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The Quail Facts

See Pages
2 and 3

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Dam Near Burned!

Dog Daze

Burgoo-d!

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Progress

Venison Hash

Plus Features, Personalities

The Cover

In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of—fishing—in the case of Douglas Lowman of Frankfort. Photographer Jimmy Gilpin of the Division of Game and Fish chanced upon Douglas and dog as they were trying their luck in Elkhorn Creek. "Old Shep" seems as interested in the nibble as does Douglas. A member of the Frankfort Junior Conservation Club, and a Fourth-Grader at Second Street School, Douglas is the son of Mr. and Mrs. P. I. Lowman.

Women, Horses, Bourbon Antedated By FAMOUS KENTUCKY REELS

By JOE SLOCUM

BEAUTIFUL women, fast horses and fine bourbon whiskey today stand supreme in Kentucky fame, but hidden by shadows of years gone past are many things of less enduring renown.

Back in the days when feminine pantaloons were vogue, and horses were still earning their oats by pulling a plow, and bourbon whiskey was strictly barroom, Kentucky stood in the foreground as birthplace of the first multiple fishing reel marketed in the United States.

The "Kentucky Reel," as it was known, made its initial appearance in 1835, and was manufactured in Frankfort by B. C. Milam.

Milam was employed by J. F. and B. F. Meek, watchmakers. As an apprentice, he made the first reel under their

at St. Louis, during the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904.

Sportsmen who are fortunate enough to possess these reels always treasure them highly, and it would take more than mere money to affect a change in ownership.

D. L. Rice, barbership proprietor in Frankfort, had a collection of 14 Meek & Milam Reels stolen from his shop in 1940. Fortunately, he had them insured for \$500, but as he says, "I wouldn't have taken twice that for them, because they are almost impossible to replace." At that time he had a collection of 21 reels.

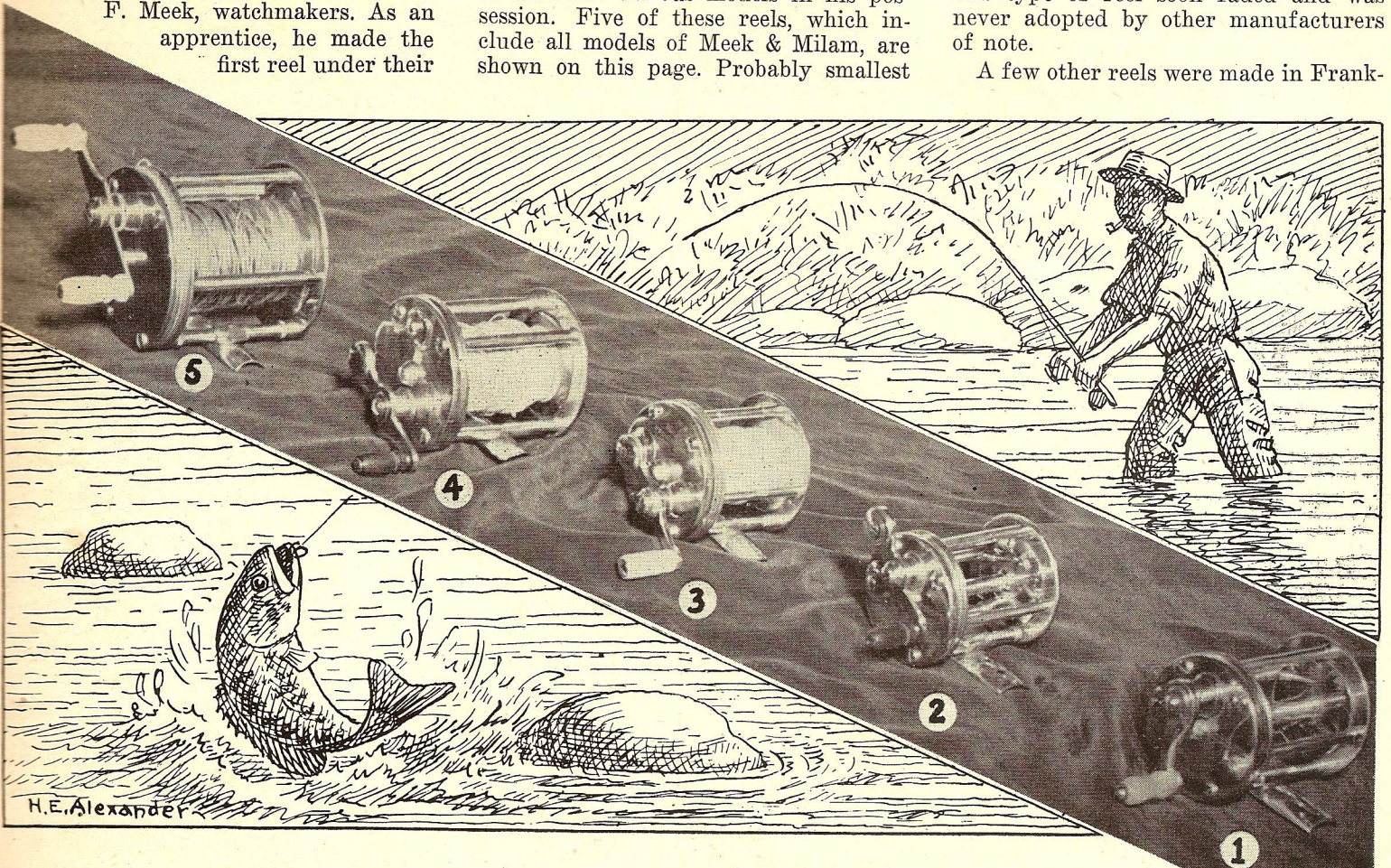
He has started a new collection and to date has various models in his possession. Five of these reels, which include all models of Meek & Milam, are shown on this page. Probably smallest

