

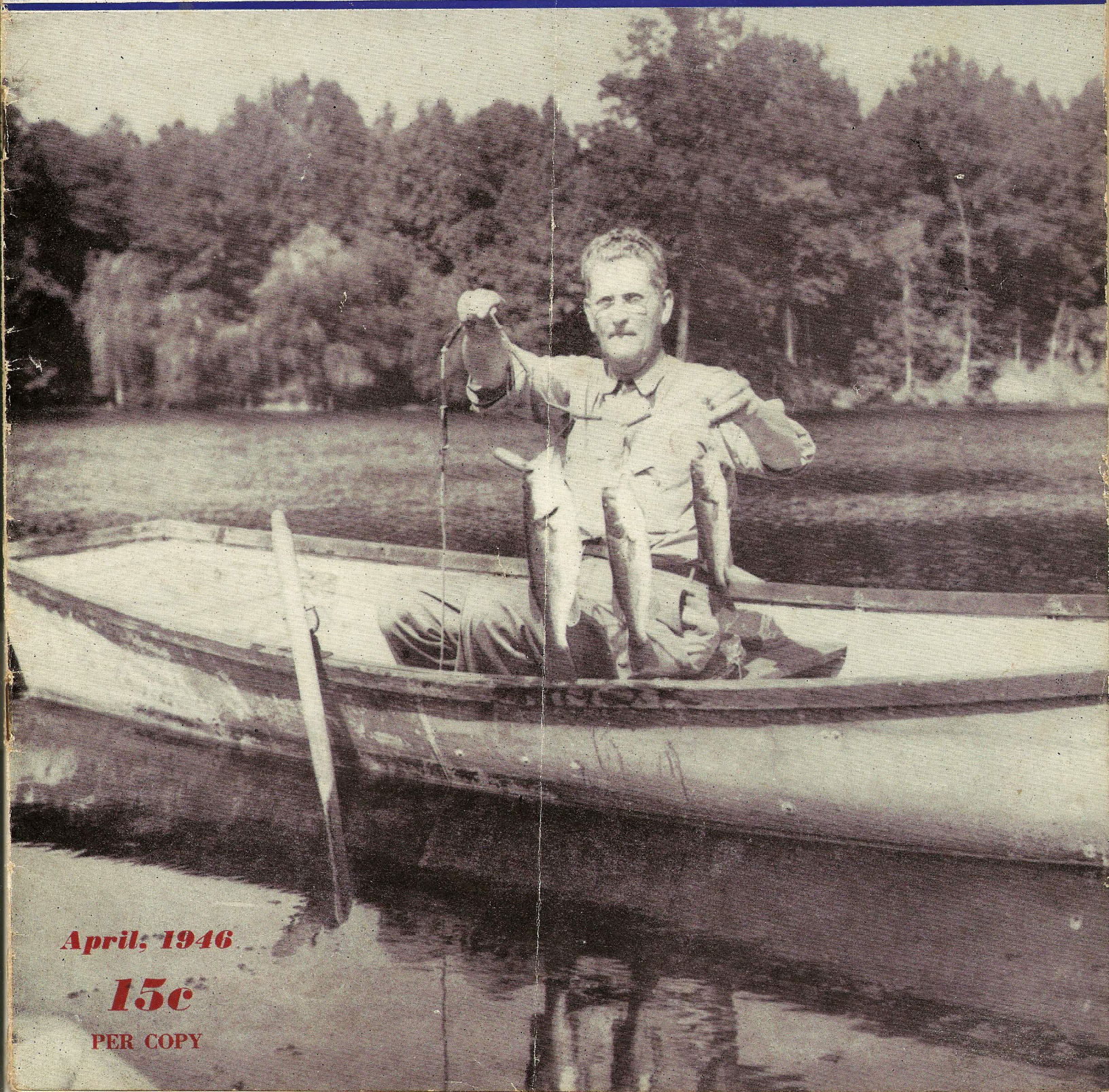


THE KENTUCKY



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D. T. CAYWOOD
Editor-Manager

EMMA CAYWOOD
Advertising Manager



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Frontispiece—W. P. (Bud) Games, of Owensboro, with three nice large mouth caught in Carpenter Lake, near Owensboro. Picture courtesy of George Cannon.

