

# LINES and Leaders

CFFA

NOVEMBER 1977

Vol. 4 No 8

## Meeting Notice

PROGRAM: "Conservation" presented by CFFA's Conservation Committee.

WHERE: Knight's of Columbus Hall on Bloomfield Avenue in Windsor.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 9, 1977.

TIME: Fly Tying - 6:45 p.m.  
Program - 7:30 p.m.

CFFA's Conservation Committee will present this month's program on the club's conservation efforts. Featured will be an excellent film, "Jeremies River Project", showing one of CFFA's finest achievements, followed by a question and answer period. The program will be preceded by a few CFFA fly tyers demonstrating some favorite patterns.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All members of CFFA should take note that this newsletter is your official notification that your dues for 1978 are now payable.

Separate invoices will not be mailed out as they have in the past. This change has been facilitated by the fact that LINES AND LEADERS is now being delivered via First Class Mail.

Up until now, LINES AND LEADERS was delivered via Bulk Mail and was not forwarded if your address changed. Hence it could not serve as an official mailing vehicle.

In the past, separate invoices were mailed to each member, reminding them that their current membership was expiring and that the new dues were payable.

CFFA can now save the expense of this separate mailing by including the notice and renewal form in LINES AND LEADERS. Please check page 11, fill out the form and mail your check to John Blake at the address shown on the form.

Don't delay! It may slip your mind and you'll miss a great year with CFFA and LINES AND LEADERS.



# A Quill and a Flyrod



by Ben Johnston

Again this month, LINES AND LEADERS offers another fine "Under the Tyler's Lann" article by the father/son team of Leo and Mark Leggitt. Mark, however, has provided a double barreled approach with Part 1 of his own seven part article, "Complexities of Minutae."

LINES AND LEADERS also welcomes back an old feature, "Caudal Finis" by Ken Parkany. He has promised more. Now that I've printed his promise, he has to come through.

## A Note from TU

The Charter Oak Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 1, 1977 in Manchester at the Mott's Community Center, Mott's Supermarket, 587 East Middle Turnpike (Route 6) at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will feature Mr. Ed Belak, the New England Officer for the International Atlantic Salmon Foundation. Mr. Belak will bring with him the Foundation's film on Atlantic Salmon and will conduct a discussion on the efforts to restore Atlantic Salmon in the Connecticut River. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

## Connecticut Audubon Bulletin

Dear Connecticut Sportsman;

We need your help on an issue that affects us both. Lead shot.

The Connecticut Audubon Society is conducting a research project designed to discover, measure, and isolate problem areas where waterfowl may be ingesting lead pellets. We all need to know if and where such a problem exists. You can help with this important project by removing the gizzards from all ducks and geese that you legally harvest this season.

Place the gizzard in a small plastic bag with your name, address, the date the bird was collected, the exact area it was taken, and the species of waterfowl (if you don't know, put unknown species). Place labeled gizzards in your freezer and write or call Milan G. Bull, Field Director, Connecticut Audubon Society, 2325 Burr St., Fairfield, CT 06430 (Phone 259-5606).

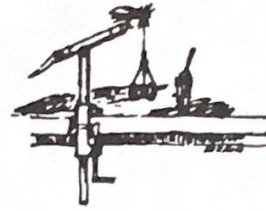
We will pick up gizzards regularly during the hunting season. For further information, please contact me at the above address.

Sincerely,

Milan Bull  
Field Director



# Under the Tyer's Lamp



Leo R. Leggitt

Mark S. Leggitt

## The Pill Stonefly

We are going to come right out and say it. This is the best stonefly imitation that we've run into. Sure, other imitations constructed of rubber and plastic may look more life-like to the tyer, but none that we've tried can compare in "buggyness" and fish catching abilities as this one. It has scored for us all over Connecticut and New York and the well equipped nymph fisherman had best include a few in his nymph books.