but foremost is the first multiple-gear reel, which used a quill click. Each screw used was numbered to fit in its own place without being interchangeable.

* * *

ANOTHER first in Kentucky reels was the free-spool reel invented by B. F. Meek, who left Frankfort to set up manufacturing facilities in Louisville in 1882. These reels worked on the same principle as the free-wheeling device used on automobiles a few years ago—one turn of the crank and the spool's momentum would motivate itself several revolutions. However, the popularity of this type of reel soon faded and was never adopted by other manufacturers of note.

A few other reels were made in Frank-



name. He later became sole owner of the Meek & Milam business and continued to make the "Kentucky Reel" until his death.

His son, John Milam, kept the business active until his passing in 1928. With no other reel-makers in the family, the business was discontinued.

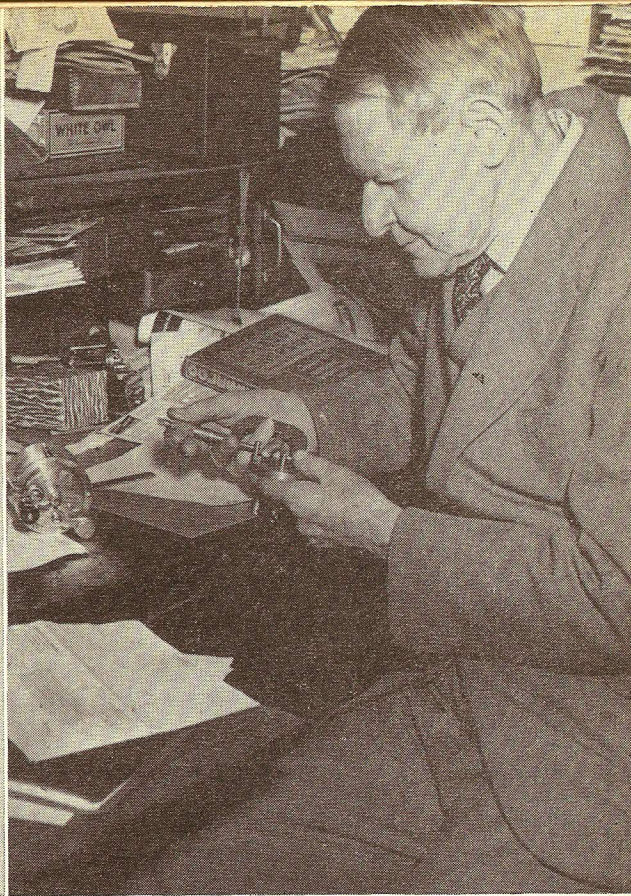
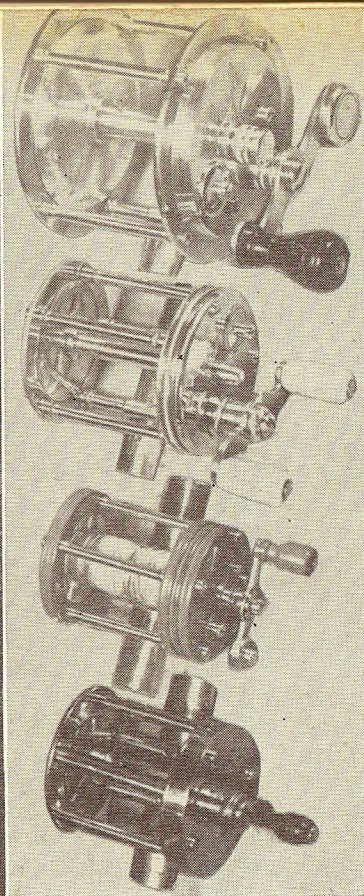
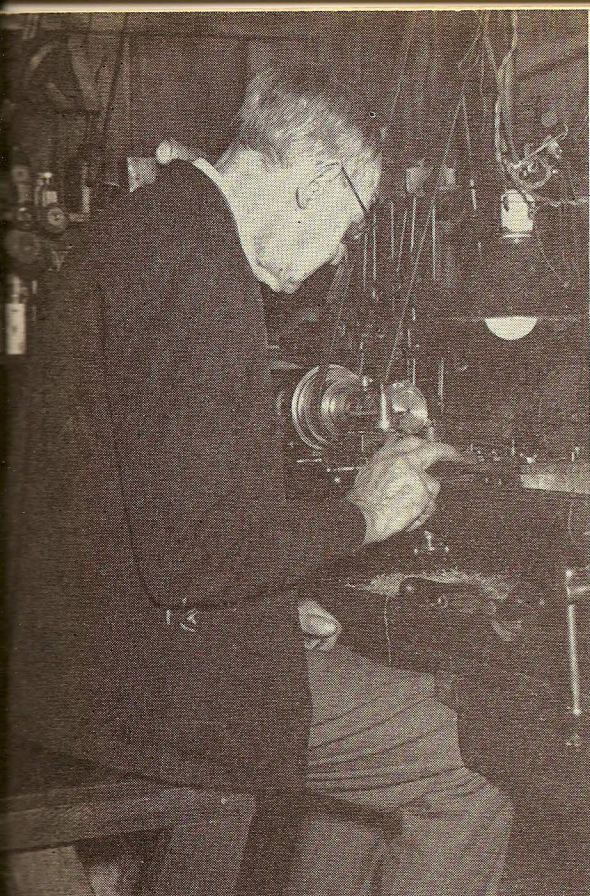
The "Kentucky Reel" was considered one of the best hand-made reels ever made. It became famous by winning awards in Chicago during the Columbia Exposition in 1893; at Bergen, Norway, in 1898; at Paris, France, in 1900, and

COLLECTION of reels above would be a priceless treasure to any dyed-in-the-wool fisherman—and the owner of these is no exception. The reel at right bottom, No. 1, was turned out between 1830 and 1850 by J. F. and B. F. Meek of Frankfort. Every screw was numbered to insure its return to proper place, and a goose-quill was used for a click. No. 2 came some years later, manufactured between 1850 and 1880 by Meek and Milam. No. 3 is a free-spool reel of 1880 vintage, the product of B. F. Meek & Son. No. 4, described by its owner as a Sage Reel, was on the market around 1830 to 1840. No. 5 is the "new" reel of the lot, and it is perhaps 20 years old because B. C. Milam & Son made this style up to 1928.

fort along with the Milam Reels. J. L. Sage made a few, but didn't produce them on a very large scale. Some of his reels are still in use today.

