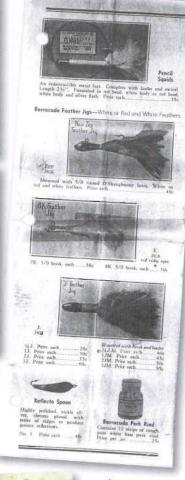


Nose Jig, Feather Jig, Pencil Squid, Baby May Wes, and a whole card of May Wes Pier Baits are also featured. The #50 Feathered Torpecuda and #60 Nonfeathered Torpecuda sell for 50 cents each! They are exceeded in price only by the Florida Shiner and Baby Florida Shiner at \$1.00 and \$.90 each, respectively. All lures have glass eyes except for the 9999 Convict, #80 and #100, and the pier baits. The guide, which does not identify the printer, urges the customer to "refer to our catalog for color combinations obtainable." Therefore, a catalog prior to the #6P from 1948 must have existed.

A few years later, another undated (but believed to be 1945-1946) folding pocket guide in dark blue ink on a cream background appeared, this time printed by Pinellas Printing. The logo and script lettering have changed, and the leaping bass has been replaced by a leaping tarpon. We know this guide is later than the green/cream version described above because the Torpecudas and the #10 (Tipsy Cuda) have increased in price to 90 cents each, (but still less than the 1948 price of \$1.00), and the Baby May Wes name has changed to the "Baby Wampus". The jigs and pencil squid are still included, but perhaps due to space constraints, the "Florida Shiners", "Convict", & #100 are not pictured. A complete color (referred to as design) chart is listed, including the traditional colors of the day, and several the author has never seen on a Barracuda lure. A "B.Y.", yellow body, red head, and black back is noted, and "B.S." refers to Blue Sides, rather than the familiar "Blue Boy". This may be the color most collectors associate with Lonn's "Dandy Baits" in blue scale. The guide states the lures are "sold by all

▲Above: undated pocket price guide thought to be from 1939-40

▼Below: undated pocket guide believed to be from 1945-46









leading fishing tackle dealers." For the record, a variation on this guide exists, which shows a small Reflecto Spoon and Barracuda Pork Rind Jar on the bottom of the back page in place of the Bull Nose Feather Jig. Otherwise, this variation is identical.

A pale blue-green (faded) 4" x 9" example of the 1946-1947 net price list with the FFTMC leaping bass, building, and script logo, with an added seahorse and a second bass has been found. It is not illustrated except for the front and back cover, but has detailed listings of presumably all the tackle FFTMC sold at the time. All casting and trolling lures, jigs, flies, etc. are priced by the dozen only and range from a dozen May Wes pier baits for \$4.68 to \$9.00/dozen for Florida or Baby Florida Shiners. The Old Albert, Convict, #10, #35, #40, #50, #60, #80, and #100 were all \$7.20/dozen. The Shad and Pop Eye Frog were \$7.92/dozen. Reflecto spoons were offered in only four sizes, #1, 3, 5, & 7. This list was printed by Widere Printing Co.

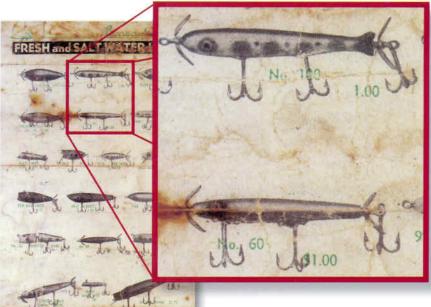
For September, 1948, a new 5 3/8" x 8 1/4" pale bluegreen version was available with 20 numbered pages plus cover, and superceded all previous lists. Items were priced per unit as well as per dozen and some items were marked with an asterisk* as not listed in the catalog, but still available. The "Topper" and "Plunker" were so marked and the Sco-Bo made its first appearance. The Feathered Torpecuda #50 had disappeared, but the #60 was still listed as \$7.20/dozen, or \$1.00 each. Each item is crossreferenced to the page number of the FFTMC catalog where it could be viewed.