The Pill Stonefly represents the Perla genre of the family Plecoptera, the stoneflies. The predominance of this nymph in eastern waters cannot be passed over gently. While each stream offers its' own particular "super" hatches, none that we've fished in Connecticut are consistent. One that has a spectacular Hendrickson hatch almost completely lacks the Pale Evening Duns. Another that boasts the Dun Variants lacks the March Browns. But every stream that we've sampled contains fishable populations of the perla nymphs. From the gentle Natchaug in eastern Connecticut to the roaring Housatonic in the west, the Perla nymphs that we've collected have proven to us the quantity and availability of this nymph. This is due, in part, to the nymphs long (3 year) maturation cycle. The adult nymph reaches a full 50mm (2 inches) in length and immature samples can be found from 8mm on up. This gives the tyer quite a bit of latitude.

While the color scheme given below is for the most predominate Perla capitata, variance of the core body color will produce imitations of the genrae Acroneuria, Isoperla and Taeniopteryx. The construction principles remain the same.

The original Pill Stonefly was designed by Myron Schulman. We have modified his tie a bit, but we must compliment Myron on the excellence of his design.

Construction: (See illustrations on page 6)

1. We use the Mustad 79580 4x long hook for this imitation, sizes 12 to 4.
2. Place hook in vise and tie in dark brown thread 1/8 inch back from eye.
3. Tie in a 6-inch piece of yarn for the under core. Any color is fine.
4. Wind yarn back 3/4 the shank length and then back to the tie-in point. Try to produce a cigar taper. Tie off and trim.
5. Lash two pieces of lead wire (one side at a time) to the opposite, lateral sides of the core. Each piece should extend beyond the length of the core. Cover this assembly with cement. (Continued on next page)



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## The Pill Stonefly

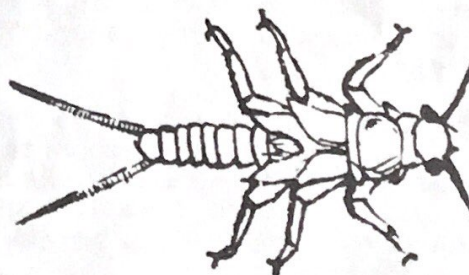
(Continued from previous page)

The lead both weights the nymph and gives it a flattened appearance. Use .010 diameters lead for hook sizes 12-10; .018 diameter for hooks 8-6; and .030 for hook size 4.

6. Trim ends of lead to form tapers both at the front and rear ends of the wool core.
7. Wrap thread to the hook bend. Tie in, on opposite sides, two dark brown goose feather barbules. These are taken from the leading edge of the primary flight feathers. Set them so that the natural curve is outward from the hook.
8. Tie in a 4-inch piece of fine gold wire at the bend. On top of this, tie in a length (1½ to 4 inches) of dark brown mottled turkey feather. It is best to lacquer the underside of this feather first. (The underside is the shiny, non-fuzzy side.) Tie this in so that the underside is facing up and that the length of feather protrudes back over the tails. This will represent the back of the stonefly and should be wide enough to cover the top half of the body.
9. Wind thread forward to a point 2/3 the distance to the hook eye. Tie in a 5-inch piece of pale yellow wool. Wind the wool back to the hook bend and then forward to the tie in point. Tie off and trim. This underbody should be nicely tapered at the bend but not at the tie-in point.
10. Pull the brown turkey feather forward and tie off at a point where the yellow wool body ends. Do not trim the excess.
11. Spiral the gold wire over the entire abdomen assembly, tie off and trim. Be careful not to twist the turkey feather overlay off the back of the abdomen. The wire serves to segment the abdomen and add a bit of flash.
12. Hold the excess turkey feather back towards the hook bend and tie it down. It will be used for the thorax overlay.
13. Strip the fuzz off the base of a ring-necked pheasant "church window" feather. Tie this in, by the butt so that the tip faces the hook bend. The dull side should face up.
14. Wind the thread forward to a point just back of the hook eye. Tie in another piece of pale yellow wool and wind it back to the completed abdomen and forward again. Tie off and trim. (Continued on next page)

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Nymphs - Dry & Wet Flies  
Caddis





## The Pill Stonefly

(Continued from previous page)

15. Pull the "church window" feather forward to the eye and tie it off. It now represents the legs.
16. Pull the remaining brown turkey feather forward and tie it off at the eye. Trim all but a couple of fibers on each side. Leave these protruding out from the head to represent the antennae.
17. Wrap off the head, whip finish and cement.

