### FLORIDA WILDLIFE’S FISHING CITATION

**APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION**

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed date listed below:

Name (please print)__________________________

Address__________________________ City________ State________

Type of Tackle__________________________

Boat or Lure Used__________________________

Where Caught__________________________ in ________ County

Date Caught__________________________ Catch Witnessed By__________________________

Registered, Weighed By__________________________ At__________________________

(Signature of Applicant)

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**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>WEIGHT REQUIREMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LAGEMOUTH BASS</strong></td>
<td>8 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHAIN PICKEREL</strong></td>
<td>4 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BLUEGILL (BREAK)</strong></td>
<td>1 1/2 pounds or larger</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SHELLCRACKER</strong></td>
<td>2 pounds or larger</td>
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<td><strong>BLACK CRAPPIE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>RED BREAST</strong></td>
<td>1 pound or larger</td>
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All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

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**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

VOLUME 15 NO. 4  SEPTEMBER, 1961

*Published monthly by the FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION Tallahassee, Florida*

*DEDICATED TO THE CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, AND PROTECTION OF OUR GAME AND FISH*

**BILL HANSEN, Editor**

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director

C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation

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**ROSE TALLAHASSEE**

SEPTEMBER, 1961
FLORIDA WILDLIFE

All-Out Effort Against Freshwater Fishing Violations

FLORIDA WILDLIFE OFFICERS will be assigned patrol in the fresh waters of Florida. The increased enforcement activity by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission is an all-out effort against possible violations of fishing rules and regulations.

The legislative committee is composed of A. B. Cohen of the Florida Keys as chairman, Andy Weddell, John McQuiggin and George Bender. The new chapter committee includes Don Dietz as chairman, Al Welberly, George Dickerson and E. J. Eads.

At the annual meeting, the following resolutions were adopted (summarized):

1. That the I.W.L. urges the Florida Legislature to enact a pesticides coordination act that will require any state department to confer with the United States Public Health Service and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies before any major pesticide control program is launched.

2. That the I.W.L. state council opposes roads other than those necessary for access and supervised by supervising agencies in Myakka State Park. A state road had been proposed that would pass through the park, cutting off part of an area set aside and maintained for refuge and educational purposes.

3. Urges increased coordination and agreement between the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Public Health and mosquito control officials and that they make public reports available in such a manner that mosquito control officials would know to channelization that might interfere with fish and wildlife.

4. Request that permits issued allowing the deposit of pollutants be discontinued (Continued on Page 38)

FLORIDA FRESH WATER FISHING REGULATIONS

NO LEGAL FISHING Florida's fresh waters must have in possession a 1961-62 fishing license according to regulations as outlined below. Fishing licenses are issued by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission for a fiscal-year basis, running from July 1, through June 30. Exempt from fishing license requirements are residents under 15 years of age, and residents over 65 years of age. Resident of Florida definition includes citizens of the United States who have continuously resided in Florida for six months prior to making application for fishing licenses. Service men stationed in Florida are considered residents of Florida insfar as licenses to fish and hunt are concerned.

Residents can fish in their county of legal residence are not required to have a fishing license. Legal residence is determined by the state road he had been proposed that would pass through the park, cutting off part of an area set aside and maintained for refuge and educational purposes.

Citizens of United States residents under 15 years of age must buy a non-resident license to fish by any method. Residents using cane poles outside county must possess a license. The daily bag limits for fresh water game fish are as follows: 15 black bass, 35 bluegills, 35 pickerel, and 30 white bass. Total possession limit is two days bag after first day of fishing.

The daily bag limits for fishing Florida's fresh waters are as follows:

- Series A - resident, annual, $10.50.
- Series B - resident, annual, $8.00.
- Series C - non-resident, 14-day continuous, $2.25.
- Series D - non-resident, 5-day continuous, $2.25.
- Series E - non-resident, 2-day continuous, $1.25.

Florida's Boat Registration Law states that licenses are required for the fresh waters of Florida. Copies of these laws and regulations are required to be kept on file for the fresh waters of Florida.

BOAT REGISTRATION

Florida's Boat Registration Law states that licenses are required for the fresh waters of Florida. Copies of these laws and regulations may be obtained from the office of any County Judge, any Florida wildlife officer, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Telahassee or any of the five regional offices located in Panama City, Lake City, Ocala, Lakeland and West Palm Beach. Address listing on page three.

THE COVER

Florida's many State Parks, located throughout the state, offer the outdoor family considerable variety in recreational activities, from water sports and beach camps and fishing piers. For complete information, write to: Florida Park Service, Avant Building, Tallahassee, Fla.

CORRECTION - St. Andrew State Park - By F.S.N.B.

PASSPORT TO OUTDOOR RECREATION

By A. D. ALDRICH, Editor

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission

A fishing license is a passport to outdoor recreation, a key to outdoor recreation, and dollar for dollar one of the greatest values of all. This is a community investment. You can fish 24 hours every day, all year round. There is no closed season and no size limit on fresh water fish. A fisherman may take a daily bag of 90 fresh water fish: 10 black bass, 35 panfish, 15 pickerel, and 30 white bass. He may have a total of two days' bag as a possession limit after the first day's fishing. Best of all, a fisherman knows that his license fee is working to produce better fishing.

A fishing license is a piece of paper approximately two by four inches in size, printed in many colors, and various kinds. There is a license designed to apply to any situation and any circumstance; there is a license for every fisherman. There is a license for the resident which allows him to fish throughout the state, a license for the non-resident to fish for periods ranging from five days, two weeks, six weeks, to a season. There is a replacement license to replace a lost license, and a license for the fisherman who is not required to have a license—this is an exemption certificate for residents over the age of 65.

A fishing license is more than a requirement; it is the mark of a fisherman, a sportsman, and an angler. He who has it helps pave the way to better fishing in Florida. Possession of a fishing license sets his holder apart from the crowd, as a man with an eye on the horizon, who is looking to a future of better fishing for this and future generations.

A good fisherman should observe the fishing rules and regulations, obtain his proper license, keep it as a mark of distinction, and display it with pride.
Florida Alligators Protected

Florida's most popular reptile and top tourist attraction will receive all the benefits of complete protection as the season for taking alligators closes statewide.

Prior to the new regulation, alligators measuring six feet and longer have been legally harvested over most of the state during special seasons and under certain restrictions.

The new regulation prohibits the taking of all alligators for any purpose other than scientific, exhibition, or propagation, and then only by special permit issued by the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The Florida alligator is more than a novelty or tourist attraction. It represents annually a revenue exceeding $500,000.00 as direct income to alligator hunters. It is not proper, therefore, that the Commission allow such a valuable natural resource to be placed in jeopardy by over harvesting.

The alligator normally ranges from the lowlands of North Carolina southward through Florida, and westward to the Rio Grande River in lower Texas. However, in many areas it has been extirpated. Florida is one of the few states where the alligator still survives in appreciable numbers.

With civilization moving into the alligator's habitat, the reptile cannot be expected to thrive if the present practice of harvest is continued. The closed season will provide the Commission with an opportunity to study the alligator and determine the possibility of a proper pattern for future harvest seasons.

In addition, the period of archery hunting will provide a valuable source of water for other wildlife. In time of drought, the alligator is the one natural enemy Florida possesses against the threat of the invading nutria from the west. In essence, the alligator is just too valuable for the well being of Floridas not to be protected.

Many people are familiar with the appearance of the alligator, but often they know very little of its habits and consider every alligator a menace to mankind. Actually, the reptile is very shy and timid and it is only occasionally that an older, more irritable or bold enough one becomes a nuisance. Such nuisance alligators are removed under the jurisdiction of Florida Wildlife Officers, preferably captured and transferred to a more suitable area.

Insecticide Pollution

Credited for the discovery of a known human causes the kill of hundreds of pounds of fish in several Central Florida lakes. In one case investigators by fisheries biologists, unidentified persons dumped empty insecticide containers into lake causing pollution and a fish kill.

Other fish kills have been caused by insecticides used on crops with subsequent rain runoff carrying the chemicals into the waters. For the use of such chemicals should be carefully considered in light of possible contingencies as to usage and disposal of the empty containers.

Insecticide users should see that neither chemicals or containers enter into lakes and streams. Such destruction of gamefish is costly both in money and recreation.

Special Hunts for Citrus Area

The series of special gun and bow hunts for the Citrus Wildlife Management Area has been announded by Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Regulations for the 1961-62 hunting season from December 2 through November 26, with a daily bag of 15 plus 25 sora rial. Woodcock season December 16 through January 14, with a daily bag of four. Snipe hunting season December 16 through January 14, with a daily bag of eight.