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Behind The Scenes With Kentucky Sportsmen

No. 1 In A Series Of Personality Sketches On Sportsmen Worth Knowing—Clarence W. Gayle, Maker Of Fine Fishing Reels

By D. T. Caywood

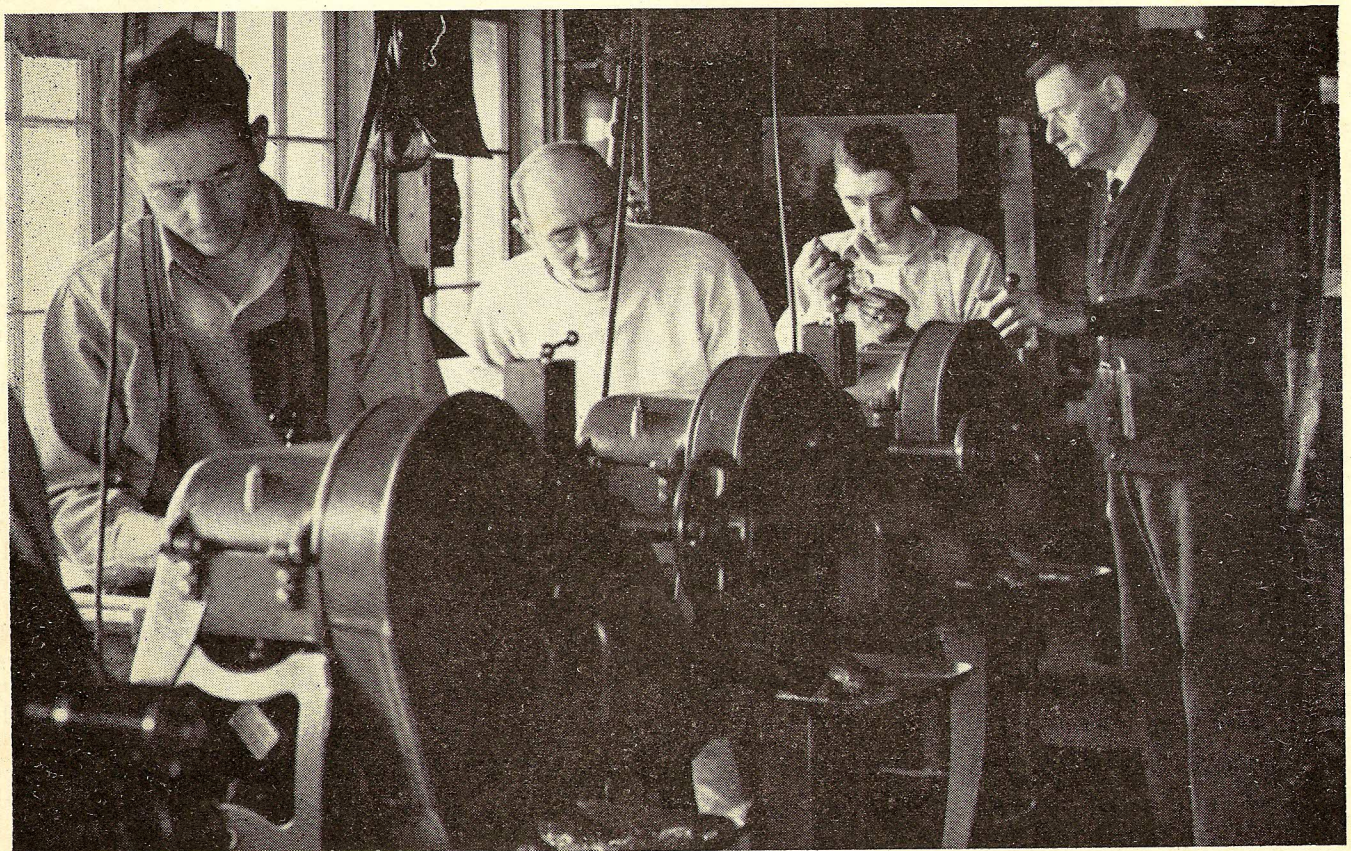
The Axis powers thoroughly whipped and the world once more made safe for democracy—for perhaps another 20 years—Clarence Gayle has turned from making precision parts for the devastating atom bomb to his first love, the normal and more peaceful pursuit of making fine fishing reels.

Sportsmen everywhere will welcome this news for the name Gayle has for a century been synonymous with fine reels. Mr. Gayle's father, the late George W. Gayle, was the first of a family of reel craftsmen who learned the secret of applying precision tooling to the making of fishing reels from the master craftsmen of another century, Meek and Milam. Their product gave Frankfort probably its first claim to worldwide fame among devotees of the sport eulogized in the works of Izaak Walton.

(Continued on Page 26)



"REEL" BRAIN—You couldn't say that Clarence Gayle, expert reelmaker, was a man whose brain was reeling—not after seeing some of the works of art he has turned out.



GAYLE SHOP INTERIOR—An interior view of the George W. Gayle & Son reel shop in Frankfort, with the present proprietor, Clarence Gayle (right), shown supervising the operation of the machines by (from left) Allen Gee, Emery Bryan and John North.

League And Division Revisions Of Game And Fish Laws Enacted At 1946 Legislative Session

By Al Blum,
President League of Kentucky Sportsmen

During the recent General Assembly various laws to simplify the procedure of that Division and also regulations as required by the League of Kentucky Sportsmen, were enacted. The bill as it was planned by the Division of Game and Fish and the League of Kentucky Sportsmen was changed very little in its final passage through the Legislature.

