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**BLACK BASS MOST POPULAR**

By DICK WOOD

**T**HE black bass, small-mouth or large-mouth, is the most popular game fish that swims in American inland waters.



Landing a 10-pound large-mouth bass in a Florida lake near Lynne

There have been many hot arguments as to which is the gamer, bass or trout. Certainly the bass is no inferior fighter. The small-mouth bass taken on a flyrod will put up a fight not surpassed by any fresh water game fish of equal weight.

The small-mouth is generally taken in rapids, fast water over a rocky bottom, or around rock ledges. The large-mouth frequent lakes, ponds and still holes in rivers, preferring weed beds and lily pads for cover. Dark splotches of the small-mouth are inclined to be vertical. In the large-mouth, the dark line is lengthwise of the fish. Scales of the former are smaller.

**Plenty of Fight**

The main points of identification are the mouth, and cheek scales. The angle of the small-mouth's maxillary stops under the eye; in the large-mouth it extends back of the eye. The small-mouth has 17 rows of scales on the cheek to 10 or 11 on the large-mouth. The small-mouth is also apt to announce its cognomen in the way it fights, because no large-mouth can equal it.

Both are taken by bait fishing, but the most popular method of taking the large-mouth is by casting "plugs." The small-mouth takes flies readily, but especially nature lures and spinner flies. The most killing lure I used last season for small-mouths was a Peck's underwater minnow in the Babcock pattern.

They just ate it up!

One of the best early season lures for the bass is the helgramite, found under the stones of mountain streams. Other favorite baits are minnows, frogs, spring lizards, grasshoppers, crickets, crawfish, and bugs. Flyrod artists will need a box full of popular bass bugs, in about 1-0 size.

**Watch For Strike**

Bait casting is generally done from boats. Start the season with a new 18-lb. test, silk braided line and a few half-ounce lures. I am partial to the River Runt and Crab Wiggler lures; although a jointed minnow is second best. Under-water lures should predominate. A few weedless feathered lures are needed to get among the pads. Make your casts close in under over-hanging banks, next to rock ledges and weed patches.

When fly fishing for small-mouth, let your lure ride down with the rapids, pulling it by submerged rocks or over underwater crevices where the bass hide. Work the big pools. Let your underwater lure sink, then retrieve a yard at a time, imparting life-like action. When fishing surface bugs, leave them motionless on the water for a minute, then twitch the rod tip, and look out for the strike.

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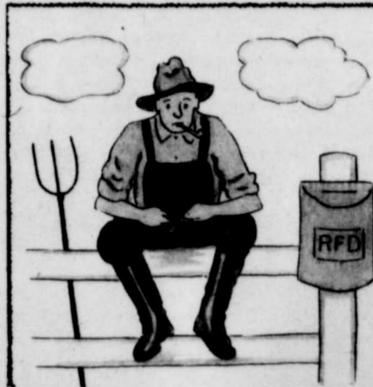
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**JEST A-WHITTLIN'**  
**AN' A-THINKIN'**  
BY PETE GETTYS



There's all kinds of weather signs—some of 'em fairly accurate—us fellers on the farm use—at least get a good deal of fun out of it: rain crow a-hollerin'—almanac signs—an' things like that—but the beatin'est thing anybody ever heard of was a feller experimentin' and studyin' to work out a way to tell how hot or cold it is by a cricket's chirp, unless it gets colder than 50 degrees, for when it gets chillier than that crickets jest don't sing. Nearly everybody knows that the warmer the weather the faster a cricket chirps—the way to do is to take out your watch and count the chirps in a second and add 40 to it, and that's the temperature.

An' talkin' about crickets, the bug books say their ears are in their legs—and that cicadas—we call 'em locusts—all the females are deaf—an' the funny part about it, that "zizzy" sound they make is supposed to be a love song and his best gal can't even hear him singin'.

In Ireland the pig's known as "The Gentleman that pays the rent"—and he's about that here, too—'cause a hog'll produce more meat from 100 lbs. of feed than any other animal. He'll eat and

grow and fatten on more kinds of feed than will any other critter—an' hogs can be sold at any time or age or weight.

Ever look in the dictionary and see the different things "hog" means? "A sheep about a year old that has never been shorn;" "To cut short a horse's mane so as to make it bristly."

Surely no more colossal ignorance could exist than some town fellers' sense, or lack of it, about things in the country. The other day a new neighbor came to borrow a gun to shoot a "chimney sweep" that sang all night. It was a mocking bird, and he thought it a "chimney sweep" 'cause it sat up on his chimney and sang—and his wife complained 'cause the quail waked her up at daylight "Bob-whiting" and called the bull a "male cow"—and fussed because there was water in the buttermilk.

Eatin' peas with your knife and usin' toothpicks maybe ain't the best modern manners, but a lot of fellers in the country who do this have got a lot more brains in their head, and know a mocking bird from a "chimney sweep."

Truth is there's a lot of comfort and satisfaction in breakin' some of the rules of etiquette—eating chicken with your fingers and sopping big hot sody biskits in the gravy, and "sucking up" your coffee like the old folks used to. May not be just the thing to do—but it makes 'em taste mighty good.