Waterfowl hunting seasons—for duck, goose, and cott—will be announced later when finally establised by the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

In Florida's freshwater waters there are two known diseases or parasites of fishes that are harmful to man, according to Bill Woods, Chief of Fishes to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. "It is true that we are finding a few fish that are diseased," he said, "but this in no way has any affect on the edibility of the fish, because man is not affected by this disease in any way."

Each year during spring and summer months, there is an increase in the number of diseased and parasitized fishes. These diseases and parasites are very common in southern Florida, but occasionally these fish are caught in Northwest Florida waters.

According to Woods, this disease affects the fish while they are in a weakened condition and can be recognized by a red blotch on the body of the fish. These blotches may make the fish look inedible, but if it is fresh, there is no danger of this fish being harmful to man, he said.

Florida Hunters will have a two-phase season for migratory dove hunting during the 1961-62 season. The first phase with 23 consecutive half-days, and the second phase with 47 half-days of hunting.

The two-phase dove season is as follows: the first phase opens October 7 through October 29, with Hardee, DeSoto, Glades, Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, and that portion of Franklin County known as Alligator Point closed to dove hunting.

The second phase opens statewide November 23 to run through January 8. Shooting will be allowed from 12:00 noon until sunset of each open day. Daily bag limit for dove will be 12, with a possession limit of two days bag.

Other rules for migratory during the 1961-62 season are as follows: it is legal to kill a mourning dove, but only during the special hunting season of one and season bag of two deer.

Roland for archers will be limited to 25 deer, one buck with antlers less than five inches. Fawn deer are protected at all times. A daily bag of one and season bag of two deer will be in force during the special archery hunt.

Bow-and-arrow hunters are required to possess a special Citrus archery permit in addition to the regular hunting license. Special archery season dates of 25 November will be determined by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Hunters interested in Florida's Wildlife Management Areas may obtain special information sheets and maps by writing to the Game Management Division, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee. Special areas shall be made by stating names specific Management Areas in which hunting is planned.

Next Month

Complete 1961-62 Hunting Season Regulations

No Harmful Disease

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Florida's 1961-62 General hunting season for resident game birds and animals will open Saturday, November 18, in all districts of the State.

The opening date—applying to deer, turkey, quail, squirrel and bear—was set during a formal meeting of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in Tallahassee, July 27, according to A. D. Aldrich, director.

Hunting will be allowed every day in the First, Third and Fourth Conservation Districts.

The Second and Fifth Districts, Northeast and North Central Florida, will have "single-hunt" ing, with the first nine days (Nov. 18-26) and the period December 25 through January 2 open every day, except that the Ocala National Forest will be closed December 26 and December 29. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays will be closed at all other times in the two districts.

Shooting hours for resident game species will be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset on each open day.

Statewide hunting dates, special seasons and bag limits for the various species of resident game animals will appear next month.

Regulations for 1961-62 Hunting Season—Migratory Game


day's bag 15 15 15 15 15 15 15

**""**
In the past 40 years I have spent roughly $300 on tackle boxes. Since I have no more need for tackle boxes than any other fisherman, this sounds like the gross extravagance of a wealthy sportman.

That isn't exactly the truth. My car is not new and when it was, it cost $2,000. Tourists do not stare at my house and I generally have my shoes half-soled a couple of times before aiming them at the trash can.

What I'm getting to is that I have been swindled, misled and humbugged so many times on cheap tackle boxes than any other fisherman, this sounds like the gross extravagance of a wealthy sportsman. My tackle boxes than any other fisherman, this sounds like the gross extravagance of a wealthy sportsman.

A cheap wooden box can be a real dog. I had one that got wet in the bottom of a boat. When I got home I had let go and the bottom and the tackle stayed on the deck. No one will believe that but I am not going to call up a lot of witnesses. The memory is not a happy one.

Aluminum is fine except that many of those boxes are too light to take rough treatment. You can't sit or stand on many of the better ones because they are made with hip roofs. Once the box is smashed out of shape, you'll find that the latches avoid each other.

Fiberglass is poor if you get the better grade of box. Like aluminum, the plastic is pretty light in weight. Like aluminum it is generally waterproof unless submerged. Not many are watertight all the way around although a few top-notch wooden boxes make good life-preservers, having watertight lids.

Admittedly, there is no tackle box that could ever be quite big enough for everything but pause a moment before you buy one that unhelps all the way across the kitchen floor. Where are you going to put a box for big business—little business. One heck of a lot of fishing tackle is imported now. Some of which comes hot from the manufacturer. Some of that comes out of Japan is cheap both in price and quality. Then, there are exceptions on both sides of the world—cut-rate stuff from Europe and high-grade gadgets from Japan.

If each government may have that the box is smashed out of shape, you'll find that the latches avoid each other.

Right at present, one of my pets the Umco box made of "Royalite" is being used basically in the market but making no money. The bitter truth is that the home-grown tackle factory may have made the fishing tackle business tough for everybody.

One of the worst troubles with the fishing lure business is that it is too easy to get into. A couple of hundred will make you a full-fledged lure manufacturer.

Strongly enough, the home-grown plug has a special fascination for the fisherman, who thinks he's getting something special because it's being made in the kitchen. Sometimes he's right since a lot of good lures aren't manufactured by the big outfits because they're not attractive to fishermen—even though they may murder the fish.

But the snapper is that these little factories often operate at a loss, filling the market but making no dough for their proprietors. So, the gay gives the kitchen back to his wife and forgets the whole thing—leaving a few thousand lures kicking around in competition with the big manufacturers.

Most of the tackle people I talk to want sportsmen to know that the gear they are using is made by the little manufacturers. That's the way ownership of the little tackle companies switches around, I suspect that it's a pretty rough business.

Digtg Adjustment

Setting the drag on a light spinning reel is something to be done after due meditation and perhaps with appropriate incantation, especially if the fish are apt to be big. Last February I watched Buddy Nordmann of DeLand land a snook in a place where the snook should have escaped a dozen times.

The drag was just right and Buddy simply increased the pressure by bending the rod more each time the snook sprawled a pile of dead brush or a mangrove root. The gradual increase of pressure was enough to discourage old Limeside and he finally

(Continued on Page 34)
Confidence plays an important part in fishing success! With the St. Lucie Inlet as my schoolroom, I learned some facts about ....

THE POWER OF POSITIVE FISHING

By CHUCK SCHILLING

THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT about the power of the human mind when magnified and concentrated by a positive attitude. I am convinced the biggest single factor in the success of most of our famous anglers is the edge their positive fishing gives them over anglers fishing with a negative or neutral point of view.

Let me substantiate that. I believe this power of positive fishing has nothing to do with the physical. I believe it has nothing to do with skill or experience except in an indirect way. Frankly, I believe it has nothing to do with skill or experience except in an indirect way. I believe it has nothing to do with skill or experience except in an indirect way. I believe it has nothing to do with skill or experience except in an indirect way. I believe it has nothing to do with skill or experience except in an indirect way. I believe it has nothing to do with skill or experience except in an indirect way. I believe it has nothing to do with skill or experience except in an indirect way. I believe it has nothing to do with skill or experience except in an indirect way.

Every great angler I've ever known has been supercharged with positive attitude about his fishing. A perfect example is Ted Williams, whose greatness as a hitter of baseballs is only slightly more remarkable than his uncanny success as a fisherman.

Millions of baseball fans have watched the TV close-ups of Ted Williams at the plate, waiting for the next offering from the pitcher. I can recall him now, the picture of a man and mind fused into a mental concentration. The feet are firmly planted in the box, the big hands grind the handle of the bat, the eyes bore into the face of the pitcher, the whole body reflecting the absolute confidence of a mind tuned to success. Is it any wonder Williams was the greatest hitter of his time?

When fishing, Ted Williams brings that same positive attitude to the sport. Watching him, you know that every cast is made in the absolute inner knowledge that it will produce a strike. If it doesn't, the fire that burns for Williams never flickers. It just burns a little hotter. Why should we doubt? This attitude has been generated briefly and temporarily in my friends. Riding on the crest of this positive fishing power, I have experienced the "best fishing of my life." The return trip had been without this positive power blessing, and so "the fishing was very poor."

I firmly believe the power of the positive mind affects fishing success. You disagree? How then do you explain the absolute confidence of a mind tuned to success. Is it any wonder Williams was the greatest hitter of his time?

The guide and fish had never seen a popping bug. Have you ever related such a happening of only a few months ago?

I have a regular, favorite, fishing place, when 10 or more other fishermen were combing the same water and drawing blanks. This happened not once but many times.

What was his success? Les, himself did not know, because he tried his best to impart that knowledge to me and failed. He succeeded at last but only after years of study and reflection, and never gave the clue. Have you ever had this experience? Let me relate such a happening of only a few months ago.

