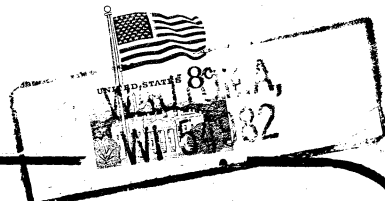


Nash Williams
2400 Waunona Way
Madison, Wi 53704



WISCONSIN Trout Unlimited

Winter 1974 Quarterly Report

"Trophy Stream" Proposed for Tomorrow

Fond du Lac--The Wisconsin TU State council voted to propose, through the Conservation congress, a "trophy stream," with a minimum size limit of 16 inches and a two trout creel limit, on the Tomorrow river from below Nelsonville to the four culverts.

The decision was made at the council's winter meeting here Jan. 11.

Stream Report

GLEN HILLS WATERSHED, ST. CROIX AND DUNN COUNTIES

Over a seven-year period, nine dry flood-control dams and one multi-purpose, water-holding dam have been constructed on this western Wisconsin watershed.

Now the Soil and Water Conservation boards of St. Croix and Dunn counties have proposed channelization of Tiffany creek near Glenwood City, a project that could have damaging effects on trout habitat.

The KIAP-TU-WISH chapter is watching this one. In addition to Tiffany creek, the watershed includes several miles of class II trout waters on Sandy and Beaver creeks.

HANSAW CREEK, MARINETTE COUNTY

A trial was held in which the state Attorney General's office asked for enforcement of the previous court decision ordering the removal of two unauthorized dams on this class I trout stream.

However, no decision has as yet been made. . . and so the Green Bay chapter enters another year fighting to restore the Handsaw.

Meanwhile, a new application has been filed for a dam modification.

The use of artificial, single-wire, single-pointed lures (flies or hardware) was included in the state council's concept of what constitutes a "trophy stream."

The 16 inch legal size limit is to allow larger numbers of fish to grow to trophy size on the special stretch of stream. The restrictions on lure types are to increase survival rates of hooked-and-released trout, something that becomes especially important with such a large minimum legal size.

"Research has shown that trout, when deeply hooked on bait, do not survive as well as those hooked on single-wire, single-pointed artificials," said state chairman Nash Williams.

"It is hoped that we can educate bait fishermen to cut the leader and leave the hook embedded when they hook sublegal size trout in the throat or stomach," Williams continued, citing a study by the DNR (John W. Mason and Robert L. Hunt, "Mortality Rates of Deeply Hooked Rainbow Trout," THE PROGRESSIVE FISH-CULTURIST, Vol. 29, No. 1, April, 1967).

The DNR study states: "Nearly all deeply hooked trout probably die soon after release if hooks are removed. If hooks are NOT removed from such deeply hooked trout, about two-third of them would survive."

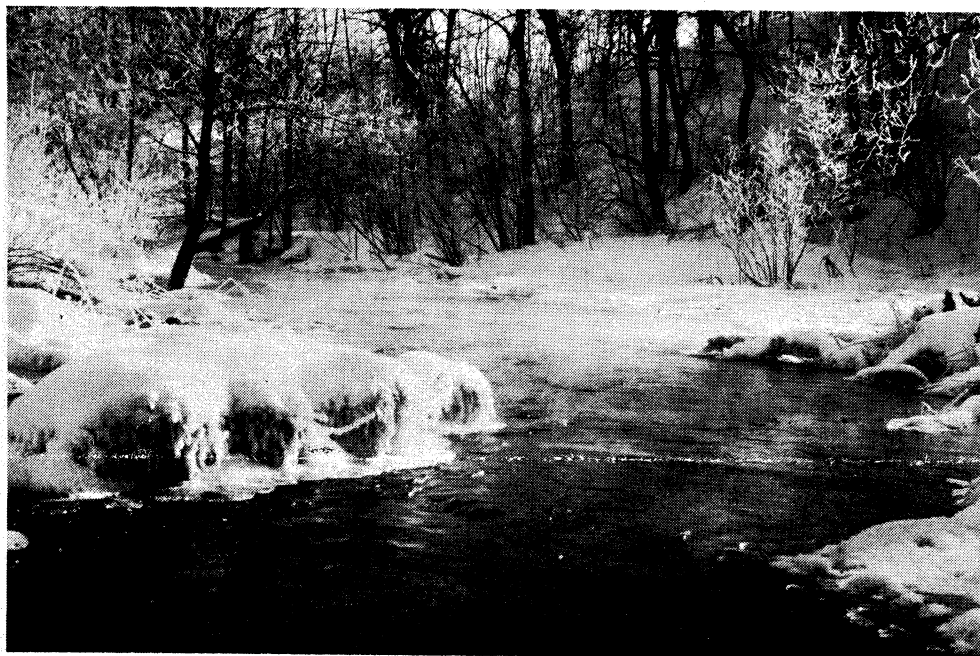
"The biological basis for lure restrictions could be largely terminated," according to Mason and Hunt, "if bait fishermen could be sold on the practice" of NOT removing swallowed hooks.

