



A New York Press Association Service

ICE FISHING FOR OTSEGO BASS

I was in Lyman Stanton's ice fishing shanty on Otsego Lake admiring an elaborate job of outfitting. A propane stove kept it at room temperature, a plastic panel in the roof made it bright with sunshine, and a transistor radio emitted soft background music.

Lyman, who comes up from Cobleskill every week-end to fish, was explaining the intricacies of catching the famed Otsego bass — known elsewhere as Lake Whitefish.

All at once enough hell broke loose to satisfy Rube Goldberg. A gentle nibble, too sensitive for our eyes, had made an electrical contact, which set off a bell, which tripped a rat trap, which yanked the line, which set the hook in a hapless Otsego bass.

As Lyman hand-over-handed some 100 feet of line in, I was as bewildered as the fish that soon was thrashing at the surface. Delicately, Lynn slipped a net down into the water and led the fish into it. The mouth tissue on an Otsego bass is paper thin and landing one of these fish is a real art.

But not half as difficult to master as the art of hooking one. In an age of specialization, the guys who catch whitefish and ciscos on Otsego Lake are far and away the winners in the angling fraternity. The reason of course, for the elaborate and extreme procedures, is that these fish are notably hard to catch on hook and line.

At this season of the year a cluster of shanties is strung out along Three-Mile Point, north of Cooperstown. There are other good locations for Otsego bass, but this is where Lynn Stanton has his rig. In an area where the water depth varies from 90 to 105 feet the fisherman chop their holes and place their shanties.

Then the chumming and fishing begins. They lower the chum in a can with a removable lid or bottom controlled with a string — another Rube Goldberg contraption. When the can is directly under the holes and on the bottom the chum is released. There is some argument as to what feed best attracts the fish, but right now cooked tubetini is a strong favorite.

Hooks are specially made in the Otsego Lake area, and are called four-way biters. Four flexible arms are fastened in a cross to the bottom of a sinker, and a snelled hook is attached to each arm. The hooks are small and the point is always up.

After an area has been chummed for a few days, fishing can be in. The nearly universal bait is tin cubes of raw fish — not whitefish nothing as simple as that! But haddock, cod, pollock, or scallops. Would any one of these do? No. You better have them all — the best one varies from day to day. Some fishermen put four kinds of bait on a four-way biter in order not to take chances.

Then you let your rig rest on the bottom with the tubetini, and the difficult part starts. A nibble may move your line not more than 1/16 of an inch. The solution is to use a dry cell and electrical contacts to detect such tremulous fish. One advantage is that when the bell rings and the rat trap explodes in your face, you don't really mind it if you miss the fish.

Just witnessing the mechanical perfection of it all is excitement enough.

Births

- April 6: To Mr. and Mrs. Victor Cassidy, Belfast, a son.
- April 7: To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hackett, Wellsville, a son.
- April 7: To Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hallock, Angella, a son.
- April 7: To Mr. and Mrs. Millard Austin, Rushford, a daughter.
- April 8: To Mr. and Mrs. David Dickerson, Allentown, a son.
- April 8: To Mr. and Mrs. Steven Patterson of Richburg, a son.
- April 8: To Mr. and Mrs. Rich-

- ard Gooladay, Bolivar, a daughter.
- April 8: To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hayden, Alfred, a son.
- April 9: To Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Mead, Bolivar, a son.
- April 11: To Mr. and Mrs. Larry Murphy, Alma, a son.
- April 12: To Mr. and Mrs. John Plumber, Belmont, a son.
- April 12: To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Prince, Friendship, a son.
- April 12: To Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ormsby of Alfred Station, a son.
- April 13: To Mr. and Mrs. Philip Nesbit, Fillmore, a son.
- April 15: To Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Dean, Cuba, a son.
- April 15: To Mr. and Mrs. Morris Snyder of Friendship, a son.
- April 17: To Mr. and Mrs. John Slater, Black Creek, a daughter.

Marriages

- March 6: Miss Kathleen M. Carlin to Dennis L. Dunham, both of Wellsville.
- March 19: Miss Donna Knight of Pelham, N. H., to Rev. William III, Wellsville.
- March 20: Miss Josefina Rivas, Manta, Ecuador to G. David Rossman, Wellsville.
- April 3: Miss Nancy Marsh of Allentown and SP4 Michael Stichel of Bolivar.
- April 3: Miss Patricia Maples and Charles L. Nevoi, both of Andover.
- Miss Dorothy J. Greer of Austin, Texas and James L. Wixson of Wellsville April 10.