I have a regular, favorite, fishing spot down in the Florida Keys. In 7 or 8 years of fishing it, it has never failed me. Recently, friends prevailed upon me to guide them to some of this excellent fishing. I agreed to do so with misgivings. With my friends following in their own boat, we made the trip out to this famous water and, after I gave the newcomers a detailed briefing on how to fish and with what, our boats separated to try our luck.

My companion and I, who are old fishing partners, got into action immediately. We caught 8 or 10 different kinds of fish. We had one on almost at every cast. The other boat was getting nothing. I again held a little seminar, again explained in detail what we were doing to account for our success. I again showed our tackle, even demonstrated the cast and retrieve, catching a few fish while floating alongside the other boat.

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(Continued from Preceding Page) plain the many instances that fit only the above hypothesis?

But before we come to this final question, let's examine my theory on how to develop this positive power. On this question, I will violate one of the cardinal theories of most anglers and all lure manufacturers.

I think most modern anglers are torn between the forces of a split personality. Deep down, most seem to feel that live or cut bait is the only sure-fire fishing attraction. This belief is rooted in the first experience most of us had as children. The traditional barefoot boy with willow pole and a can of worms is not far from the actual experience most of us really had as a fishing beginning.

Now I realize this is unfortunate, because it impresses on the young mind the idea that to catch fish, a worm, shrimp, or piece of cut bait is the thing to use. These simple tools, along with the readiness of sunfish and catfish to bite, make a lasting impression on the young angler. This is especially true if later, first attempts with artificial lures prove unfruitful.

Thus, our young angler is launched into the sport fishing world as a dyed-in-the-wool bait fisherman. Imagine his chagrin when he learns, as a young adult, that bait fishing is in general disrepute and considered by many to be the province of songbirds or pinching dimes from the collection plate.

This is particularly true if he happens to be a bass or trout fisherman. If bass are his dish, he is soon told that fishing big shiners on spawning beds is the only way to ring the bell. If trout are his fish, the worm dunks, with bats bedecked with dry flies, will soon convince our budding angler that, while flies and artificial lures are the respectable lures to use, it's garden hackle that will woo the wily trout.

In the case of the latter, the approved technique is to advertise your purity via the aforementioned hat but secretly carry your worms in a tobacco can in an inside pocket.

This is the real reason so many trout fishermen are pipe smokers.

All of this conflict and turmoil produces the adult angler who is neither fish nor foul. He either sur-reptitiously or defiantly uses bait but hedges by carrying a large tackle box crammed full of artificial lures. These he uses with a few futile casts at the beginning of each fishing day. This is a prelude to the use of bait. He develops no confidence in the former and guilt complex about the latter.

Some few anglers I know have been able to come to grips with this divided allegiance, but they are the exception rather than the rule, and in every case, I think they are limiting their potential by not specializing in one or the other. Of the two methods, artificial lures offer by far the most opportunity for the angler to develop a truly positive fishing attitude. Either bait or artificial lures will ring the bell, but most effectively if one is used exclusively.

Artificial lures will catch more fish, do it more conveniently, do it at less expense, and lends itself to the home manufacture of your own lures. The joy of catching fish on one's own creations is one of the top awards of sport fishing. Ever hear of anyone making his own live shrimp or garden worms—crayfish or shiners? Ever try to catch your own? Have you checked the market price of these items lately? These are all reasons to favor artificial lures if you decide to choose one or the other for special, extensive study and use. As you will see, this is the key to my theory of the positive power of fishing.

It is not only the mental conflict between bait and artificial lures that robs your mind of positive power. The lack of confidence in any one particular lure can be almost as bad. Fishing writers and lure manufacturers are fond of advising a change of lure at the drop of a hat. Our famous fishing writer is often photographed, peering into a huge tackle box containing over 160 different kinds of lures. I think this is all wrong. I think you should carefully pick out a few basic lures and then stick with them for 8 or 10 years, until you begin to learn how to use them to their best advantage. More importantly, you begin to develop an absolute confidence in them. This is the beginning of the "power."
CHASING

Easy going, no work, and good hunting —
That's what was promised for this hunting trip.

BY EDMUND MCLAURIN

At home, I packed a big canvas camping bag with a varied assortment of photographic equipment. I figured the bulging bag weighed about twenty pounds. But, no matter! I wouldn't have to carry it far... (Actually, the bag weighed twenty-eight pounds. Unknown to me when I packed it, I was destined to carry the thing at least ten miles, and thereby expend energy equivalent to mowing and raking the yard regularly for a year!) We got started on schedule, but with a somewhat complicated, fast unrolling future.

"When are we going to stop for breakfast?" Charley inquired of Max after we had been riding for an hour. "Oh, there's a good place up the road," Max said. "That's why I didn't stop at one of those we passed."

However, when we got there, the eatery was closed. I had not recognized it as a possible lunch station! We walked along, shouting to catch any attention. There was none. We moved on, but could not find any place open for business.

"Don't worry, we'll be able to get something at the little store near the boat landing!" Max announced encouragingly. I glanced at the gasoline supply indicator on the dashboard. It read gas soon, from my viewpoint.

"How about gas?" I asked.

"No need to get gas now. Always more gas in the tank than the gauge shows, anyway! We'll get some later on."

Finally, the "Empty" indication on the gauge proved it meant what it said. The car stopped, the motor completely dead. Every service station within walking distance was closed. Fortunately, it was not serious. We siphoned off some of the reserve supply of gas intended for the outboard motor and finished our drive to the boat landing. Not a soul was in sight, nor evidently yet awake. The little grocery store was closed, too.

Max proudly pointed out his island.

The size of Max's boat might possibly have qualified it as a suitable, comfortable craft for, say, Fred Astaire after six weeks of dance rehearsals, but for three men — two of them on the heavy side — it did not seem exactly appropriate.

Besides, it was two-thirds full of water, and its bow buried deep in the shore mud.

Bailing it out wasn't much of a job, considering we couldn't find a bail and had to use our cupped hands. Some forty minutes of active, noisy, backbending and splashing corrected most of the undesirable condition. However, there was just enough water remaining in the bottom to swallow against camera bags and other equipment when the boat tilted.

Max brought down from the car a small outboard motor that originally must have been auxiliary power for the Mayflower.

"It's a little old," he admitted, "but it's a real water witch."

Before the day was over, for one, there was no indication that we would have a more appropriate name for it. I can't mention it here; FW is a family magazine.

It was considerably lightened, the little boat still didn't float... Max tells me to give the bow a hard shove and jump in. "But be careful," he belatedly warned. "There may be a snake under the bow..."

Fortunately, there were only two frogs.

The motor was one of those wind-up-the-rope-and-pull types. Max wound the starting cord and pulled. Nothing happened. He wound and pulled again. Nothing happened. Likewise, nothing happened the third time— nor did anything happen on the eighty-third.

"You fellows better get the oars out and row us a-ways," Max suggested, "while I get the motor started."

(Continued on Next Page)
Our boat had to be hand-poled through 50 yards of heavy hyacinth growth. To lighten the load, I took my equipment and waded ashore.

(Continued from Preceding Page) Charlie and I did a juggling act of concealing duffle we had aboard, and of finding the elusive oarlocks. Some items we passed back and forth at least five times as one or the other grasped in the bottom of the boat and between boots and bags for the oarlocks. Finally, we found them and started rowing. By then, feel the lard melting off my middle.

We really put muscle into our rowing, however, and managed to cover a good mile in the right direction and against a strong current. I could feel the hard melting off my middle. Max meanwhile gave the silent motor his full and aroused attention. I glanced up through sweat and strain to note that the motor's spark was not advanced very far.

"Give it more juice!" I told Max. He moved the control lever a bit and cracked. The motor coughed once or twice as if in protest.

"Give it more spark!" I encouraged. Max advanced it possibly an eighth of an inch.

I reached back and gave it a hard, positive advance. "Now try it!" I said. . . . The motor started on the next pull and we roared down a narrow channel almost closed by water hyacinths.

We hadn't been underway for more than sixty yards when Max suddenly switched off the motor.

"We're there!" Max gaily announced.

But we were still some 150 feet from what might be the shore line, and every foot of the intervening distance was choked tight with water hyacinths.

"All we have to do is to pole the boat through the hyacinths to shore," Max added helpfully. "You fellows pole while I get my arrows sharpened."

Charley and I picked up the oars and started poling. We didn't make much progress; the entwining hyacinths stopped our little craft cold!

Labloriously, we were forced to push the individual plants to one or the other side of the bow to clear an arm's length path, then pole the boat forward in the created narrow opening. So thick were the water plants that those we dissolved had to be worked back alongside the boat and pushed behind the stern, instead of outward.

"Hey! There's a snail!" Max yelled, pointing . . . I turned just in time to glimpse a water moccasin slithering through the water hyacinths towards shore.

"Me, I think the water is too shallow to get the boat any closer to shore. You take some of the equipment and wade in, while Charley and I try to work the lightened boat closer," was his next conversation piece.