However, for the present time, the state

council's trophy stream committee feels that enforcing restrictions against removing swallowed hooks would be impossible. Educating all the state's bait fishermen to leave deeply embedded hooks is a task that TU

might well undertake, but it would be time consuming.

Meanwhile, the trophy stream concept that Wisconsin TU will propose for the Tomorrow river specifies artificials only.



Winter on Lawrence Creek in Iron County is a time for the sounds of silence and frosty beauty. It is also when the fate of future generations of wild brook and brown trout will be determined. Eggs resting in stream bottom nests must have clear, silt-free water. Photo courtesy of DNR.

Silt: Winter's Silent Trout Killer

BY ROBERT L. HUNT

Whether there will be an abundance or scarcity of two and three year-old trout in 1976 and 1977 will depend, in large part, on how successful trout eggs hatch this winter.

The female trout has, by now, completed her task. She has searched out a place to spawn on a gravel riffle and scoured out a saucer-shaped depression in the gravel substrate. When she was satisfied with its appearance, she signalled an attending male to move in and fertilize her eggs as they were released into the nest-like depression. Nearly all were successfully fertilized and deposited where they were intended to go.

The female then moved upstream a bit and quickly flushed clean gravel over the eggs by turning on her side and fanning the bottom vigorously. This job continued until a small mound of clean gravel had been built up over the eggs. This mound or "redd" would intercept some of the flow and direct water currents through the gravel to the eggs. The currents would bring in the necessary dissolved oxygen needed by the developing eggs and would also carry away the waste products produced as development proceeded. There was nothing more the female could do to insure that her offspring would survive the next several weeks in their underground womb.

But would the embryos survive to the point where they could wriggle up through their gravel nursery and emerge as free-swimming fry?

Predators, perhaps a stonefly nymph or muddler minnow, might squirm down through the gravel spaces, searching out the helpless eggs or developing fry.

A second, more serious enemy might bring about a slower death through suffocation. Fine particles, such as silt and sand, might be deposited in the redd by the same water currents that the embryos depend upon for their life-sustaining supply of oxygen. Too much silt or sand means gradual filling in of spaces between gravel particles and gradual reduction in the amount of oxygen.

Numerous hatching success studies of trout and salmon eggs have shown a consistent pattern. As the proportion of fine particles in a redd increases, the proportion of eggs that hatch decreases. One such study was recently completed on some Wisconsin trout streams by a graduate student from the University of Wisconsin--Stevens Point. Whenever fine sands and silt accounted for 25 percent or more of the material in the redd, survival of trout eggs declined sharply.

These facts are important to TU if its goal of maintaining fishing for wild trout is to be achieved. Wild trout fishing is dependent on an environment that is suitable for natural reproduction of trout. Adequate regulations to insure survival of some adult brood fish is an obvious necessity in wise management, but the mere presence of spawners and spawning grounds does not



DNR personnel check trout redds to determine how many live sac-fry and dead eggs are in this particular redd. As the gravel sample from the redd is sifted back into the water the eggs and sac-fry wash out and collect on the screen. They are counted, then placed back in the stream bottom and covered up. Photo courtesy of DNR.

Continued on Page 2

**LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR**

Don't Discriminate

Dear Editor,

The trout fishermen of Wisconsin are triply blest. Hundreds of miles of good water, a state organization which actively manages the habitat, and, lastly, the right by law to fish this water anywhere within the constraints of the trespass laws.

Unlike other countries and even other states in this country, where much of the trout water is privately controlled by clubs or individuals, the farsighted people of this state have so set up the rules that no individuals or clubs are considered privileged with regard to trout fishing.

