campaign.

As reported earlier, the goal of the fund-raising campaign is to raise enough money to build a new facility and to establish an endowment fund which would partially defray the costs of running the facility. The Federation hopes to kick off its formal fund-raising campaign at the Annual Conclave, August 19 through 22, in West Yellowstone. We imagine that there will be many new developments to report after the Conclave, and both the Museum and the Federation will be keeping their members posted.

SMALL CHANGE

Actually, there are several small changes, all involving the production and printing of the magazine. We've just changed printers, and so the type and

various other graphic items may look just a little different. We've not intentionally altered any of the format; it's still the same typeface, just being produced by a slightly different machine. In fact, if we had been able, we would have made the typesetting changes you now see back when we redesigned the magazine.

For those who are into reading the small print at the back of books, our typeface is Baskerville, and our headline is a form of Century Text. The subheadings and by-lines are simply Baskerville italics in a slightly larger size.

DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT POSITION

As advertised elsewhere in this issue, the Museum is seeking a Director of Development to direct and manage our fund-raising program. We are gratified to have received two important cash gifts in support of the new position. Museum Trustee Robert Buckmaster has given \$5,000 for each of the next two years towards the costs of this new position, and shortly before going to press we received a grant of \$1,000 from Johnson Wax for the same purpose.

Of course if the Director of Development is to be a success, it will be necessary for him or her to raise enough money to pay all staff salaries including his or her own, but these initial gifts are critically important in financing the position at its start, and we thank Bob Buckmaster and Johnson Wax for their help.

GRAPHIC ARTS AWARD

We recently received word that the magazine has won an Award of Recognition for Graphic Arts Excellence from Consolidated Papers, Inc., the corporation that



Two original Joe Brooks bass bugs from the Museum collection; the one on the right was a novelty item designed so that the little flag would pop up when a bass took it.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT WANTED

The Museum of American Fly Fishing has instituted a search for a full time Director of Development. The primary duties of the Director of Development will be fund-raising and public relations, with responsibility for all Museum fund-raising efforts including auctions, raffles, grant applications and endowment gifts. Applicants should be well acquainted with fly fishing and its world. Experience at fund-raising for a philanthropic organization with a (501) (c) (3) tax status is highly desirable but not required. Inquiries and resumes should be sent to Leon Martuch, President, The Museum of American Fly Fishing, Manchester, Vermont, 05254.

Because of the Museum's continuing growth and widening popularity, the demands on our staff have increased considerably. We now have a full-time Director, a part-time Secretary, and a half-time Registrar; the addition of a full-time Director of Development will permit us to keep pace with the demands of a growing collection and the needs of an increasingly history-conscious public. The increase in staff size is a very healthy sign and we're all quite pleased about it.

provides our printer with paper. We don't imagine this to be as significant an award as the one we recently received from the Printing Industries of America, Inc. (announced in Volume Eight, Number One), since the award program is run by one company and is only available to clients of the company. Still in all, we're happy to take praise of this kind where we find it, and we're told that Consolidated Papers, Inc. (a very large national firm) runs a bonafide and selective awards program. The award itself, a nice plaque, now hangs in the Director's office along with the P.I.A. award; he has not yet agreed to hang them in the Museum because he can't admire them as often if they are there.

The ultimate goal, of course, is to win the Pulitzer Prize in the "Obscure Topical Quarterly of Indeterminate Social Worth" category. Maybe next year.

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

We have the following back issues available for sale. We're almost out of some of the earliest ones, so it behooves the interested to place orders soon. All back issues are available for \$3.00 each (we may have to raise that price soon because of the postage hikes) from the Registrar, The Museum of American Fly Fishing, Manchester, Vermont, 05254.

Volume I, Numbers 3 and 4
Volume II, Numbers 2 and 3
Volume V, Numbers 3 and 4
Volume VI, all
Volume VII, Numbers 2, 3, and 4
Volume VIII, Numbers 1 and 2

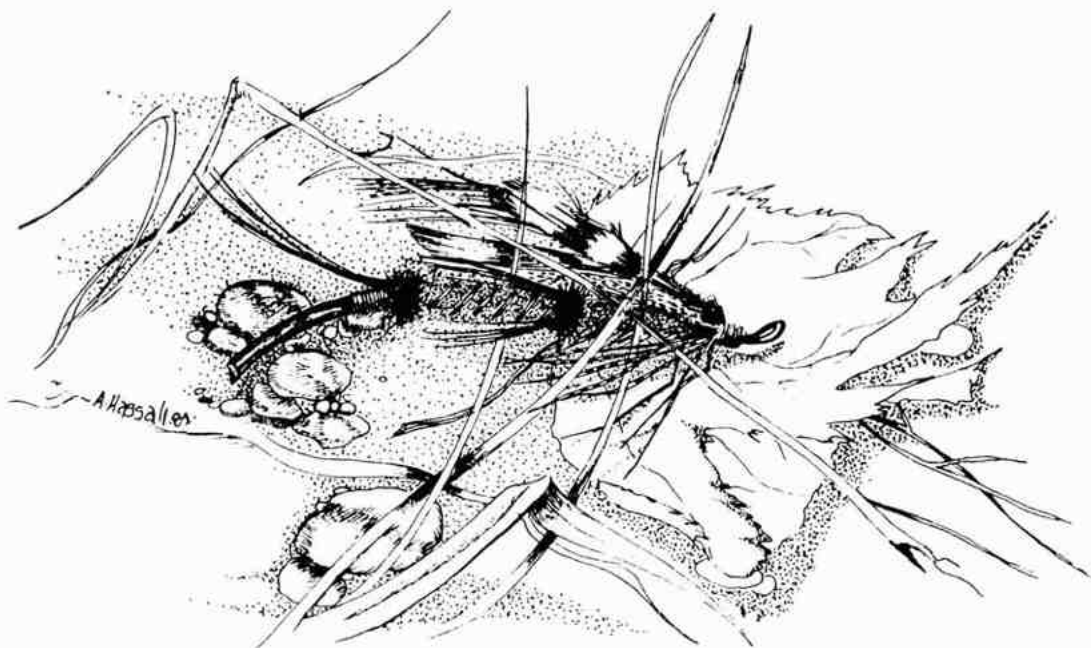
Volume V, Number 4, contains an index of the first five years of the magazine, as