Another famous reel that started production in Frankfort, in 1883, is the Gayle Reel, made by George W. Gayle & Son.

During the past 63 years the Gayle Reel has made a reputation among sportsmen who appreciate fine workmanship. The Gayle Reel, with its production interrupted in 1942 due to the war,



is being carried on by the inventor's son, Clarence Gayle, an 80-year-young engineer. He believes that if a reel isn't precision-built, it isn't right. And he doesn't trust his judgement without his micrometer.

When production of the Gayle Reel was suspended to make way for government contracts, the company went all-out in war production of different component parts for the atomic bomb. Gayle, however, was unaware of the fact that his newly modernized shop was taking part in the manufacture of the new deadly weapon, and didn't discover it until several weeks after such bomb had exploded over Hiroshima.

Some of the parts machined for this bomb were made from a new aluminum

POSSIBLY 100 YEARS of fishing pleasures have been cast by the reel pictured below. It is a model of the first multiple-gear reel made in the United States, and dates back to the period between 1830 and 1850, when J. F. and B. F. Meek began manufacturing at Frankfort.



alloy. Gayle, realizing the durability and lightness of this metal, decided to use it in the manufacture of two new reels. These reels will soon undergo mass production and will be ready for distribution sometime within the next few months.

One of the aluminum reels will have a one-inch spool, without click or level winder, and will be sold at a popular price. The other will be patterned from the Gayle bait casting reel which is standard in size, and will carry the accessories of click and level winder. This reel will sell for approximately \$20.

Clarence Gayle has made four models of casting reels. One of his most popular models, which became very famous, is the standard size bait casting reel, made of German silver. This reel is turned out by hand, precision-built and is guaranteed for life. It sells for \$100 and is made on special orders only.

This reel was used by the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who received one as a gift from Gayle. The octogenarian Gayle is very proud of the letter he received from the President which stated in part:

"It was more than kind of you to want me to have that fine hand-made reel which you presented to me through the courtesy of Governor Laffoon. Ever so many thanks."

Gayle is also proud of the fact that he is practically the only reel manufacturer who participates in the angling sport. From his many years of experience he says that anyone using a Gayle reel will never be worried by screws working loose or any other parts causing trouble regardless of the size of the fish taken.

"If any screws work loose or come out in a Gayle reel, I will give them a new reel," he assures his clients, and adds, "My reels are made to take it."

A NAME SYNONYMOUS with the art of reel making is that of Gayle, of the Frankfort Gayles. In shop scene at left above 80-year-old Clarence Gayle turns down a part on lathe for one of his fine hand-made reels. Never trusting his eyesight, or that of anyone else for that matter, he uses a micrometer to check all parts, as is the case in picture at right. Center is a display of his handiwork. The top reel in group is a heavy lake or light sea reel made of German silver, 1941 model. Second from top is a hand-made reel, 1934 model, also of German silver. Hardened rubber end cases are incorporated in the model second from bottom, which was hand-made as far back as 1886. The first reel made by Clarence is the one shown at bottom. Hand-made of brass in 1885, he still uses it for his own fishing pleasures.

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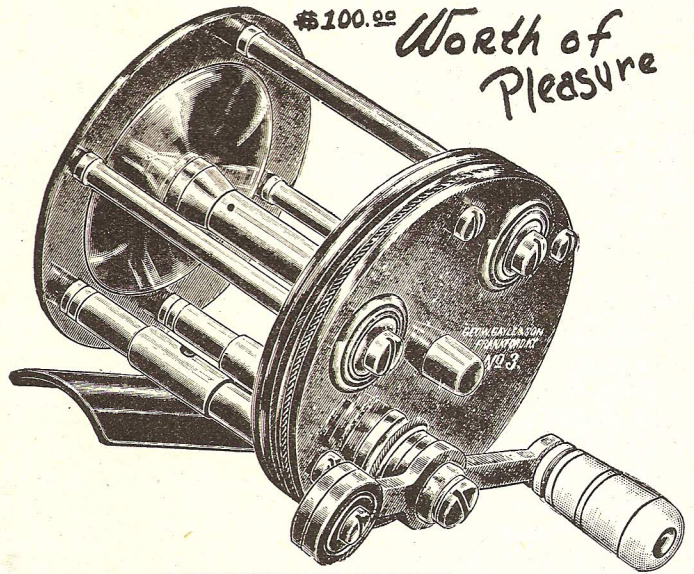
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Fishermen Take Heed