Deaths

- Miss Martha Sick, 82, Wellsville, March 30. A sister and a brother survive.
- Mrs. Harriet E. Monroe, 69, of

Wellsville, April 2. Her widower, a son, a sister and two grandchildren survive.

Amelia Worley of Wellsville, April 1. A sister survives. Robert Gullford, Sr., 68, Belfast, April 2. A daughter, a son, a brother and seven grandchildren survive.

Mrs. Frederick Hale, 58, Wellsville, April 2. A son, a daughter survive.

F. Edward Hernblom, 75, Friendship, April 4. A daughter, four sisters and two brothers survive. Clyde Hackett, 80, Belmont, April 4. Two daughters, a son, three sisters and two brothers survive.

Charles B. Franklin, 88, Cananda, April 8. A son and three sisters survive.

Mrs. John Darughn, 66, Wellsville, April 12. A sister and three brothers survive.

Mrs. Clair Rigby, 71, Bolivar, April 14. A son and four grandchildren survive.

Mrs. Dorothy Curry, 65, Wellsville, April 14. Three half-brothers survive.

Robert L. Baker, 48, Scio, April 14. His widow survives.

Mrs. Virginia Harder, 53, Wellsville, April 15. Her widower, two daughters, a son and two brothers survive.

Lafayette Hillman, 77, Cananda, April 15. Two sisters survive.

Neil D. Clark, 78, Belmont, April 16. His widow, two daughters, a son, a brother and a sister survive.

Mrs. Adolph Wesche, 84, Allen, April 16. Three sons and two daughters survive.

Mrs. Albert Dyer Howe, 72, of Wellsville, April 16. Two sons, a daughter, a sister and a brother survive.

Mrs. Eli (Kelly) Gleason, 97, Wellsville, April 18. Three sons, two daughters, a foster son and a brother survive.

Mrs. Gertrude Isaman, 86, Angella, April 18. A brother and several nieces and nephews survive.

Thank You

The Andover Panthers, Babe Ruth and Redwings wish to thank Joyce Western for the use of equipment and men on the Baseball Field. Again, a big Thank You!

Use the Classified Ad Section

Andover Golden Age Club Enjoy Social Gathering

The Golden Age Club met at the Grange Hall, April 19th. There were 41 present, including guests.

A luncheon was served. There were three birthdays: Mrs. Ann Mills, Mrs. Lulu Emery and Mr. Clifford Burdick and one anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spicer, honored at this time. Also Rev. John Shea, who has served 47 years as a priest and has been in Andover 24 years. Cake was furnished by the committee and Ice Cream by the Farmers Market at Wellsville.

They were entertained by some old-time music furnished by Allison Baker on the guitar and Frank Travy on the harmonica.

The next meeting will be May 3rd at the Grange Hall. These members with the last name beginning with T. will be on the Committee.

Andover Youth Fellowship

The Andover Youth Fellowship will hold a swimming party at Alfred Tech, Sunday afternoon at 2:00 P. M.

Cars will leave from in front of the Catholic Parish Hall at 2:00 P. M. A charge of 25c is made by Alfred Tech for those wanting to use the pool.

All in grades 9 - 12 are invited to take part.

It is usually safe to sow annual flower seeds outdoors when the maple trees are coming into leaf.

Bids To Bidders

The Board of Education of Andover Central School requests bids for one 48-passenger School Bus not to exceed in cost of \$12,000.00. Specifications may be secured from Transportation Superintendent, Oliver Kemp, at Bus Garage Office.

Bids shall be delivered sealed to the Principal's Office, Andover Central School, by 10:00 A. M. May 10, 1971.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

The purchase of this Bus is subject to the approval of district voters at the August Meeting to be held Tuesday, Aug. 23, 1971.

Signed: HARRY A. SLADE, Clerk, Central School, Dist. No. 1, Andover, N. Y.

Couples Club and Adult Fellowship To Hold Joint Dinner Meeting

On Saturday, April 24, the Couples Club of the Andover Presbyterian Church and the Adult Fellowship of the United Methodist Church, will hold a joint dinner meeting at the Presbyterian Church at 6:00 P. M.

Mr. and Mrs. Leathersuch of Alfred, New York, will present slides of their recent trip from Maine to Florida.

Too Late To Classify

WANTED — Baby Sitter Days for one pre-school boy. Dial Andover 476-3233 after 6 P. M. 16

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