



Muskallunge

► **THE TROUT** is the lithe and gallant knight of the kingdom of fighting fishes, the Ivanhoe whose skill counts for quite as much as his slender strength. But the muskallunge is the Richard Coeur de Lion—the battler who has so much brute strength and weight and such a high heart to back it, that skill, though still there, takes second place.

Fly rods as delicate as knitting needles, tackle of almost gossamer lightness, hooks chivalrously left unbarbed, have no place in the tournament with this heavyweight fighter of the cold waters of the North. If you want the muskallunge you will have to come to the use of weight and strength, and as a rule, too, you will have

to adopt lures that the super-orthodox fly fisherman would despise.

Spoons, plugs, live bait, and rather vicious hooks (so long as you don't imagine that you're after shark) are given the legitimacy of necessity. And usually after "Musky" strikes, the beginning fisherman will be glad he has all he's got, and wish he had more.

The muskallunge, of course, is a pike, the biggest and fiercest and most voracious of all the pike family. One doesn't feel quite the qualms about destroying him with heavy tackle that one might feel if he had the manners of a trout, for he is without question more than a bit of a bully—and, it is whispered, a bit of a cannibal as well, for he will eat his own roe-brothers with no conscience at all if he gets the chance.

There are a dozen different ways of spelling his name, all attempts at getting into English or French spelling the original Ojibwa "mashkinonje" or "maskinonje." Scientifically this big pike is known as *Esox masquinongy*. The Ojibwas didn't bother how to spell it. They just pronounced the word and let their paleface brothers who foolishly made black marks on white paper, try to work it out for themselves.

Little the musky cares what you call him. He is undisputed master of the northern lake waters, by virtue of weight and speed and voracious appetite and sheer truculence. The muskallunge has one advantage over the tarpon. After you have caught a tarpon, you cannot do much with him but have him skinned and mounted. But a musky is first-class eating.

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AERONAUTICS

Better Plane Windshield

► **BETTER WINDSHIELDS** for military aircraft is the primary goal of a program on which satisfactory progress is reported by the Armour Research Foundation of the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

The results of the program will be equally of value in civilian flying. Strength is a prime factor in airplane windshields, strength to withstand the extreme atmospheric conditions encountered and the speeds of modern planes.

Freedom from ice is also important. For military planes, windshields should be bullet-proof. These are objectives to be obtained. First steps in the program were extensive studies made by the Institute to determine why laminated windshields fail. Then laboratory tests were made to determine stresses occurring in a typical windshield now in service.

Laminated windshields, widely used on airplanes, consist of two panes of glass bonded together with a layer of a plastic, usually polyvinyl butyral. At normal tem-

peratures, this plastic is elastic, making a valuable backing for the brittle glass. At low temperatures, however, the plastic contracts and becomes stiff, according to William E. Lauterbach of the Foundation. This may crack the glass and reduce visibility.

Another cause of windshield failure may be the "hot spot" created in the center when the windshield loses heat to the cold outer mounting, he said. Heating the mounting may solve this problem.

How best to keep the temperature of the outer surface of the windshield at 40 degrees Fahrenheit so no ice will form is one object of the research. The windshield heat comes from an electric current, passed over the edge through a film of conductive stannic oxide between the outer layer of glass and the plastic. Progress in the studies has advanced to a point so that Foundation scientists are ready to write specifications to be followed in designing windshields.

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MEDICINE

Coronary Sufferers Live Average Five Years

► **SUFFERERS FROM** angina pectoris and coronary occlusion, which are serious heart diseases, have on the average the chance of living about five years or more after their first attack, a study of 1,700 cases by Dr. Louis H. Sigler of Brooklyn, N. Y., shows.

A statistical study reported to the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION* (July 14) shows that the over-all average age at onset of the illness for the 1,700 persons studied was 55.8 years. The average length of survival of the 679 patients who died was 4.7 years for males and 4.5 for females. For those who were still living when the study was made, the average age of survival was 5.3 years for males and 5.6 years for females.

One patient lived 35 years after the first attack, and the oldest age at death was 94 years. Over half of the patients lived beyond 60.

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BOTANY

Marijuana May Lurk In Window Boxes

► **THE CURRENT** "public enemy number one," marijuana, may be lurking in any window box, vacant lot, or back yard, in the innocent guise of the common hemp plant. This warning is from Miss Jessie Fiske, professor of botany at New Jersey College for Women in New Brunswick, N. J.

"The word 'marijuana' itself is misleading," says Miss Fiske, "for people forget that it comes from the common hemp plant, not from any mysterious source.

"This tall herb is distinguished by bright green, spear-shaped, tooth-edge leaves, with flowers that are not very prominent. Like a weed, the hemp grows easily, almost anywhere, with or without cultivation."

The word "marijuana" does not refer to the plant itself, but to the resin which is derived from the upper leaves and flowers of the weed, Miss Fiske explains.

No special skill or elaborate process is needed to extract the drug from the plant, for the tops and leaves are merely dried and crushed into a coarse powder. That powder is then rolled into cigarettes, which look very much like any ordinary brand.

"Because the hemp plant has great commercial value," says Miss Fiske, "it is widely cultivated in some areas for legitimate purposes. The greatest economic value lies in its fiber, which is used for rope, twine, hats and certain grades of paper."

The drug is sometimes used in pharmaceutical preparations, she adds, but its actual medical use is questionable and very limited.

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