On the larger imitations, sizes 4 and 6, we completely twist the body upside down when it is dry. Because of the heavy lead used along the sides of the body, the fly would ride belly-up if this were not done. A bonus gained is that the fly now becomes semi-weedless or snag proof because of the up-riding hook point. This is great when fishing the heavily bouldered sections of the stream where the naturals are found.

We hope that you'll try this fly the next time you're wondering what fly to use in that fast water down below the bend. We think that you'll be delighted.

(Continued on next page)

# Conservation Notebook

By Al Dixon

The Conservation Committee held its Farmington River Clean-up October 16th, after a one week delay caused by rain. I would like to thank those that helped this year, with a special thanks to those who came so far to participate.

We will be working on Sunday, November 6, to complete the work on the Willimantic River this year. We will meet at the west bound rest area on Route I-86 at 10 a.m. We're hoping for a little sunshine. There will be hot coffee and donuts for those who wish to help.

The November meeting of the Conservation Committee will be held at the East Hartford Library, Main Street, East Hartford, on Monday, November 23th at 8 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Anyone wishing to help in any way should contact one of the following people: Vern Nyquist, 229-2937; Bob Anderson, 429-7021; or Al Dixon, 693-2756.

**Limit  
Your  
Kill**

Gene Monty



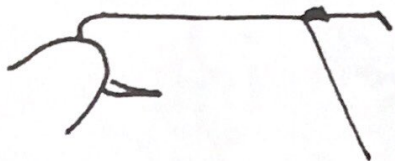
## G.M. Fly-Tying Materials

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East Hartford, Conn. 06108 528-0353

The Pill Stonefly (Continued from previous page)

1+2



3+4



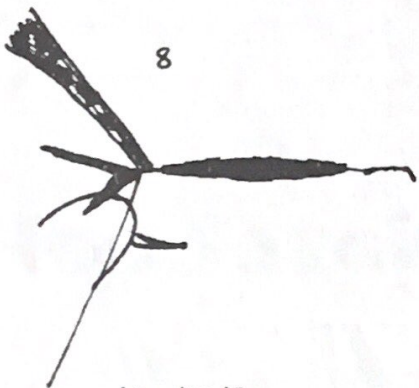
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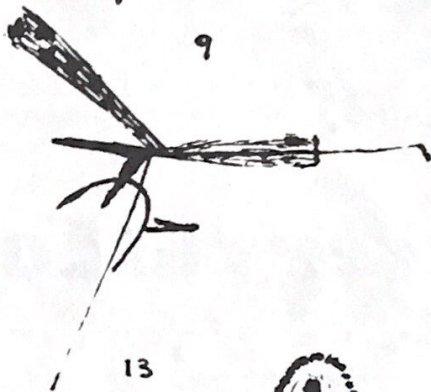
6+7



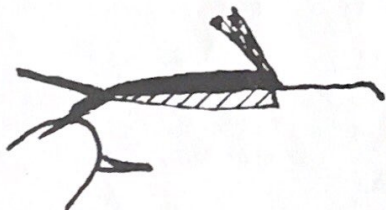
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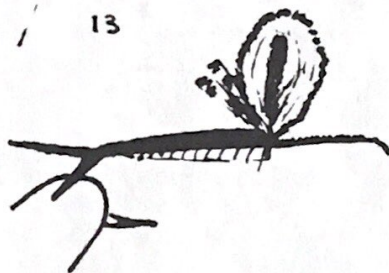
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10+11+12



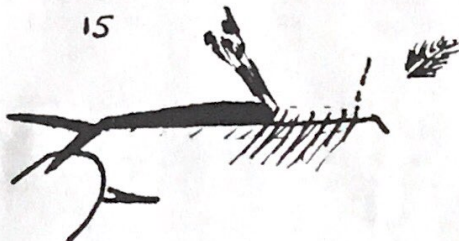
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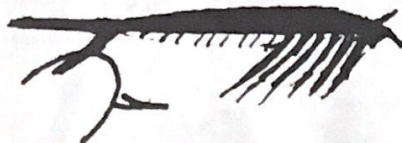
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15



16+17



6



# Complexities of Minutae

Part I

Mark S. Leggitt

The sun rose gently in the far hills. A light breeze swept the nights' mist into tiny swirls and eddies. A pair of pintails moved silently up the valley to their feeding grounds. The reflections of the pines and ledges mirrored themselves on the still water.