Since the present quail law was put into effect, many sportsmen complained that the open season beginning November the 10th and running to January the 1st, was too early for most parts of Kentucky. The present law changes that to November the 20th until January the 15th. The rabbit season this year will be the same as the quail season.

Another bone of contention was the split season on squirrels. For several years now the season on squirrels has been divided, the first season beginning August the 1st and running until September the 15th, and the second season from November the 24th running to December the 31st. Under the new law this season has been changed to August the 15th to November the 30th, both dates inclusive.

In the law that will become effective in June all impounded waters in the State of Kentucky including navigable waters, will be legally open to commercial and pole and line fishing during the month of May, except that part of the water above the last lock and dam up stream. The Commission through its emergency power passed a resolution opening these same waters to fishing for both commercial fishing and pole and line fishing during this coming month of May. So it will be legal to fish either with pole and line or nets below the last lock and dam up stream in all navigable waters, and also included in this will be Kentucky Lake, Herrington Lake, and Dale Hollow Lake.

- (a) Fishing License
Resident\$1.00
Nonresident 5.00
(b) 3 day Fishing licenses
Nonresident only 1.00
(c) Commercial fishing license (including tag for one hoop net and one snag line).

- Resident 5.00
Nonresident25.00
(d) Ohio River fishing license (residents of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois only).
..... 1.00
(e) Ohio River Commercial fishing license (including tag for one hoop net and one snag line, and to be issued to residents of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois only) 5.00
(f) Wholesale fish dealer's license
Resident10.00
Nonresident25.00
(g) Seine tag for each 100-feet of seine or part thereof
Resident 2.00
Nonresident (holder of Ohio river commercial fishing license) 2.00
Other nonresidents 4.00
(h) Hoop net tag (for each additional net)
Resident 1.00
Nonresident holder of Ohio River commercial fishing license 1.00
Other nonresidents 2.00
(i) Snag line tag (for each additional snag line)
Resident 1.00
Nonresident holder of Ohio River Commercial fishing license 1.00
Other nonresidents 2.00
(j) Live bait dealer's license (resident only) 5.00
(k) Musseling license
Resident 5.00
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(o) Taxidermist's license (resident only) 3.00
(p) Commercial guide's license (resident only) 5.00
(q) Rabbit wholesale dealer's license (resident only)10.00
(r) Rabbit retail dealer's license (resident only) 5.00
(s) Fur buyer's license
Resident 2.00
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(t) Fur processor's license (resident only)50.00

natural patriotic motives inspired by the presence in the Armed Forces of the United States of his son, Lt. Colonel Coburn Gayle and three grandsons.

Early in the 1930's, a Japanese-made fishing reel began to make its appearance on the American market. The reels bore the mark of "George W. Gayle and Son," and retailed at 50 cents, the same price for which Clarence Gayle had been selling his machine-made reel. However, the price to the dealer was considerably lower since the Japanese manufacturer paid Jap wages and could undersell Clarence Gayle with a wide margin of profit.

So, Mr. Gayle entered the war against his personal enemy on May 30, 1943, and for two years he filled government contracts, hiring local carpenters, painters, farmers and housewives to staff his plant, an unpretentious building at the rear of his residence at 419 Logan street. Tools were hard to get, so Mr. Gayle pressed into use all he could beg and borrow, including a lathe made in 1883 and used by his father, but which he describes as being "as modern as tomorrow."

How well he did his job for his country and how complete was his retaliation toward his personal enemy is attested in the fact that Clarence Gayle's plant was congratulated for its war role by General Henry H. (Hap) Arnold, chief of the Army Air Forces.

But now it is back to the manufacture of fishing reels for Clarence Gayle, who at 79, is still the driving force behind his small, but well-equipped plant. As an astute business man, Mr. Gayle hopes it

(Continued on next Page)

Behind The Scenes With Kentucky Sportsmen

(Continued from Page 7)

For a period beginning more than two years ago and ending after the end of the recent world conflict, Clarence Gayle, successor to his father and perpetuator of the fame of Meek and Milam, was engaged in the making of precision parts for the atom bomb that brought Japan to her knees. And therein lies a story that will bear repeating.

Clarence Gayle had a grudge against the Japanese, besides his

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(Continued from Page 25)
will be a cheap reel that returns to popular demand, for he can, paradoxically though it may seem, make more profit from the cheaper product than he can from the \$100 to \$300 reel that is known the world over. The cheaper reel is entirely machine-made, while the more expensive one is a hand-tooled item into which hours upon hours of painstaking care must go.