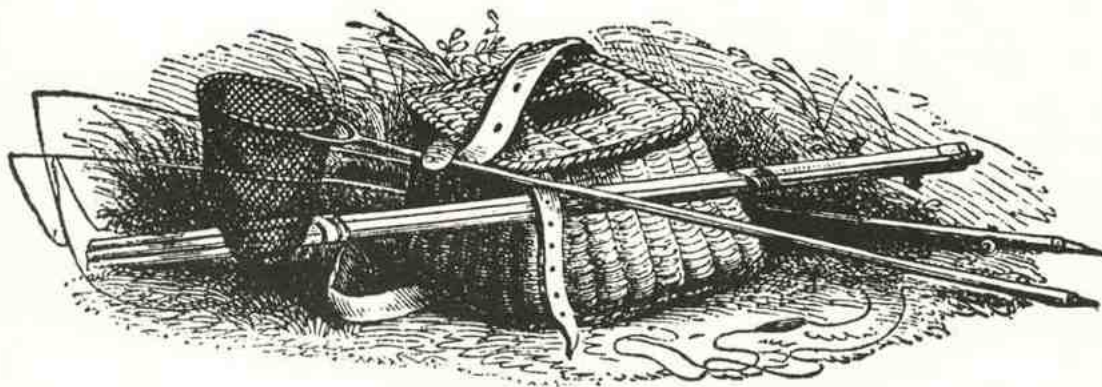
well as an informal history of the first ten years of the Museum.

JOIN THE MUSEUM

Membership Rates	
Associate	\$ 20
Sustaining	\$ 30
Patron	\$100
Sponsor	\$250

Send your membership application and full address to the Secretary, The Museum of American Fly Fishing, Manchester, Vermont, 05254. The Museum is a member of the American Association of Museums and the American Association for State and Local History. We are a non-profit educational institution chartered under the laws of the state of Vermont.





Fables



Fly fishing writers, especially in the last ten or so years, have grown fond of what might be called the historical adjective. The historical adjective is used, most often, to let the reader know that something, usually a person or a place, has an important position in angling history (and, sometimes, to let the reader know that the writer *knows* about the history). The result has been a gratifying increase in public awareness of angling's long and honorable tradition. At the same time, the historical adjective has become dreadfully tiresome.

It all started innocently enough, with an occasional "legendary Beaverkill," or "storied Letort," but it's now quite out of hand. The words have become obligatory bows, a required part of the language; how often do you see an article that doesn't use (or misuse) the word "classic?" Or, hopelessly worse, "classical." "Legendary" is no longer enough; now we have "near-legendary," and "half-legendary" (which half? the first half? the bottom half?), and, just the other day, "ultra-fabled." ultra-fabled.

"Fabled" has a couple dictionary mean-

ings. One is "made known by fable," the other is "existing only in fable." It occurs to us that the things being described in these terms in fishing writing (in the case of "ultra-fabled" the victim was the Beaverkill) have rather more substance than either of these definitions will allow. There are no fables about fishing on the Beaverkill, at least none that have found their way to the Museum library. There are many stories, but even allowing for their source (fishermen) they all seem to have their origin in real places and events.

In fact, there aren't that many fables, or even legends, in the entire history of angling. Again, there are lots of stories, and some appalling rumors, but not all that much that approaches the high plane of merit implied by a word as loaded as legendary. A legend is "an unverifiable popular story handed down from the past." A few of the stories that have been handed down concerning Theodore Gordon might be popular enough—and classy enough—to qualify under that definition. Several earlier angling figures, both in this country and in England, are suspected of having had seamy enough private lives that, given

half a chance, the stories would probably qualify as legend.

Most of the time, though, it's the modern writer who, by *calling* something legendary, generates a false aura of legendariness around the subject. Most of the time there is no legend, just a need to class up an article with a rich-sounding word. A good example is the "legendary" Letort. The people who made the river famous are still with us, and the stories are all verifiable. Usually what is meant is not legendary or fabled, but famous, well known, distinguished.

This isn't really a big deal, of course. Fishing writing is supposed to be fun for both reader and writer, and if they enjoy misusing these words there's no real harm in it. But when they then puff up and make proud sounds about the high quality of fishing literature, and about the deathless prose they have been sharing, they are, at last, dealing in the realm of fable.