I was fishing the Unionville - Collinsville water of the Farmington River, best known for its pond-sized flats and selective fish. Today, I selected the water below Punch Brook to test the fishing actions of two rods that had recently come my way.

Soon after it was light enough to see clearly, fish began working in the main current flows. I studied the water but could see nothing that would trigger a rise.

"Must be working on something in the film" I thought as I pulled out a small sampling net, "better have a look."

The main flow was too deep to sample so I had to be content with what came down the secondary currents. After a minute, I checked my screen but found little more than some stick fragments. I sampled again, this time reaching out as far as possible, but the results were the same.

Several trout were rising now, porpoising gently on the surface and bulging the water as they turned down. I judged from their dorsal fins that they were of a good size. I felt excited.

As the sun rose higher, I could see the trouts' forms drifting up from their holding lies and intercepting something near the surface but I had not yet seen any hatching flies. I decided to try several low water patterns that I carried with me; black and red ants, jassids, beetles and tiny mayfly patterns. None of these worked. I then tried several minute floating nymph patterns which provoked a few inspections but no takes. After two hours of casting, changing flies and casting again the rising stopped. I had been blanked and didn't really understand why. I vowed to find out.

Sound familiar? There is another instance that remains with me. I was fishing alone on the Hosatonic River, trying to escape from the weeks' bustle in the city. I had chosen one of my favorite stretches of the fly fishing only waters, Carse Brook Hole and had arrived early to beat any crowds. The day had brought a light rain and my vest was soaked from the droplets on the trees.

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## Complexities of Minutae

(Continued from previous page)

There were several trout rising gently in the flow and I noticed a few yellow craneflies over the water, but nothing that would cause a rise of fish. I decided to try some small midges.

Although I cast a myriad of imitations to these rising fish, the following hour and a half produced nothing. I knew this rivers' fish were tough but really now. Finally it became impossible to follow my drifts in the failing light and I called it quits. I had again been blanked out and it puzzled me.

How many times has each of us been in situations such as these? Too many, I'm sure. And yet, fishing the miniscale hatches that inhabit our troutstreams can be one of the most rewarding aspects of trouting. But, one must be prepared.

The insects that comprise my discussion will be those that are 6 millimeters in size or smaller. They fall into two groups: those that are water bred and those that live entirely on land. Among those insects that cause a significant rise of trout lie the tiny mayflies; Baetis, Pseudocloeon and Tricorythodes, the vast world of Diptera including our true flies, the midges Chironomus and their sister, the craneflies, the unfortunate land insects that fall prey to the trout; the ants, beetles and leafhoppers, and finally the often misunderstood world of the microcaddis.

Perhaps the best way to begin our attack on the complexities of minutiae is to familiarize ourselves with some of the characteristics of each insect. Identification and imitation will be far easier.

The genus Pseudocloeon consists of the smallest of this country's mayflies, averaging only 4 millimeters in length. Their life cycle is typical of the order Ephemeroptera: egg, nymph, subimago and imago. The life cycle is approximately one year and there are several broods per year among the various species. They are most easily identified by 3 characteristics: they are rarely larger than 5 millimeters; they have olive-brown colored bodies with light grey wings; and most importantly, they entirely lack the hind wings common to all but one other family of mayflies.

(Continued on next page)



## Complexities of Minutae

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The natural habitat of the nymph is the slower flats and pools found on most clear, running streams. They live among the rocks and stones and are especially fond of any underwater grasses or plants, where they congregate.

Because of the enormous size of this family, emergence tables are difficult to construct for our waters. I have witnessed fishable hatches of Pseudocloeon as early as the last week of April and as late as mid November. Several species inhabit my home waters and provide fishing all season long. Perhaps the best Pseudocloeon fishing is to be had during the summer months when the larger mayflies of the early season have completed their life cycles.

Although I have enjoyed excellent fishing to the emerging adult, the most consistent troutting with this fly has been to the spinner falls. Interestingly, while the subimagos are virtually always olive-brown in body coloration, the imagoes take on a myriad of colors ranging from the more somber browns and olives to the brilliant yellows and oranges. Because of the concentrations of insects involved during spinner falls, the trout will be more likely to set up steady rising patterns and become more susceptible to the proper imitation.