The water was shallow, all right, but deep enough to immediately cover and fill my shoes when I stepped into the entwining hyacinths and underlying mud. I didn't see the snake but solemnly recalled he had taken my designated path to shore. I mentioned that my shoes were full of water.

"Won't hurt you one bit," Max said cheerfully. "In fact, swamp water is good for athlete's feet."

"Who says I've got athlete's feet?" I shot back.

The area where we hunted is one of the most picturesque in Florida. It is also in an area of numerous, evidently starving mosquitoes and of tough ticks. Two of the latter buried their heads in my hair and were difficult to persuade to let go when their presence came to my attention. (A thorny pursuer, probably hidden in a fold of my clothing, survived the full cycle sequence of the family washing machine when I got back home, but was not tough enough to endure being stomped on.)

Land proved solid, if sticky, ankle-deep mud can be termed "solid," the goo stuck to our feet with every step, and untold thousands of ground level cypress knee knobs cooperated in making walking slow and slippery.

Hog tracks were everywhere. Max stalked the narrow, well-defined game trails like an Indian, moving slowly, scrutinizing every bush and scanning every open area. There was one big difference, though: He never showed us any game!

However, we once heard a hog, but couldn't pin-point its location. Also, it didn't sound altogether natural. Charlie and I couldn't figure out if the hog was grunting or laughing. Anyway, we never saw the animal.

Along the island's muddy shores we found many large snails. They were as large as a silver dollar and about an inch and a half thick.

The French eat snails," Charley commented informatively. "We have water, some aluminum foil and matches. Maybe we can make some snail soup."

We must have followed Max for a good four miles before he called a halt. As we rested and cooled ourselves under a wild magnolia, Max pulled a small transistor radio from his pocket and worked its controls.

"I'll get Tampa loud and clear," he said, demonstrating. Any hog within hearing not addicted to rock and roll music probably lost little time putting added distance between the strange sounds and himself.

The tune ended and a commercial hit the airwaves. "For those food particles that get between your teeth, use Soap-so, the modern toothpaste," was the pointed advice.

"I'd be satisfied if I had food particles between my teeth!" Charley commented wryly. "I can't even remember when I ate last, it's been so long!"

He began to turn his pockets inside out.

"Lost something?" I inquired. "Or ticks?"

"Neither . . . I just thought I might find half a peanut left over from our last trip," he said.

"You're hopeless!" I told him.

"I'm hopelessly hungry, if that's what you're implying," he countered.

No sooner were we again underway than Max knelt in the mud and measured one of the numerous hoofprints in the area. "Hog track!" he announced encouragingly.

"Yeah . . . We know what a hog track looks like," I answered. "What we need to know is what a hog looks like!"

The next five miles, and the trip back, were a good four miles of the same. . . . In plain language, enough is supposed to be enough, but sometimes enough can be too much, . . .

"Now let's visit the little store and buy something to eat," Charley said.

We did, and we didn't. The store had opened late and closed early!

Near the closed store stood a concrete block live bait well, filled with small minnows. Charley was already eying them speculatively.

"I read in a magazine that sardines are a special fish species, but may be any number of small edible fish," he explained. "Let's look around and see if we can find some bread thrown away by a picknicker, and make ourselves some fish sandwiches."

"Aw, shut up about food!" I told him. We did get to really eat — two hours later and miles along the road home.

First, however, we seriously de­ pleted the packaged food stocks at service stations we passed. At one of these, I met a hunting season buddy. He immediately noticed our mud-smeared clothing.

"What fellows been doing?" he asked.

"Clusing chi'tings," I told him. "Have some — the store kind, I mean!" I offered him my recently purchased bag of fried pork bits.

"They're easier to find when you look for them already packed in a bag," I said, giving Charley a wink.

He couldn't comment because his mouth was too full of fried pork to pronounce the animal.

"I'm sure you fellows been doing?" he asked.


"They're easier to find when you look for them already packed in a bag," I said, giving Charley a wink.

He couldn't comment because his mouth was too full of fried pork to pronounce the animal.
CATFISH AREN'T PROUD

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

But a catfish won't eat just anything. At times it can get downright finicky. Although the things which comprise the catfish's diet are endless, nonetheless the fisherman must have the right bait at the right time to successfully catch cats.

There are expert cat fishermen just as there are experts at other phases of fishing. It requires more know-how to catch catfish than a person would first imagine. The fisherman who consistently outwits catfish knows where, when and how to fish.

Cats are basically stream fish. Although they can be caught at times in lakes, the larger catches are made in rivers and creeks, particularly those with a visible current. Catfish prefer running water.

Most are taken right near bottom. One of the favorite catfish rigs is called the "tight line." It is comprised of a bell-shaped sinker and two hooks, about No. 2 in size. The sinker is placed at the end of the line. One hook is placed on a dropper line about a foot or so above the sinker with another dropper hook about eighteen inches on up the line. When the sinker is on bottom and the line is drawn taut, this causes the lower hook to ride several inches off bottom, the upper one about six inches to a foot shallower.

It isn't unusual, however, for a bait fished idle right on bottom to be just as effective, or one fished below a bobber about two feet under the surface. The successful cat fisherman experiments, varying the depth of his bait until it locates the fish.

But the most important ingredient in cat fishing is the bait. I've taken lots of cats on natural baits, things like earthworms and crawfish and minnows. Worms are particularly effective. Yet it seems cats prefer a bait with an odor, the stronger the better. When a bait gets such a foul stench that even the fisherman can't stand it, then it is just about to the liking of a catfish.

Commercial compounds designed to attract catfish have one thing in common, a stinking smell. Some have a blood base, other aged cheese. They usually are molded into balls and pressed around a small treble hook. This type hook keeps the bait on longer. Coagulated blood is a favorite catfish bait. Some cat fishermen simply allow the blood to coagulate, then slice it into chunks; others add feathers for substance. One fellow I know even pours the blood into a shallow pan and allows it to "ripen" for several days in the sun. When it begins to stink it is ready for the hook.

I once saw a nice string of cats caught on marshmallows. Another fisherman I know uses cornmeal and molasses rolled into balls. Another claims the bloody heart of a cow is the best he's ever tried. I've heard of yellow kernels of corn strung on a hook like beads, and chicken entrails. Sometimes just a gob of laundry soap can't be beat.

But being a veteran cat fisherman, he'd long ago learned never to be amazed at anything a cat might eat. Mr. Whiskers is no gourmet. He will eat just about anything, some that are digestible and a few things that are not. The catfish just likes to eat and what goes into its belly seems to be of little consequence, may it be a stream-fresh crawfish or a chunk of stinking meat. The only problem is finding what is on one's diet on any given day.

Who can predict the whims of a catfish's appetite?
LAKE OKEECHOBEE

EASILY DOMINATING THE LAKE fishing waters of all Florida, and, indeed, the southern United States, in yield as well as size, is Lake Okeechobee, the perennial favorite of resident and non-resident fishermen alike. It covers more than seven hundred square miles and has a shoreline of more than one hundred miles.

This seemingly endless expanse of fresh water lies in Palm Beach and Glades Counties and is easily reached by highway from any city in south Florida.

Fishing in and around this lake appears to be as sure a way as any to put meat on the table or a trophy on the wall, whichever is one's desire.

Along the extensive grass flats of the north-west shore is to be found some of the best largemouth bass fishing in the entire range of that famed scrapper.

Okeechobee bass are caught throughout the year on a variety of spoons, top-water plugs, and live minnows while light tackle fishermen pull them to the edges of the channels.

Another favorite, for the angler and cane pole fisherman alike, is the speckled perch, or "speck", and choice catfish.

It should be noted that fishing pressure, or the amount of fishing that is done in a given area within the lake, shifts and varies in Lake Okeechobee, depending upon the controlled water level. (See Canals)

Fishing Methods: All methods of sport fishing are effective: cane poles, fly, spinning, and casting—depending on the species sought.

Lake Okeechobee Survey
Area: Approximately 710 square miles, (454,460 acres)
Location: The interior of the southern part of Florida
Aquatic Vegetation: Cattails, bulrush, peppergrass, edgrass, maiden cane.
Bottom Type: Limerock, clay and shell; hard sand, some mud areas.
Average Depth: Nine feet.
Flicktuation: Considerable, depending upon seasonal precipitation and control measures subsequently required.
Accessibility and Availability: Excellent. Twenty-eight fishing camps and lodges are located around Lake Okeechobee with accommodations as follows: 215 rental guest units, 449 rental boats, and 231 rental motors. Most fishing camps make their launching ramps available to private boat owners at no charge.
Fishing History: Lake Okeechobee's fishing history has been excellent over the years and nothing disclosed by the survey indicates that it will be otherwise in the future.