With this background, it concerns me as a trout fisherman and a member of Trout Unlimited to read in this publication that another member is attempting to convince other TU'ers and the DNR that a section on a trout stream like the Mecan, Tomorrow or Willow be set aside for trophy trout fishing for the exclusive use of fly fishermen and a restricted type of hardware fisherman.

Personally, I object to this for two reasons. Even in a small way, this action would establish a precedent whereby the fishing rights to a certain section of a stream are set aside for a special type trout fisherman. Where this might end is a matter of conjecture, but there is a chance that it could lead towards further restrictions on our present rights.

Secondly, it seems to me that our efforts as an organization should be for the betterment of all trout fishermen rather than setting one type of fisherman against another. The patronizing approach on the part of some fly fishermen towards hardware or bait fishermen really has no place in our organization. Appreciation of the sport and our noble quarry, the trout, should be our goal.

Yours for unity and unrestricted fishing privileges,

John R. Hammond,
Member, Fox Vally Chapter

Fly and Spin

Dear Editor,

I was quite interested in reading in the fall quarterly about Arling Erickson's interest in trophy trout fishing on a few select Wisconsin streams.

I am in complete agreement that Wisconsin needs trophy trout waters, and that the size of a trophy trout should be nothing less than 16 inches.

Although Erickson states that most TU members are not fly fishermen and that TU must never give the impression that it is a group that does not need the bait and spin fisherman in defense of our cold water resources, he still refers to the idea that our trophy trout waters should be limited to fly fishing only.

I could accept this idea of flies only if more than one stream was set aside for trophy fishing. But we are talking about the state's first stretch of trophy water and this water being public.

TU should support fishing for trophy trout, at least on the first stream so designated, to include both the fly and spin fisherman. That fish may be taken only on artificials and that spin fishermen be limited to the use of only one hook on their lures and spinners.

I also believe in the use of barbless hooks and this should be given consideration as a possible requirement on trophy waters.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Lane
Member, Southeastern Wis. chapter

No Method Sacred

Editor's reply to Mr. Hammond: The purpose of the special stream project is not to cater to one type of fisherman over another. Rather, it is to manage a stretch of stream in such a way as to produce large, trophy trout. To this end, a larger-than-usual minimum size should be established on the special portion of stream to allow for growth to trophy size.

Beyond the change in legal size, only those regulations which would significantly increase the survival rates of hooked-and-released trout should be considered in the Wis. TU concept of a trophy stream. Such consideration should be based only on scientific evidence.

I couldn't agree with you more. . . no flyfisher rightly patronizes other types of fishermen. No method is sacred.

'Silt'

Continued from page 1

insure that natural reproduction will continue to be successful.

If fishing for wild trout is to be maintained or enhanced, it is imperative that streambanks and the watersheds through which trout streams flow be wisely managed. Unstable banks and erosion from watersheds are the major sources of fine sands and silts that can completely wipe out a generation of wild trout no matter how many eggs were laid or how much high quality spawning gravel may be present.

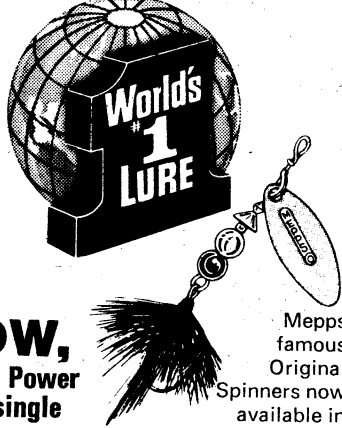
TU policy speaks out strongly for the need to improve and protect water quality. Be alert to the essential biological fact that part of the definition of quality water must include streamflows that are low in sand and silt particles.

(Editor's Note: Robert L. Hunt is the group leader of cold water research for the DNR. His articles will appear frequently in the WISCONSIN TU QUARTERLY REPORT.)

Thank You Note

. . . to Cortland Line Co. for their care package of 12 twin-tapered leaders, a fly line and two spools of monofilament to help support the QUARTERLY REPORT. An auction at the autumn state council meeting brought \$15 for the leaders alone.