The genus Baetis is a cousin to the Pseudocloeon, similar in its body and wing colorations. Both the Baetis and Pseudocloeon adults have two tails, which identifies them easily from other blue winged olive mayflies.

The most identifiable differences between the two families are these: Baetis are larger than Pseudocloeon averaging 7 millimeters in body length; they have the tiny hind wings which Pseudocloeon is missing; and the adults emerge from their nymphal shucks well below the waters' surface whereas the Pseudocloeon and most other mayflies emerge at or on the surface. Given these clues, the entomological troutster should have little trouble distinguishing between the two.

The habitat of Baetis parallels that of Pseudocloeon; slow, weedy water being the best. Baetis are, however, adapted to living in the faster currents. The brood span of Baetis is also a long one, spanning the entire season, from April to November. In warmer climates, they can be found hatching on bright days in the dead of winter.

(Continued on next page)



## Complexities of Minutae

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Because of the larger size of this genre, both the subimago and imago stages of Baetis are important to the angler. I have found trout very selective to the subimago even when heavy concentrations of other large mayflies were present. I remember well one rainy day in May. I was fishing the Schoolhouse Pool of New Yorks' Beaverkill River and though there were excellent hatches of both Hendricksons and Blue Quills coming down the pool, the trout fed selectively to the Baetis.

An interesting observation concerning both the Baetis and Pseudocloeon are their preference for rainy, overcast weather. Both flies seem to hatch in incredible force when these conditions exist. No longer must the trouterman hang-up his fly rod because of rains.

The final mayfly to be discussed is the "ting white-winged black", the Tricorythodes. This fly has gained national exposure through a number of excellent articles led off by Vincent Mainaro's "The Hidden Hatch" published in the July 1969 issue of Outdoor Life. Later publications have risen this mayfly to the prominent position that it rightly deserves. The fervor raised by the call "the Tricos are on" rivals that of Green Drake mania.

The genus Tricorythodes is not terribly unlike the Pseudocloeon; the general size averages 4 millimeters; they lack the hind wings common to most mayflies; and the most important stage to fishermen are the imagoes or spinners. There are a few identifiable differences. Tricorythodes have white wings and a black or nearly black body. They also have three tails, further completing the identification.

Members of this genre emerge continually for long spans of time, often as much as three months once hatching has begun. This makes the Tricos a dependable fishing hatch during July, August and September when the larger mayflies have all but gone. The hatch usually begins very early in the morning, often at day break. This past season the daily hatch began at the first light and it was necessary to arrive at the lower Farmington River well before 5 a.m. to catch the initial rise.

Although good fishing can be had to the emerging adult, the best fishing during the Trico's season is to the imago (spinner). The Tricorythodes moult to the imago stage within two hours following its emergence. The moult generally takes place above the stream and can be identified by the tiny white shucks drifting down from the mass of white wings glistening in the sun. Following the moult, mating occurs followed by ovipositing. This completed, the entire mornings' hatch falls "en masse" to the streams' surface to expire. The rise of fish to this can only be described as phenomenal.

End Part I





MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INVOICE

CONNECTICUT FLY FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Due for the year 1978 are now payable. Make check payable to "CFFA" and mail to:

Membership Chairman  
John B. Blake  
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AMOUNT

Will you usually attend the Eastern Council general meetings?  
 Yes  No

Please check any committee you are now on or wish to be on.

- CONSERVATION
- EDUCATION
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- PROGRAM
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- SECRETARIAL DUTIES
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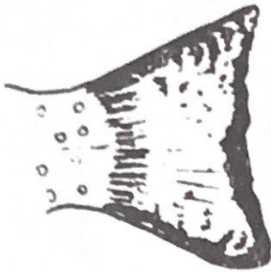
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Your CFFA dues for 1978 are now payable. Now that LINES AND LEADERS is mailed first class, we will use the newsletter to notify everyone that their dues for next year are now being accepted. This is being done to save the club the first class postage expenses of mailing separate invoices.

Please complete the form below, make out your check payable to CFFA, and mail both to the address indicated on the form.

DO IT TODAY, BEFORE YOU FORGET!