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Southeast Florida FISH AND FISHING

numbers of stumpknocker and warmouth, will bite everything within reason: artificial flies, popping bugs, crickets, and earth worms. This latter is by far the most widely and most successfully used bait for brems.

In addition to the above-mentioned fishes, the population of Lake Okeechobee also contains chain pickerel, or "pike", and choice catfish.

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The Yellow Cat, above, and the Long-nosed Gar, pictured below, are two species common throughout the waters of Lake Okeechobee.

Photos by Wallace Hughes.

Lake Okeechobee angler fishing for crappie (speckled perch) near Okeechobee City on the northern shore.

A Report By
Lake and Stream Survey
Team No. 2

By
FRANK ARRANDALE
and
GENE SMITH

PART 2

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

September, 1961
THE MARSH AREA

The Marsh Area considered in this survey consists of over a half-million acres of grass-watered marshiness. One feels quite apart from the world when in the midst of this vast sea of wind-blown grass emerging from knee-deep water, but in actuality life abounds about him. Because of the year-round temperate climate, tropical plant life and varied animal life dominate this watery existence that some consider a "land of no-return" for the hapless adventurer who becomes lost in it.

Due to its extreme flatness and low elevation, when heavy rainfall occurs, many acres of land are inundated. During this flooding, fish seek out new areas in which to spawn and feed and for protection from their enemies. The flooded marsh supports a very large population of aquatic life, both animal and vegetable. In contrast to this, when adequate rainfall does not occur, and water levels recede, a large proportion of the fish population is crowded into the canals. Soon there is a lack of food for the fish and the dissolved oxygen level falls below that which is necessary to satisfactorily sustain life and many fish die. Many of those that do survive are infested with disease and parasites because of unbalanced water conditions.

One can easily see then, fishing success in the marsh is that of "boom or bust." As long as high water exists fishing is very good and many fishermen are participating in their favorite sport, but when the marsh does start drying up, then fishing is poor and few people consider it worthwhile to try.

In order to get around in this sea of grassy water one must use an airboat or stay in the trails cut through the grass by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

By Tom Wayman

Most popular means of transportation around this "sea of grass" is the airboat. Standard boats, both outboard and inboard, must keep to the special water trails cut through the grass by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

SEPTEMBER, 1961
C A N A L F I S H I N G in South Florida is devoted mainly to the use of cane poles on the bank and is much like bank fishing anywhere. Unlike most banksthough, the canals do not offer as much in the way of scenic value as the wild beauty of natural rivers and streams to which many people are accustomed.

Whether from an airboat or a power boat, on those canals that are navigable, one may see and hear the grunts of alligators; the various sounds of the wading birds as they fly up from the sawgrass and cattails at the waters edge.

In essence, these canals are just what they were designed for—large drainage ditches. They were built by the U. S. Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District (C.S.F.C.D.) as well as private landowners and land corporations, during the speculation and development days of the latter part of the 19th. century and the early 20th. century.

These canals were built to control flood conditions of Lake Okeechobee and the vast marshland south of the lake. They were designed for-large drainage ditches. They were built by the U. S. Corps of Engineers in conjunction with the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District (C.S.F.C.D.) as well as private landowners and land corporations, during the speculation and development days of the latter part of the 19th. century and the early 20th. century.

Proper water control must be maintained in order to serve all interests fairly and equitably: the farmer, the cattlem an, the businessman, and the conservationist.

When heavy rains and tropical storms occur, the canals overflow into the marsh enabling the fish to roam a greater area in quest of food and spawning areas. But when the water begins to recede and the marsh starts drying up then the fish must crowd into the canals in their efforts to survive. (This often results in a "fish kill", a condition in which often large numbers of fish die, evidently from lack of oxygen due to the excessive crowding.)

Such a change in water level produces fishing success of considerable variation. Often this variation will be quite noticeable over a relatively close distance and a short span of time. Therefore, it would be erroneous for anyone to make a statement that fishing is either good or poor in the whole of the Everglades. While one man may get his limit after fishing for two or three hours, his neighbor just a few miles away may not have a good "string" at the end of an all-day effort.

Another factor not mentioned earlier, but of importance, is that of the method and tackle used by the individual fisherman. A large percentage of tackle fishermen in South Florida is from out of state—mostly from the North. Since fishing conditions and habitat are quite different from those of the North, it would be well for these people to observe and employ some of the methods of native fishermen.

While some of these canals are readily accessible to fishermen, many are not because of the rules of the Corps of Engineers prohibiting driving on the adjacent dikes. This is a necessary restriction to prevent weakening of the dikes, or levees.

One of the canals that is accessible to the public for fishing, and is known throughout the nation for excel lent fishing most of the time, is the Tamiami Canal. This canal parallels U. S. Highway 41 westward from Miami to Naples, Florida. When water conditions are right this body of water supports a heavy population of game fish. As one goes beyond the "40 mile bond" approaching the West Coast this canal connects with other canals that empty into the Gulf of Mexico. Because of this it is not at all unusual to see an angler carefully playing a tarpon or snook or some other marine species, while his neighbor is conquering a fighting largemouth black bass or a scrappy bream.

Most of the fishing done on this canal is from the bank since a boat is unnecessary for the most part on this narrow body of water and very few rental units are available.

The St. Lucie Canal is a major navigational artery as well as a flood control measure extending from Port (Continued on Next Page)
**Survey Information**

*Date of Survey: 1958-1960.*

*Location:* The canals located within the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District in the Everglades Region.

*Aquatic Vegetation:* Water hyacinth, sawgrass, pickerel weed, yellow water lily, white water lily, coontail, cat-tail, sagittaria, maiden cane, water lettuce, peppergrass, rushes.

*Bottom Type:* Limestone rock, mud, shell, and sand.

*Depth:* About 15 feet in most canals at normal water levels.

*Accessibility and Availability:* Good in some places, very poor in others.

*Fluctuation:* Dependent upon rainfall and upon draining procedures of the Corps of Engineers.

*Fishing History:* Generally very good to excellent during normal water levels, but poor during extremely high or low levels.

*Fishing Methods:* Mostly by cane pole and worms or minnows, but some use of fly outfits, casting, spinning and trolling methods also employed.

*Recommendations:* Proper water levels must be maintained in order to insure against “fish kills” and to maintain good fishing. Fish kills have occurred throughout history to some degree, but only in recent years have they increased in frequency and severity because of the stepped-up programs of land reclamation and necessary flood control measures.

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**Approximate Canal Dimensions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Canal</th>
<th>Width (ft.)</th>
<th>Depth (ft.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamiami Canal C-H and L-29</td>
<td>50-60 ft.</td>
<td>9-15 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lucie Canal C-44</td>
<td>80 ft.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South New River Canal C-11</td>
<td>40-65 ft (top)</td>
<td>14-15 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canal C-18, Jupiter</td>
<td>105-175 ft.</td>
<td>12-14 ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snake Creek Canal C-9</td>
<td>45-59 ft.</td>
<td>18 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach Canal L-10</td>
<td>75 ft.</td>
<td>15 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canal L-48, Loxahatchee</td>
<td>90 ft.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Game Fishes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Relative Abundance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Black Bass</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker)</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain Pickerel (Pike, Jackfish)</td>
<td>Occasional to common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Sunfish (Stumpknocker)</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warmouth</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Crappie (Speckled Perch)</td>
<td>Common to abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarpent</td>
<td>Occasional to common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snook</td>
<td>Occasional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangrove Snapper</td>
<td>Occasional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Other Fishes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Relative Abundance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Spotted Gar</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longnose Gar</td>
<td>Occasional to common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowfin (Mudfish)</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gizzard Shad</td>
<td>Occasional to common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threadfin Shad</td>
<td>Occasional to common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Chubsucker</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern Golden Shiner</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Catfish</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Catfish</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speckled Catfish</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Catfish</td>
<td>Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eel</td>
<td>Occasional to abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather Jacket</td>
<td>Common to abundant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The complete Lake and Stream Survey Report, titled "Southeast Florida Fish and Fishing" - plus detailed maps of the areas covered in the report - will be available, free of charge, around Sept. 15, 1961. Copies can be obtained by writing to:

Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission
Fisheries Division
Tallahassee, Florida
I am convinced that above average fishing luck occurs more often when out alone, providing I go properly equipped.

FISH ALONE?

GO PREPARED

By GEORGE HEINZMANN

I wanted to fish that back-country pothole, and the lightweight car-top boat was my passport. I pulled it across a hundred yards of marsh that my car couldn’t traverse, and was in business. A couple of hours later I snaked my outfit back across the marsh under a traverse, and was in business. A couple of hours later I was fishing alone, because your buddie’s can’t always make it across a hundred yards of marsh that my car couldn’t broil in mid-morning sunlight.