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

Brashers Creek, Spencer and Shelby Counties . . . bass, crappie, cat and pan fish (stocked last fall) . . . live bait.

Clear Creek and Thomas Lake, Shelby County . . . bass, crappie, cat and pan fish (stocked last fall) live bait and artificial.

Stephensburg Lake and Nolin River, Hardin County . . . bass, goggle-eye, cats and blue gill . . . mostly artificial.

Hardinsburg Reservoir Lake, Breckinridge County . . . bass, blue gill and crappie . . . plugs and minnows.

Clover Creek, Breckinridge County . . . bass, blue gill and rough fish . . . minnows; very little artificial bait.

Nolin and Green Rivers, Hart County . . . bass, white perch and rough fish . . . live bait and artificial.

Dale Hollow Lake, Cumberland County . . . bass and bream . . . minnows and artificial.

Green River, Adair County . . . bass and catfish . . . minnows.

Water Works Lake, Taylor County . . . bass and bream . . . artificial and minnows.

Little Kentucky River, Carroll County . . . bass and crappie . . . artificial and minnows.

Kentucky River, Carroll County . . . bass, crappie and other game fish . . . minnows and all types artificial.

Elkhorn Creek, Scott County . . . bass, newlight, red-eye, blue gill . . . minnows and artificial.

Stoner Creek, Bourbon County . . . bass, newlight, red-eye, blue gill . . . minnows and artificial.

Dix River, Lincoln County . . . bass, newlight, bream and rough fish . . . minnows and artificial.

Hanging Fork, Lincoln County . . . bass . . . artificial and flies.

Beaver Creek, Floyd County . . . bass and catfish (stocked in 1945) . . . minnows and artificial.

Kinniconick Creek, Salt Lick and Laurel Creeks, Lewis County . . . muskie, bass, walleye pike and pan fish . . . lamper eel, live bait for bass and muskie, and all types artificial.

Fox and Fleming Creeks, Fleming County . . . bass, crappie, catfish and pan fish . . . minnows, worms, some plugs.

North Fork Licking River and Cabin Creek, Mason County . . . bass, pan fish and cats . . . worms and minnows.

Tygarts Creek, Carter and Greenup Counties . . . muskie, bass, pike, newlight, goggle-eye and rough fish . . . mostly artificial bait.

Little Sandy River, Carter and Greenup Counties . . . muskie, bass, pike, crappie, goggle-eye, newlight . . . mostly artificial bait.

Beaver Creek, Menifee County . . . bass, muskie, pan fish and catfish . . . artificial and live bait.

Licking River, Menifee County . . . muskie, bass and drum . . . artificial and live bait.

Cumberland River, Fishing, Pittman and Buck Creeks, Pulaski County . . . bass and pike . . . plugs and flies.

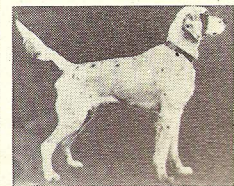
Red Bird River, Clay County . . . bass . . . live bait and artificial.

South Fork and Goose Creek Rivers, Clay County . . . all species . . . live and artificial.

Dale Hollow Lake, Clinton County . . . bass, bream and catfish . . . minnows and artificial.

Little South Fork of Cumberland River, McCreary and Wayne Counties . . . bass, pike and catfish . . . minnows and artificial.

Cumberland River, Knox and Harlan Counties . . . bass and catfish . . . minnows and artificial.



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