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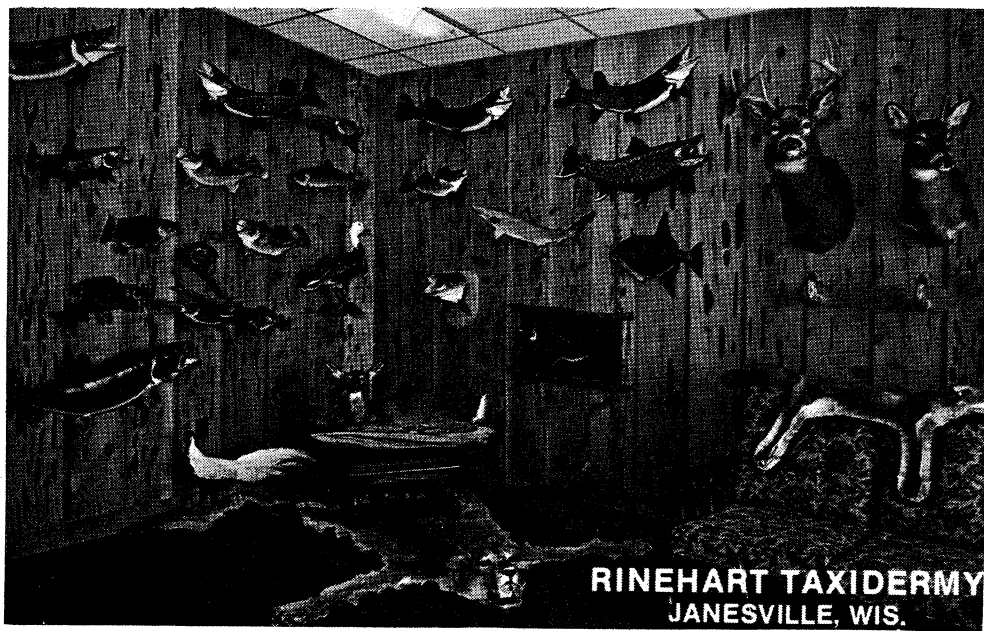
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Southeastern

BY TOM LEPLEY

Milwaukee--Though you haven't heard from us for some time, TU is alive, well, and active here in southeastern Wisconsin.

As our area lacks any great number of trout streams, we are limited in our constructive activities. However, we offer our assistance to any chapter in need of our physical and moral support. Drop us a card at 12925 W. Lancaster, Butler, Wis. 53007, indicating date, time and place. We'll be there!

We thoroughly enjoyed our recent outing to help Central Wisconsin chapter with their Lunch creek project.

Here at home, we do have Genessee creek, part of which is now owned by Carroll college, Waukesha. The college plans to set aside the streamside tract as a nature conservancy and has agreed to carry out trout research in cooperation with the DNR. TU will supply any manpower the project might require. At this point, Bob Hunt, DNR leader of cold water research, has advised that a monthly mean stream flow chart and a weekly range mean water temperature chart be maintained and that chemical analyses of water samples be taken.

Phil Clark, selected because of his former involvement in Pennsylvania's early attempts to establish special streams, will head up the development of a special stream project on another section of trout stream in our metropolitan area. This would involve a cooperative effort on the part of landowners, the DNR, and Southeastern Regional Plan Commission and members of TU.

Phil's job, at the moment, is to collect necessary data, set up procedures and priorities and develop flexible plans for proposed management. It will be a long, drawn-out process involving negotiation and compromise. Wish us luck!

Fred Horn has just completed a series of fly tying classes at Wilber Wright Jr. High school and will begin another series for both beginning and advanced students in January. Many thanks to Fred! He is a well-informed, excellent instructor.

With the assistance of the Green Bay chapter's boiling crew, we carried off our first trout boil, with reasonable success. We learned a great deal from this first experience and expect to improve on our efforts in the future by making this an annual fund-raising affair.

Southern

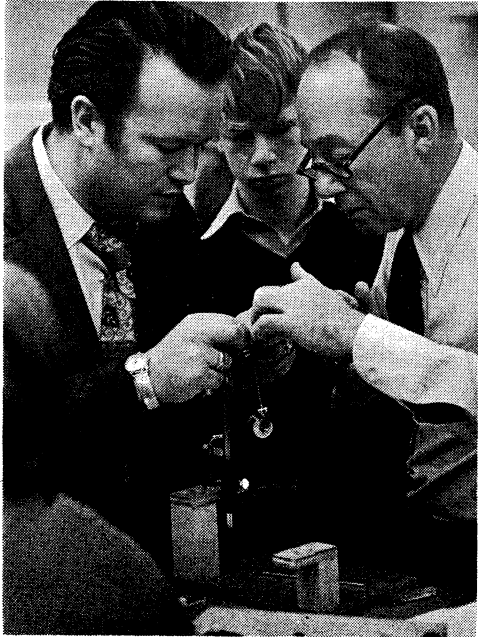
BY TOM SOPKOVICH

Madison--James Alvin of the John Deere Company, Minneapolis, made it possible for the Southern Wisconsin chapter to purchase two new John Deere chain saws at substantial savings. The saws will be turned over to the DNR to help facilitate a brushing project on Dell creek. Dell creek is a class II trout