Aside from his paramount interest in the business of turning out fine reels, Mr. Gayle is an ardent sportsman in his own right. He loves to fish, is an expert swimmer and has to his credit the manufacture of some of the finest boats that Frankfort, as a river port, has ever seen. He has built canoes, skiffs, seasleds, and even a houseboat. The

seasleds—four of them—were all named for his wife, Emma Kavanaugh Gayle, and each carried a flag made from the petticoats she had worn under her wedding dress. They were the Emma K. I, Emma K. II, Emma K. III and Emma K. IV., and their names were the cause of a story that Mr. Gayle is very fond of telling.

"How odd," a woman once remarked, when told that all four of the boats were named for Mr. Gayle's wife, "that Mr. Gayle should have had four wives, and all named Emma K.!"

Clarence Gayle's life has centered in a one-block radius of the place where he now resides. Half a block away, he chased rabbits as a boy, where Capitol Avenue now runs. He married the girl across the street and moved diagonally into Logan street. In the course of his business he has traveled far and wide in these United States, but so far as his actual living is concerned, it has been contained in that one city square bounded by Capitol Avenue on the West, Fourth Street on the North, Murray street on the East and Todd street on the South.

But, insofar as his personal influence is concerned—particularly upon the fisherman—Clarence Gayle has been a worldwide figure, like his father who immediately preceded him and like Meek and Milam, who lived in another century.

April Beckons

(Continued from page 15)

plenty of sport here for all of us for hundreds of years to come and with the proper cooperation from the individual fisherman Kentucky may one day return to the head of the procession of states with something to offer exponents of the art of using rod and reel.

In fact, with all of the shortcomings some sportsmen ascribe to the state, Kentucky has just been cited by the United States Biological Survey, a division of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, as having shown the most improvement in wildlife conditions in 1945 of any state in the Union.

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A Bounty For Bounteous Reynard?

By Pete Greer

"Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him work diligently to build..."

A short time ago at a meeting of sportsmen a gentleman moved for the League of Kentucky Sportsmen to go on record as in support of a Legislative Bill designed to remove red foxes from the protected game list, and further, to advocate a bounty for their noses. The bounty would also apply to the gray species.

Of course the measure was quickly defeated, for the purpose of the League is to build and not destroy, and to use every effort to secure better hunting, fishing and sports afield. The League as a body cannot at any time advocate measures that may harm any individual member's sport.

The gent who made the motion acted in good faith, no doubt, but certainly he was unaware of past events. Let me point out something. A few years ago at the request of fox hunters, quail and rabbit hunters and others, the League did look with favor on a Bill that removed the gray fox from the protected list. Sportsmen had complained of the ever increasing numbers of grays, declaring they were ruining their respective sports, and claiming if they were outlawed they would soon be wiped out. But what has happened? Every year since the gray was declared an outcast

the hue and cry has gone up, "Too many gray foxes". Did the sportsman exterminate them? No! Many say that foxes travel only at night to any extent, and even then they are hard to find, yet the same men will howl to the high heavens for a bounty on the gray's scalp. It just doesn't add up in my book. It strikes me the sportsmen want the foxes erased from Kentucky fields but everyone is waiting for John to do the work, and now they want to pay him for it. Again it doesn't make sense. Neither does the idea to outlaw the red species. In recent months many sportsmen have been questioned about their fox-killing activities and to date only five grays are on the death records. And every day the grays are free for the taking.

Many sections of the state are, no doubt, over-run with foxes, of both red and gray species, spoiling the night hunters' sport and perhaps becoming a serious menace to numerous small game birds and animals, but eradicating them is not the task of the League of Kentucky Sportsmen. It must be done by individuals and even then extreme care must be exercised that the game red species is not exterminated. The sport of chasing foxes is just as dear to the fox hunter as the pursuit of quail is to the quail hunter, and he has every right to protection for his game.

It must be remembered that the League is an organization of sportsmen, composed of quail hunters,

rabbit and squirrel hunters, coon hunters, fox hunters, fishermen and others, united to secure better game laws, better law enforcement, a wise and careful use of license moneys to provide better sports afield and astream, and countless other things. Therefore, to lend support to any measure that may mar a member's sport would be contrary to the constitution of the League. If the fox hunters as a group desire passage of a law that would throw the reds off the protected list, they'll give it the necessary support.

We would suggest the sportsmen forget the red foxes and concentrate on the grays. Individually, in groups or as sportsmen's clubs, organized hunts should be staged. We have a feeling they'd be a lot of fun and would serve as a means to wipe out a lot of grays.

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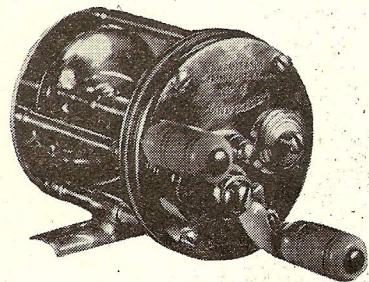
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