Was it worth it? Four bass lay in the boat, the other emergenies that may confront a man out alone, providing I go properly equipped.

First for consideration is transportation. Many now prefer a boat and trailer, but I like my car-top outfit. I like those back-country spots, as mentioned earlier, and my lightweight boat has seen much water that your trailer and heavier boat will never reach. Many of those out-of-the-way spots are little fished and contain some real lunker-bass.

My aluminum cartop boat weighs less than a hundred pounds and is easily handled by one man using any of the good carryers now on the market. My five-horse kicker moves it along at about twelve miles per hour. A boat of this type will take rougher water than many anglers realize. I’ve crossed Blue Cypress and Kissimmee Lakes in this outfit when they were rolling, but a larger boat is preferable for such waters, and I use this rig mostly for smaller lakes.

The anchor is an essential piece of equipment for any boat, and is useful with this rig in another way. In rough water, I lower it a few feet below the surface when motoring. This drag helps to counteract violent pitching and dangerous sidewaving. Also, the dragging anchor will give warning of underwater bars or obstructions. I usually stow extra gear up front for bal­last, also, to help steady the light boat.

Big your anchor through a pulley on the bow. Some light boats come equipped, but such a pulley is easy to install. With a cleat installed near the rear seat to tie off the anchor rope, you are able to raise and lower the anchor without scrambling to the bow each time.

When motoring alone, I find the boat much better balanced when I sit on the middle seat. A handline extension for the motor allows this. There are several on the market but I have rigged one of telescoping sections of pipe.

While fish are not particularly wary of sound, they are extremely skittish about vibrations in the water. Be careful about kicking the boat bottom, scraping your shoes or tackle box, banging the oars against your trailer and heavier boat will never reach. Many of those out-of-the-way spots are little fished and contain some real lunker-bass.

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While fish are not particularly wary of sound, they are extremely skittish about vibrations in the water. Be careful about kicking the boat bottom, scraping your shoes or tackle box, banging the oars against the sides, or any such move that sets up vibrations in the water. With normal daytime noises, you are usually unaware of squeaking oarlocks. But they do squeak—all of them! Those squeaks set up vibrations traveling to the water through the boat sides, that can scare off a wary bass. Carry a small oil can in your tackle box, and use a few drops on each lock occasionally. I learned this while fishing alone on still nights when the squeaks seemed loud indeed. That first time, strikes were few and far between—and half-hearted. The squeaking finally got on my nerves, and I oiled the locks for my own benefit—and immediately started getting fast hard strikes. Later experiments proved the theory correct.

A life preserver is most important when alone. You can easily be tossed from a running boat, and see your boat continue merrily on its way to leave you alone. Seat cushion preservers serve a double purpose— but the cushion will no doubt remain in the boat when you go overboard. Perhaps the handiest is the small pocket preserver, which you squeeze to inflate. But carry it in your pocket, not the tackle box!

Bass will often take live bait deep. Some other fish that occasionally take your bass plug are sharp-toothed, such as gar and mulfish. Also, the Florida bass-man often fishes for sharp-toothed salt water species. So a digger is a handy piece of equipment. I have a home-made one that Harry Travelbee, an old fishing friend, gave me, which I think is superior to most commercial models. It consists of a short length of aluminum rod, deeply notched and beveled at one end for fitting the hook. The other end is flattened with a drilled hole for attached string. The string can be looped around a shirt button when wading.

Harry has another handy item, a small magnet, (Continued on Next Page)
(Continued from Preceding Page)

Don't forget a landing net. None of these small collapsible jobs for trout, but a large net for our hacker Florida bass. The mesh should be strong, and the pocket deep, for large bass sometimes jump out of a small net, or break through a weak one.

Your tackle box is the heart of your equipment. Instead of the usual clutter, boil it down to essentials. When properly arranged, a normal size box will hold all the equipment needed for successful fishing, and for any emergency that may develop. In the box illustrated, everything displayed fits neatly into the bottom compartment, leaving the top trays open for lures, etc.

Thus equipped, you are not only all set for good fishing, but are prepared for emergencies from minor discomforts such as rainstorms, mosquito raids, fouled plugs, and hooks in fingers, up to major emergencies such as a Denver fishing or night casting at night. This layout of equipment includes tied and woven lines that leave both arms free for fishing.

A simple rule few anglers observe, but which always pays dividends, and that is keeping obstacles lubricated to prevent grinding vibrations.

I got out the plug-saver and ran the ring down the line. Old Linesides was still there, and came out in a bulldog run that carried him forty or fifty feet away. The line ran out through that ring during the locomotive run, and when heulked again, I managed to get the ring up and off my line. For forty minutes by Howard's watch, he alternatelyulked and made deep strong runs. Twice more I dissolved him with the plug-saver after Howard pushed the boat over to him. Then, afraid that the ring would break my light line, I desisted and had my companion stir him up.

And isn't the battle more important than the catch—my lure was snagged, and missed that grand battle. But the point is—without the home-made plug-saver I would never have known he was there! I keep telling myself!
Muzzle Flashes by Edmund McLaurin

During one of my much enjoyed visits with friend Tom Gaskins, the Cypress knee sage of Palmdale, Florida, we put in an hour with an original target practice with .22 caliber rifles.

No novice at wing shooting, Tom was especially fascinated and intrigued relative to my ability to hit pennies and small steel washers, thumb-flipped thirty feet up and out. He couldn’t figure out how I managed to flip the small targets, should my rifle, sight on the targets while they were twisting and turning, then send most of them into screaming disappearance—all within the short span of a second or two.

I let him in on the secret of hitting small aerial targets by explaining that (1) I never for a moment take my eye from a target once it leaves my hand; (2) I simply bring my rifle to my shoulder into my path of vision, between my aiming eye and my target; (3) simultaneously, I take up most of my trigger squeeze and apply the final ounce of pressure the instant the front tang makes the correct sighting picture; (4) “I follow through” in my gun swing, and (5) I use a peep sight.

It was explained that the rear peep sight was all-important because it enables me to concentrate on getting front sight and target in proper alignment without worrying about the rear sight,once the rear sight’s aiming aperture is brought into my line of vision.

I again demonstrated each sequence, via a “dry run” of tossed targets, then invited Tom to use my Winchester Model 61 slide-action rifle and sight combination. He soon displayed the necessary rhythm, began hitting fairly small aerial targets and had very close misses on flipped pennies.

I told Tom that, once practice had given him the knack, he could expect to hit even the smallest of targets fairly regularly. I warned him, though, there would be days—generally after long non-practice periods—when he would miss repeatedly. However, I said the misses didn’t matter so long as he put bullets within half an inch of his fast-moving targets; resumed practice would soon restore the precise gun handling needed for scoring hits.

For his Remington Model 550 autoloader, I told him he would need a choice of Williams 55-559, Redfield 80c or the Lyman 57ES receiver-mounting sight.

Tom ordered a sight and mounted and adjusted it in accordance with directions. On the occasion of my last visit, he was enthusiastic about results. He said installation of the peep sight had given him eyes two additional years of youthful accommodation.

Whether you engage in formal tournament competitive shooting, plank away at informal targets or hunt, a properly installed and adjusted peep sight on your rifle will give you vastly improved sighting accuracy over open sights.

Consider that an open rear sight and front sight combination, as usually installed on factory-released rifles, will team up to give, at best, 3½ to six inch groups at 100 yards. But, with a peep rear sight, the same style front sight will often give you consistent groups of 2½ inches or less—all the test firing from prone position, utilizing the gunning’s studying influence or that of a sandbag rest.

For hunting, a Redfield “Sourdough” model blade front sight and a micrometer-click adjusting rear peep sight are probably the best combination of metallic sights you can put on a rifle.

The failure of an installed rear peep sight to perform properly can usually be traced to errors on the part of the shooter.

First of all, the shooter must position the peep sight at proper location on receiver or tang, in relation to both satisfactory vision and subsequent adjustments for sight elevation and windage.

Next, the peep sight must be matched to a front sight of proper height. (If, for example, a sighted-in rifle shoots high with the rear peep sight screwed to lowest possible position, then a higher front sight is needed. This may be only a few thousandths of an inch difference from the height of the present front sight.)

For a third fault is that, after installing and aligning the new peep sight, the shooter gets the wild notion that if one rear sight is good, two should be better—and proceeds to leave the factory-furnished, open rear sight on his rifle! The net result is that he nullifies the advantage of the installed peep sight by partially blocking out its field of useful vision with the removed open sight.

Finally, at least 95% of users of a peep sight for hunting, use it with too small an aperture. Preferably, a screw-in disc of 3/8” overall diameter, with a large size center peep aperture—rather than a big disc with a small hole, or a small disc with a small hole—should be the hunter’s choice.