stream in Sauk county. Over the years, it has become unfishable because of heavy alder growth along its banks.

Upcoming chapter meetings will feature the following DNR fish managers discussing the water quality and fishing possibilities of streams in their territories:

Cliff Brynildson, southern Wis. counties, Feb. 12.



Al Bahcall, his son Ken, and instructor Fred Horn ironing out an intricate facet of fly tying technique during a recent Southeastern Wisconsin chapter fly tying class. Photo courtesy of Len Kovars.

Gene VanDyck, southwestern Wis. counties, March 12.

Mike Primising, Central Wis. counties, April 9.

The discussions will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Herreman's Supper club, Sun Prairie.

If you are a southern counties troutfisher, member or not, you are welcome to come and learn the facts about area streams--there are probably some good ones you never tried.

Northeastern

BY STEVE RECKNER

Green Bay--The Green Bay chapter is still over its waders in the fight to restore Handsaw creek in Marinette county to a productive trout stream. The battle with land developers has see-sawed over the past several months. The latest development has the tide going our way with the developers making feeble, but positive attempts to remove the dams in dispute.

The situation is far from resolved, though, and much remains to be done. A great deal of time and expense has gone into the Handsaw creek project. All available chapter assets have been earmarked for retaining an attorney.

Our prime source of revenue has been trout boils. This year, boils have been put on for local groups as well as for the Neenah-Menasha centennial and for fellow TU'ers in Milwaukee. Anyone interested in information regarding a trout boil can contact Gary Stoychoff, 715 S. Taylor, Green Bay, Wis. 54303.

Last July a "rock throwing party" was held on the banks of the Kewaunee river.

Lee Kernen of the DNR enlisted the aid of the Green Bay and Western railroad to plant rip-rap on an eroding bend in the river. The Green Bay and Western supplied rocks and

generously hauled them to the river bank.

Chapter members aided by interested people in Kewaunee spent an evening planting rip-rap.

This project represents only one facet of the Green Bay Chapter's involvement with the Kewaunee River.

Central

BY JIM KALKOFEN

Wautoma--Central chapter members spent two full Saturdays, Dec. 8 and Jan. 19 and nearly completed a stream brushing project on Lunch creek, located about four miles southwest of Wautoma.

It is much easier talking about brushing than actually cutting, dragging and stacking brush. But brush we did, about three-fourths of a mile. About 60 feet was cleared, the stream will run roughly through the center of the cleared area. The treatment zone is roughly one-half mile long and is wider and shallower than the meadow reference zone. TU was working with Bob Hunt, DNR fish-

Continued on Page 4

WISCONSIN Trout Unlimited

QUARTERLY REPORT
Route 2, Box 286 - Poynette, Wis. 53955
EDITOR.....Susie Isaksen, Poynette
ASSISTANT EDITOR.....Jim Kalkofen, Wautoma
ADVERTISING MANAGER.....Jack Walworth, Milwaukee

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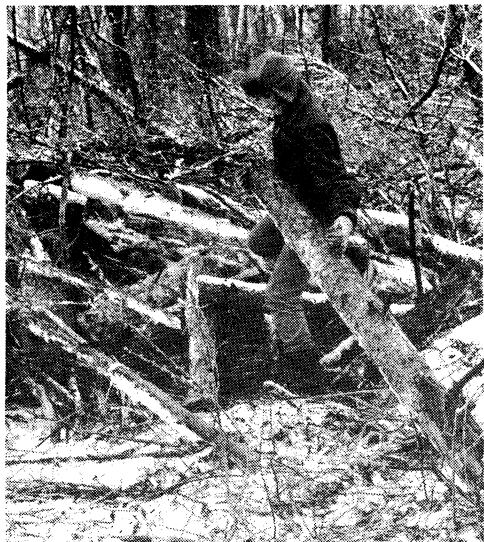
Continued from Page 3

eries biologist, who has been studying the Lunch for three years and has compiled data before slashing brush. Brushing is still in the experimental stage, he said, but accurate studies must be conducted.

