

FISHING TACKLE TRADITIONS

I was cleaning up my tackle box — sharpening hooks, oiling reels, and such — when it occurred to me that much of the fun of fishing is built around the ritual and traditions of the sport. The opening day of trout season, for example, is likely to be the worst of the year, yet we go with great anticipation simply because we always have.

Mid-winter tackle repairs permit you to re-live the adventures and "lost trophies" of the past. As one ties flies, polishes lures, or repairs tackle during this hibernation period, we continue the sport of "fishing" through traditional activities. This thought was brought home to me with a bang last summer when I visited the Gladding International Fishing Museum at South Otseck. The sport of fishing has grown over the years due to the efforts of tackle craftsmen and inventors, and the care and maintenance of equipment by anglers themselves.

Although the Gladding Museum will not open again until mid-May,

I visited the other day with Nick Christakos, as official of the company, to explore the idea of traditions in fishing tackle. My jaunt to South Otseck turned out to be a trip to the birthplace of the fishing tackle industry in North America.

"The Gladding Corp. was founded in 1816," Nick explained, "and we've never been able to find a tackle manufacturer older than that. John Gladding was a rope maker from Bristol, Conn., and he settled here because the valley was a good place to grow flax. Fishing lines were at first twisted by hand, and then by water power." A seventh generation descendant of old John is still associated with the company — that's tradition for you.

Braiding machines revolutionized the line business, and Gladding installed the first such machine west of Boston. The original invention was never improved very much, and the rows of machines clicking away today at South Otseck resemble the first ones

Today's materials from which fishing lines are braided are superior to flax and silk, but the process itself is the same as your great grandfather might have witnessed.

In recent years the Gladding Corp. has become a leader in the recreation and leisure time field with manufacturing installations around the world. During this expansion period some other venerable companies became associated with Gladding-Horrocks-Ibbotson, in Utica; South Bend; and Glen L. Evans. And, the tradition of craftsmanship is continued in all of these well-known products.

One reason for the continuity of quality, according to Nick, is that many of their employees are avid fishermen. "Some are so devoted," he said, "they keep a fishing rod set up in the corner and run down to the creek to cast a few during coffee breaks." As I watched some of the famous Bass-Orenos being packed, I learned that they are still carved from white cedar, as were the originals, and they still get five coats of enamel.

While some aspects of fishing are changing as rapidly as any other part of our lives, its traditions are secure. And, that's a mighty pleasant thought in these uncertain times.

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Ag-Tech To Hold Cardiac Conference

Area residents employed in health-related fields have been invited to attend a teaching day at Alfred, Wednesday, February 5 on the subject of nursing as it relates to patient with problems of cardiac function.

The program, sponsored by the Nursing Department at State University Agricultural and Technical College at Alfred, will be staged in the Orvis Student Activities Center on Campus.

Professor Donald Insley, chairman of the department, said the cost of \$10 for each participant will include coffee, lunch, and an audio-tutorial packet of resource material. He also notes that the College has made application to the New York State Nurses Association for approval to grant continuing education credit to those attending the program.

Pre-registration is unnecessary but Professor Insley has requested those who have made definite plans to be here to contact Mrs. Jane Charron of the Nursing Department with their registration requests.

While the program is scheduled from 8:30 a. m. to 5 p. m., Professor Insley said it will be possible for those who are unable to attend the entire session to take part in any portion they wish.

The morning program will include a lecture on "Pathophysiology Related to Myocardial Infarction" by Dr. Amir Djavaheri, chief of clinical pathology at Craig Development Center in Sonoma.

Two members of the Nursing Department faculty, Mrs. Barbara Friend and Miss Donna Bower, will lecture on topics covering care after a myocardial infarction and subsequent cardiac arrest, and cardiac arrhythmias.

Two other topics during the day will concern "The Pacemaker-Installation and Care," and "The Problem-Oriented Record and Its Implications to Nursing." Miss Eloise Mullen of the Nursing Department will demonstrate computer assisted instruction after the closing segment of the program.

Professor Insley said the program is designed "to provide an opportunity for area nursing and health-related personnel to gain an understanding of the current theory and practices related to caring for patients with problems of cardiac function."

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BANKING IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

A Gold Investment—Will It Tarnish?

Gold bullion is coming back — for the first time since 1933 when Congress banned private ownership of gold other than coins or jewelry. With President Ford's signature on a bill lifting that ban beginning Jan. 1, 1975, and the option open, would a gold investment pay off, or is it likely to tarnish beyond repair?

As an investment, says the American Bankers Association (ABA), it's wise to remember that gold is a commodity, and consequently is subject to rapid and extreme ups and downs. True, it's a scarce commodity; and theoretically, there is no limit to how much it could one day be worth. In fact, it has been estimated that all the gold ever found could be condensed into a cube the size of a baseball diamond.

It's only been in the past three years, however, that the increase in the price of gold has justified its historic reputation as the best hedge against inflation in this country — where there's no real fear that the dollar will become totally worthless and the government will fail.

From 1935 to 1971, the official price for an ounce of gold was \$35. It was not until 1968 that speculators' pressure on the dollar led to a "two-tier" gold market — with the price of privately traded gold allowed to fluctuate with the market. The resulting price between government

and again to \$35 an ounce, and again to \$42.22.

Beginning in 1971, with the rate of inflation increasing, private demand for gold grew, and its market price went as high as \$180. Today it's down around \$140 an ounce. Potential investors would be wise, therefore, to watch the market and buy low, rather than be caught up in a first day stampede. After all, a gold bar pays no dividends and no interest. Its only return is in the form of capital appreciation.

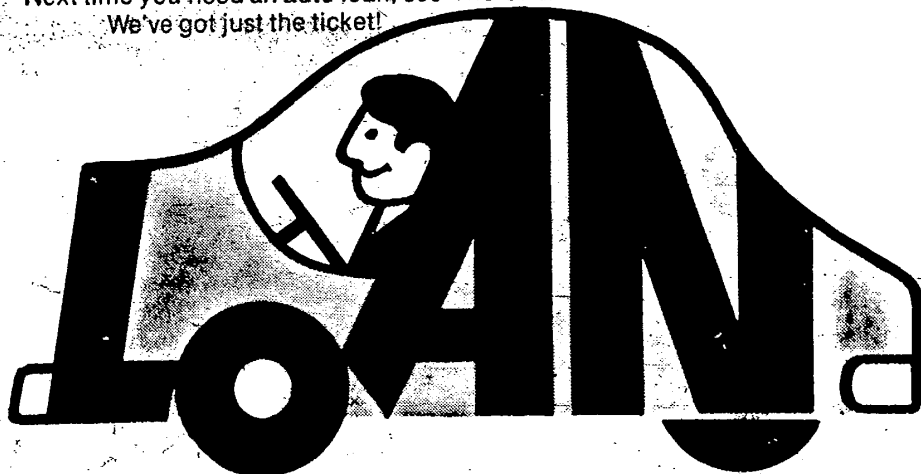
Is there any indication that gold will appreciate in the foreseeable future? The ABA, many of whose 14,000 member banks have indicated they will offer gold bullion for sale as a service to their customers, says it's a very "iffy" question.

If Americans rush to buy when the ban is lifted, the price of gold could surge — providing rapid short-term gains. But, on the other hand, the recently expected increase in demand for gold coins never materialized. And the U.S. Treasury has already announced that if the price of gold were to rise substantially, it would consider selling some of its \$11.7 billion stockpile, which would level off prices — and might even drive them down.

The best advice from the ABA is to watch the track record, buy low and only from a reputable dealer. And if you do, get certification of exactly what you have bought.

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