## CAUDAL FINIS

by Ken Parkany

Attending a Federation of Fly Fishermen Conclave is an experience every flyfisher should have at least once. Attending a FFF Conclave with three of the zaniest flyfishers alive is an experience every flyfisher should have only once! Not that spending a week with Gary LaFontaine (from Montana), Galen Wilkens (from New York), and Kevin Toman (from California) is bad. Quite the contrary. It's just that I nearly died from laughter. On second thought, I guess there are worse ways to go.

Of course there were serious moments too: business meetings, fly casting and fly tying demonstrations, programs, and other activities too numerous to mention. In fact, so much transpired that I decided to edit a book about the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Federation of Fly Fishermen's Conclave, held in Jackson, Wyoming on August 22 through 25, 1977.

Since the book will most likely be a Limited Edition of 1, I'd like to give you a brief insight by just listing the titles of each chapter. For the sake of clarity, the book is divided into four parts: Travelling, Conclave, Fishing, and Non-Catagorizable. Without further ado, here it is:

### THE 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FFF CONCLAVE

A saga of true American flyfishing experiences

Edited by Ken Parkany

#### Part I: Travelling

- Chapter 1: Baggage + (Almost) Wrong Plane = (Almost) Ulcer /by K. Parkany
- Chapter 2: No Jets Allowed or How to Fly Baggage Class from Denver to Jackson / by K. Parkany
- Chapter 3: Wrong Turn or How to Spend a Week in Jackson, Wyoming and Still be "Lost" / by G. LaFontaine

#### Part II: Conclave

- Chapter 4: Camaraderie or You Meet The Nicest People When You Join the FFF / by K. Parkany
- Chapter 5: Whitlock + Midging = A Super Presentation / by Seen M. All
- Chapter 6: No Room In The John or One of the Highlights of the Conclave / by Ev Rybody
- Chapter 7: A Three Piece Suit or How To Wear Camouflage When You're Not Fishing / by G. LaFontaine



Part II : Conclave (cont'd)

- Chapter 8: Requesting An Autograph Can Be Embarrassing or Make Sure You Have The Right Book With You Before You Ask / by K. Parkany
- Chapter 9: Fishing: Then And Now or The Greatest Story Ever Told / by Lee Wulff
- Chapter 10: Why People Fish or How To Keep An Audience Spellbound / by Mel Krieger
- Chapter 11: Ladies (Bikini) Fashion Show or The Waders Aren't Bad, But The Vest Needs A Few Pockets / by Wished I. Beenthere
- Chapter 12: Attending a Conclave or How To Have Fun On Four Hours Or Less Sleep Per Night / by K. Parkany, G. LaFontaine, G. Wilkens, K. Toman, & Many Others


Part III: Fishing

- Chapter 13: We Fished The Gros Ventre (improperly pronounced Gross Venture) or How To Sound Like a Tourist / by K. Parkany
- Chapter 14: The Monster of Gros Ventre (properly pronounced Grow Vawnt) or How To Meet Famous Anglers By Almost Catching The Largest Trout in The West / by K. Parkany
- Chapter 15: Henry's Fork or A Preview of Fly Fishing in Heaven / by Anyone Who's Beenthere
- Chapter 16: \*!#!?)\*; &\*!?( or How Not To Find A Springhole on The Banks of Henry's Fork / by K. Parkany

Part IV : Non - Catagorizable

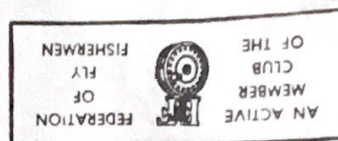
- Chapter 17: The Swingin' Cowboy or Where To Fish in Jackson, but Not For Fish / by Ima Hustler
- Chapter 18: The Back Door or How To Get Into The Cowboy When You're Under Age / by Seven Teen
- Chapter 19: Danger: Flying Pucks or How To Whoop The Locals At Air Hockey Without Getting Killed / by G. LaFontaine & K. Parkany

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NOVEMBER 1977 CALENDAR

- November 2 Board of Director's Meeting
- November 6 Willi Work Cuting, see page 5
- November 9 CFFA Membership Meeting, see page 1
- November 15 Deadline for LINES AND LEADERS
- November 28 Conservation Committee Meeting, see page 5

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

COMING EVENTS

- January Election of Officers
- February Annual CFFA Banquet

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**  
**DETAILS ENCLOSED.**