Bob explained that trout in Wisconsin grow slower than they are capable of growing. "The greater the amount of food consumed and the more favorable the water temperatures, the better growth will be," he said. Trout grow well in a temperature range of 55-65.

Removal of streamside vegetation should create favorable water temperatures which will increase trout growth and aquatic organisms trout feed on. Plants would also become more abundant in the creek, in turn supporting more trout food. Plants would also tend to create a channelization effect, deepening pools and confining streamflow.

To test the theory that trout carrying capacities, growth rates of trout and angler harvest can be increased by brushing small trout streams, Bob has set up a basic



Brushing Lunch Creek

Brass-Plated Trout Cast

BY BOB BRUNSELL

A lustrous brass-plated trout with antique finish has been added to Southern Wisconsin chapter's line of cast-iron bookends.

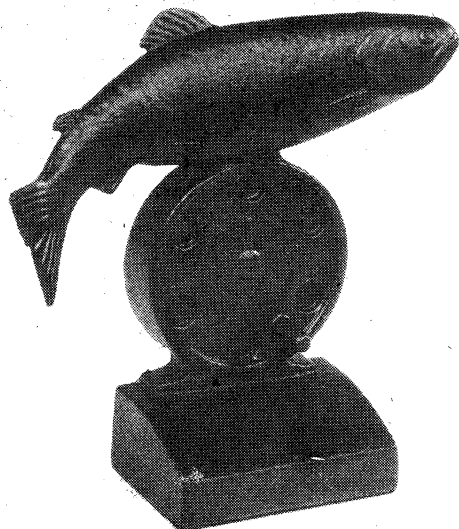
The pattern, previously available only in flat black, was carved in wood by Sig Bakka of Shopiere, Wis. Bakka used an antique single action fly reel and a trout from Mt. Vernon creek as his models.

TU'ers Frosty Parish and John Townsend of Baker Manufacturing Co., Evansville, helped in the design and took over production on behalf of TU at the Baker foundry.

Members of the Southern chapter are responsible for marketing, as all proceeds are put into the chapter's projects fund.

Individual pairs of plated bookends can be mailed anywhere in the United States for \$15, postpaid. Other chapters may purchase lots of 10 or more for \$8 per pair, F.O.B. Evansville.

Additional information can be obtained by writing Frosty Parish, Baker Manufacturing Co., Evansville, Wis. 53536.



A Mt. Vernon creek trout and an antique single action fly reel were models for the trout bookends sold by Southern Wisconsin TU.

evaluation procedure. He established a reference zone and a treatment zone, collected stream temperature samples throughout both stretches, collected trout population data and measured the physical characteristics of the stream channel. He has been doing three years of pretreatment study, and the next few years of research should determine the effectiveness of brushing.

Several TU members were concerned about the appearance of the site. Brushing an area and leaving severed stumps and a relatively barren ground might shock some persons, but Bob said the cutover area would be seeded with grasses which would cover the entire brushed area by mid-summer.

Several other area stream work days are planned from January to trout season.

Bob Hunt will discuss stream projects with TU members at their quarterly meeting Sunday, Jan. 27, at Hotel Weyauwega.

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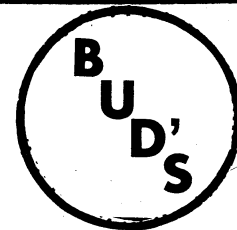
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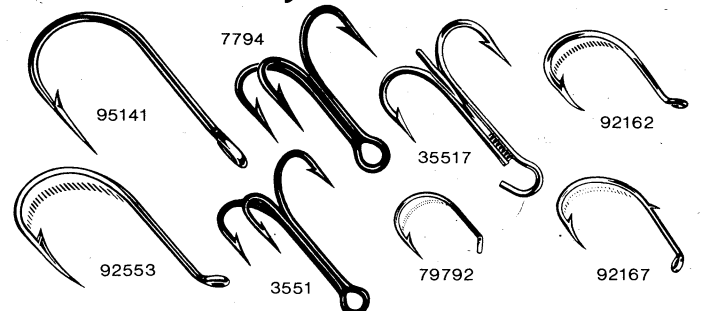
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