For serial target practice and general field hunting, I never use a sighting disc larger than 3/8” diameter and with center aperture smaller than ¼ of an inch. I shoot with the peep sight disc almost touching my glasses. If I held my head farther back from the peep hole, I’d use a slightly larger center hole aperture.

Experienced deer hunters—especially fast-action brush country hunters—often remove the screw-in sighting disc altogether and simply use the peep hole in the disc retaining block. I do this myself, when I don’t use a sight disc with large size (.125 of an inch) peep hole.

A substituted peep receiver sight, close to aiming eye and properly adjusted, will help most present users of open sights shoot better.

The fact that we hunters may see half the countryside as deer target through the big peep hole doesn’t bother us one bit, so long as we know the sight is adjusted to shoot to point of aim, and aiming eye and the top of the front sight are centered in the circle seen through the peep.

Most rifles now come from the factory with receivers and/or tangs already drilled and tapped for peep sights. To install a rear peep on one of these rifles, it is only necessary to get the correct sight base, remove the dummy screws in receiver or tang and make the installation with base-holding screws furnished with the sight.

Where receivers and/or tangs have not been factory-drilled, the necessary screw holes must be drilled and tapped.

Unless you have previously installed a rear peep sight, it is a good idea to obtain a cardboard template from the manufacturer of the sight. Placed on receiver or tang, the template will help you accurately locate positions for the screw holes that must be drilled and tapped.

Consider that the original set of sights (open rear and blade or bead front) have been accurately aligned by the factory before the rifle was released to the trade; use this fact to advantage by installing and initially adjusting the rear peep receiver or tang sight before removing the factory-furnished open sight rear.

Also, don’t immediately change the position of the rifle’s front sight—even if you plan to replace it with one of different style or overall height.

After mounting the new receiver or tang peep sight, visually align its sighting aperture for windage and elevation. Then remove your factory sights in perfect alignment, through the new sight’s peep hole.

Next, remove the factory-installed open sight by driving it out of its dove-tailed slot, from left to right as you look from breech to muzzle. Use a hard fibre rod or soft metal punch, powered with light hammer taps, for this operation.

While removing the empty sight slot with either a dove-tailed slot blank or a folding style open sight, driving the base into the slot from right to left.

The idea of possibly installing an auxiliary open sight is not to use it for sighting in combination with the peep sight, but to provide a “check sight” that can be turned up for visual examination any time you think the peep sight might be out of position.

If you do install a folding leaf sight, like the Marble No. 60 or the Lyman No. 16, top its base until the aiming notch is in perfect alignment with the front sight, when viewed through the adjusted rear peep sight.

Now, suppose one day you find it necessary to install a new front sight in combination with the new rear peep. Where the peep sight, as described, but temporarily leave the factory’s open rear sight on the rifle, or install and align a folding leaf middle sight, without disturbing the factory-installed front sight.

Those of dove-tail base style are removed by driving out from left to right (as you look from rifle receiver to muzzle), and installed by driving into the slot from right to left, making sure with dove-tail base rear sights. Drive in the new front sight until it aligns perfectly with the other rear sights.

If the front sight is the type that (Continued on Page 38)
FISHING
(Continued from Page 9)

Rod Carriers
I've had some requests for a picture of the neoprene rod holders. I'm using in my boat so one shows in this issue. I am probably getting myself into trouble over this. The ones I am using are not in production, having been invented by my neighbor, Jack Gowdy, who never did anything about it other than fix up some for his friends. Since I got the first ones from Jack about five years ago, several manufacturers have begun to build similar holders.

I'm completely addicted to the things and don't know how I got along without them. If you want to buy something on this order, try a sporting goods store or a boat dealer.

More Rod Carriers
Now, here's one I've gotta have. It's a rack that goes in the top of a station wagon or carry-all for carrying fishing gear, easily assembled. It would also work in cabin cruisers, house-trailers — or anywhere else the ceiling is low enough to reach. To be manufactured by Horne Industries of Box 22050, Fort Lauderdale, this "Rod Rack" costs $7.35 to $9.95, depending upon the number of rods to be carried.

The idea is that the rod handle is secured in a "loop," the rod shaft is held in a slotted tension holds the tip steadily against a "cushion." Anyway, your 3-piece rods are up against the ceiling out of the way and easily accessible.

Electric Motors
I've had some inquiries regarding the use of electric motors on fishing boats. I've used them and I believe this is a fairly appraisal of their usefulness.

Installed on the transom of an outboard boat as an auxiliary motor, the little electric is quiet, reliable and compact. I would not recommend one for all-day trolling wide open because your battery will run down pretty quickly that way. Used for shoreline casting, they save a lot of muscle, make much less disturbance than oars and can be driven at exactly the speed you want to go.

There is one thing that must be learned about them to make them efficient along the shoreline. They will not change the direction of your boat with the speed possible using oars. You have to "lead" them a little in maneuvering, especially if there's some wind from the wrong direction and your boat is heavy.

I have found that most of the claims made for their use of electricity are a little optimistic and my battery went down faster than I had expected. There is a good explanation, however. I don't think I generally had it at peak charge when starting out. The chargers sold with the motors are not too rapid in their work. If you charge your battery with your gas outboard, that isn't much of a problem.

The most spectacular success I had with one of the little electric was when sneaking up on rolling tarpon. They didn't mind it at all. If you had used oars, they'd have left in a hurry.

BOATING

BY DON CULLMORE

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF JOBS IN WHICH I HAVE NOT DESIRE TO BECOME INVOLVED. THIS AVERSION IS DUE TO A COMBINATION OF FACTORS: LACK OF INTEREST, SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE, AND DOWNRIGHT COWARDICE.

Take airplane wing-walking, for example. They no longer build these contraptions with upper and lower wings and struts in between on which to clutch for hand holds, but in the days when that was the art of clambering around among 'em up in space was a spine-tingling attraction at every county fair.

Back in my callow high school youth, I was stricken by an inexplicable desire to qualify as a member of a barn-storming airplane stunt show. I essayed wing-walking. Once out upon the cloth fabric, clutching the cockpit with one hand and the closest strut with the other, the horrible realization of where I was dawned with frightful impact. I scrambled headfirst back into the cockpit and turned my thoughts to human target for a carnival show. I essayed wing-walking.

I saw of them ... "Opinions, guesses," Woody shrugged, as he returned, set the ship-to-shore radio on a Coast Guard calling band and reached for the microphone. Search and, if necessary rescue operations were placed under way. Meanwhile, the crew flaked aboard. I've used them and I believe them to be a throwback to the strain of the rugged wagonmasters of a century ago, who shepherded their charges to safety across trackless western lands fraught with peril.

Personally, I'm convinced that I'd far rather take on the job of guiding greenhorn migrants through the dangers of arid deserts, stampeding buf­ falo herds and antagonistic Indians (all this in the absence of route markers, radio communication and mechanical power) — than to undertake nursing a batch of well-equipped and individualistic boatmen from one spot to another on our modern charted and channel-marked waterways.

Any doubts I might have had on the logic of this conclusion were dissipated on a recent weekend when we were loitering on the dock down at Venice on the Gulf Coast on a cruising group from the Clearwa­ ter region put into port at the new Tarpon Center Marina for an overnight stop while on route to Fort Myers.

As the craft — outboard and inboard — trickled by, Cruisemaster A. A. "Woody" Wooduff "stood off" out in the channel, tallying stragglers as they struggled into the di­ stance and noting the heads of out­ aged mothers I placed this at the top of the list of undesirable occu­ pations.

I am now, however, constrained to admit that these foregoing tests of indomitable fortitude are millenium-old tests compared with the heroic disregard for personal convenience, peace of mind and eventual mental survival required to fulfill a voluntary (and unpaid) assign­ ment which is becoming increasingly prevalent in our water-blessed State of Florida — that of Cruisemaster.

I have long realized that cruisemasters were of a strange and ana­ chronistic, if hardly, species. They are a throwback to the strain of the rugged wagonmasters of a century ago, who shepherded their charges to safety across trackless western lands fraught with peril.

"Does anybody," he asked, going from boat to boat, "know what happened to the rest of the boats?"

He got replies. They started out with such phrases as: "Well, the last I saw of them ..." and "I think that ..." "My guess would be ..." "Opinions, guesses," Woody shrugged, as he returned, set the ship-to-shore radio on a Coast Guard calling band and reached for the microphone. Search and, if necessary rescue operations were placed under way. Meanwhile, the crew flaked aboard.

(CLARifications)

End of Test Run...

By the time Woody had conclud­ ed that all who were going to ar­ rive had shown up, there was but a single dock slip left to accommodate his husky Chris Craft Sea Skiff. It lay at a tight and tricky angle amid a cluster of other craft. Wood made it on the fourth pass in a sharply executed squeeze play and scram­bled aboard the deck while his crew made the lines fast.

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consciencient shepherd, have the aid of Providence and whole bunch of lucky breaks.

Like I said, there are some jobs I don't want.

Somewhere, the chap manning the fuel pumps on the new Tarpon Center Marina dock looked familiar... turned out to be Hank Fleming, who had been with the Duncan Marina at Pointe on Lake Geneva, Wis., some years before at a time when I was living a few miles distant from that spot. Hank is now operating Tarpon Center Marina. Under construction at the time of the Clearwater Boat-a-Cade, the marina was built as a drive-in park for cruises prior to publication of this article. Dockage and fuel pumps already were in service, and erection under way on a fabricated steel marina building which will contain a captain's lounge, patio, showers and the like; and marine supplies and service facilities. There will be covered dockage for 50 boats, with hoisting facilities and engine and hull repair service for craft up to 50 tons.

It is a new unit of the expanding Tarpon Center resort establishment, which includes housekeeping cottages and restaurant facilities. This is in keeping with a broad trend over the country toward all-service resort/marina layouts, catering both to the tourist traveling by car, and the transient boater. I noted marinas in quite a few places along the Gulf Coast, built within the past year. One large marina has a combination motel and marina between Sarasota and Bradenton, and is planning a similar establishment on the East Coast. Undoubtedly the attractions of the "marine city" development at Back Bay is an operator- and air-conditioned "fishing arena," an unbelievable big structure built on pilings out over the water. If a school of hungry fish swims past, you're in business with baited hooks. If fishing is spotty, you can read a book or sip a coke while lolling in air-conditioned comfort.

** Cruising Cookbook **

A culinary tip to live-aboard boatmen (equally good for the trailer dweller and also mightily useful to impatient people like myself who have to cook up meals but lack lengthy preparation): There's a book out—"The New Cruising Cookbook," that can be a big help in solving galley problems.

Write authors Russell K. Jones and C. Kim Norton: We note that the sailor who cooks on a small boat usually wants to cook a minimum amount of time in the galley. For this reason many complete meals are included which take less than 30 minutes. Most of the recipes call for less than an hour's cooking time from the moment the stove is lit... on the other hand, this book is not for those who believe that bad food is a necessary evil on a small boat. The pseudo-rugged life typified by eating cold beans or tuna fish right out of the can is not for us. Our philosophy is maximum comfort with essential simplicity.

I've been using it as cooking guide at home as well... and I mentioned, its simplicity appeals to my lazy nature. Published by W. W. Norton Co., New York, it sells for $1.50.

** Dog Chatted by George Crowley **

To be a success, he has to be willing to be kicked around, patient with the patience and nurse-like devotion of a conscientious shepherd, have the aid of Providence and whole bunch of lucky breaks.

Like I said, there are some jobs I don't want.

T he practice of using dogs for police patrol is one that has long been essential to the police work. Why, many people (those who know dogs and their capabilities) have noticed that in recent years there seems to be taking hold increasingly.

Central Park in New York City is a natural place for the use of dogs for patrol purposes and numerous experiments have shown them to be as effective as expected. The crime involving late night passersby and then escaped into the thickets is no longer safe from being followed.

Their use for night patrol in huge stores like Marshall Field's in Chicago, and Macy's in New York has proven that they are as effective inside as out. For they accompany the night watchmen on their rounds and when they have passed through a department it is a sure bet that no thief is hiding behind the clothing racks or under a counter.

Several years ago at a meeting of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the commission of Dearborn, Mich., reported on the effectiveness of dogs used for patrol purposes. He learned that a Dearborn police department dog held four men at bay while an officer left him and walked a block to phone for a police car. When he returned the men hadn't budged an inch.

Many cities are not recognizing the fact that to combat crime in fact thickly settled areas they must return to the foot patrolman rather than depend on the cruising patrol car. But with higher salary scales this is a pretty heavy burden on most police department budgets.

If, by the use of dogs, the number of foot patrolmen needed can be cut... that again will have helped to lighten the burden on their human friends.

It Takes All Kinds

Just what kind of dog do the most people want? That my dear friends, is a mighty tough and touchy question. No one really knows exactly. For every time some one breed becomes extremely popular, and it appears that it is the prototype of the dog most people want, some other breed moves in and out the leader.

There are, however, certain physical characteristics that, on the average, appeal to more people. And fortunately they are by no means confined to any one breed.

A survey made by a Chicago polling firm disclosed that most people like "cuteness" and "verve" in dogs. And many like an element of "pupishness." Most want their dogs to appear light-hearted and happy... perhaps they feel there is enough trouble in the world among people and that it is up to our canine friends to dispel the gloom.

Albert Stachel, whose American Weekly covers of Butch, the eternally puppyish cocker, have made him one of the best known and best loved dogs in America, always shows him romping or playing.

But does this mean that the bloodhound and bulldog are becoming less popular? Not by a long shot. On the contrary, they are gaining admirers ever year.

Which after all just goes to show that it takes all kinds of dogs, as well as people, to make a world.

Harriet "Sarge" was last seen Wednesday at 140,1S Sar-Bar in Biloxi, Miss., just faded away and is now almost the Beach and K-9 Haven. He never placed at any dog shows, and he never starred on TV or in the movies. But what this German shepherd did in his 26-year lifetime was fight with the Marines on Guadalcanal, Saipan and Tarawa, save the lives of nine U. S. servicemen, earn the Silver Star, win the Purple Heart and two clusters for combat wounds.

Army Sgt. Edward Plati brought "Sarge" (formal name, Major von Luckner III) at the age of six months and gave him to his wife. When World War II came, the family all went to war, including their dog.

"Sarge" became a sentry at a prison camp, camp Shelby in Mississippi but 31 years of his five with the military were spent with the 2nd Marine Corps regiment in the South Pacific. He was wounded three times. A bomb concussion threw him into the air. He was shot in the tail once. He had missed messages and was shot at. Nine times he came upon wounded men and, according to Mrs. Plati, "he went on and helped."

It was in May of this year that "Sarge" passed away after 20 years, one month and one day of life, the equivalent of a human life of 140 years. In death he was buried in his special Marine Corps jacket, complete with sergeant's stripes, hat marks, Purple Heart, Silver Star, Good Conduct Medal and battle ribbons. May he rest in Peace.
POWER OF POSITIVE FISHING

over the years. Learn how to use these lures with the most appropriate tackle for maximum effectiveness. If possible, invite an invite to fish with someone who is already positive about that particular lure. Watch, listen, and ask questions. Now comes the difficult part, the beginning of confidence.

Once you have made a selection, stick with it. Don’t let a few poor days throw you back into the old vacillating—try anything but be

MUZZLE FLASHES (Continued from Page 33)

reversible combination U and V notches, to match bead or blade front sight.

Once you have zeroed your rifle, also finally adjust the folding middle sight for a perfect sight picture, then fold the sight flat and forget it until you again want to check on your sight alignment. This auxiliary sight should be used only as a “check sight”—never as an aiming sight in combination with the peep.

CLUBS AND CONSERVATION

in streams and other waters should be reviewed and, where necessary, should be changed to conform to the highest non-pollution standards.

3. States that much of the state owned land is buy bottom and the practice of issuing permits for removal of sand and other fill materials often upsets the ecology of the surrounding areas and requests that all such permits or leases be advertised in a similar manner as for sale of buy bottom lands.

6. An expression of appreciation to Governor Farriss Bryant for his actions in appointing a guidance committee to investigate and make recommendations as to the wise use of state lands to provide maximum good for the public at large and for his declaration of a moratorium on the sale of public lands by the trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund pending the taking of inventory and the development of long

(Cor related from Page 13)

lieve in nothing—ways. Stick with it, believe, and finally the power of your belief will begin to pay off. In possible, the end, you will be one of those fortunate souls, a “complete angler.”

How positive can you get? I don’t know, but pretty doggoned positive. How much power can you generate? More than you ever dreamed. Remember, it’s not luck, it’s power that makes the difference, power created by a mind dedicated and concentrated into a forceful tool, a mind

(Cor related from Page 4)

lived in Denver’s new, modern library. It is the first national center devoted to the subject. . . . In a recent address, Dr. Paul A. Herbert, president of the National Wildlife Federation, said, “If the public does not accept the challenge to supply more opportunity and more facilities for healthful outdoor recreation it will eventually suffer by an increase of social unrest and the growth of radical anti-American movements as the mass of people in the congested urban areas do not find a desirable outlet for the use of their increasing leisure time” . . . Members of the Florida Audubon Society made their second banding expedition for the season to Dry Tortugas in July. A 15-year program of “tagging” sooty and toddy terns is expected to provide valuable information about these birds. . . Forty-five men have served for fifteen years or more as supervisors in their Florida soil conservation districts. The “champ” is E. C. Patterson of the Holmes Creek district, who has served for 23 years.
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