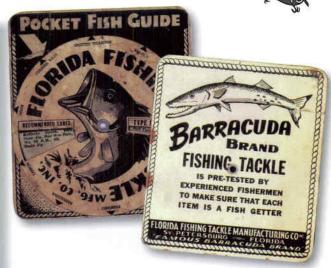
This price list was further updated in March, 1949 on 5 3/8" x 8 1/4" yellow/gold stock. Also 20 numbered pages plus

covers and index, the "Silver King", "Blooper", and "Runt Johnson" were itemized and marked with an asterisk; the "Silver King" (later "King Cuda") became Barracuda's most expensive lure to date at \$1.75 each or \$12.60/dozen. Now politically incorrect, 14/0 tinned "Jewfish" hooks were \$.55 each or \$4.50/dozen, and three different types of pork rind jars (Barracuda, Uncle Josh, and Lutz) were available. These comprehensive lists hinted at the huge 1950 ID catalog soon to come, and further underscored the aggressive inventory and marketing initiative the company was about to undertake as the post war "50's Fever" caught on in the economy.

A third folding pocket guide entitled "How to Catch Fish" appears to be from approximately 1950-1955, with similar wave and rod/reel graphics to those found in the 1950 ID, 1950 J, 1954, and 1955 catalogs. The back of the guide details the Reflecto Spoon, now in eight sizes from #0 through #7, shown in actual size and with the footnote: "Important See that your baits are brightly polished before each use". The obverse lists 19 different "Fresh and Salt Water Lures" and the Reflecto Weedless Spoon. The Topper, Florida Pee Wee, Sco-Bo, Pop Eye Frog, #40 Jointed (later #40 J Dangle Back), Florida Shad, Old Albert, and Silver King are also featured.

The Torpecuda is mixed up with the #100, as the guide reveals either a serious typographical error or a previously unknown version of the #100 Skinny Cuda. Pictured in the guide is a Torpecuda with painted eyes listed as #100, and a Skinny Cuda with **glass eyes** listed as #60. It is easy to understand how the numbers could have been unintentionally transposed, but it is a real mystery how a lithographed photo/illustration of a glass-eyed Skinny Cuda could ever be





SUIDE TO THE SOUTH'S FINEST FISHING

(Left to Right) The front side of the "How to Catch Fish" guide showing an enlargement of the transposed #60 and #100 labels and the unusual Skinny Cuda eye detail, the Pocket Fish Guide with rotating dial and reverse side with ad, and the Fishing Guide produced as a promotional piece for Barracuda.

substituted, since there were never supposed to be any Skinny Cudas with glass eye detail. Further, since the first catalog photo of a painted-eye Torpecuda is in the 1955 catalog, and the 1954 catalog does not include the discontinued Sco-Bo, we are left with the conclusion that this pocket guide may be a transitional piece from 1952-1953, and is an inconsistency that FFTMC's art department let slip through the cracks. Strange, but all of us Barracuda collectors will be hunting that special glass-eyed Skinny Cuda, now that we have a photo of one!

Subsequent price lists were 8 page supplements to the catalogs and allowed FFTMC to interchange artwork between catalog pages and individual ads. Since the prices were not printed on the pages, a Jobber Catalog could be constructed with only those ad pages offered as merchandise by the jobber. The price list could be inserted at the back of the catalog, thereby reducing printing costs and making the available artwork far more flexible in the marketplace.

The FFTMC Pocket Fishing Guides are well represented, with the first being a neat, little, rotating, riveted, white cardboard disc, with the window cutouts and arrows pointing to the type fish desired, and matching it to the correct lure(s) and rod recommended. The then current world record weight for each fish is also displayed, and 9 different salt water and 1 fresh water (black bass) species are offered. Black ink graphics including a leaping bass on the obverse, and a Barracuda fish logo on the reverse, make this a most attractive and handy item. There should be more of these around, but they are rarely seen, perhaps because of the cardboard construction not standing up to frequent use, moisture, etc.

A comprehensive fishing guide with beautiful multi-fish artwork by Stanley R. Nutting appears in 1946, and Mr. Nutting is kind enough to date his signature on the cover.

He is also listed as illustrating and editing the guide. Black, yellow, and green ink on stock decorate the cover, and a plethora of fishing information is contained within its 24 numbered pages plus the inside

and outside covers. The centerfold, inside covers, and back cover all highlight Barracuda lures, spoons, jigs, and lines. It was copyrighted in 1946 by Griffith Advertising Agency in St. Petersburg, FL and lithographed by MacDonald of Tampa. This guide was given out with the compliments of Florida Fishing Tackle Manufacturing Company, and it so states on the front cover.

Two versions of "Fish Lure Chart(s)" have been preserved. These have 35 different salt water fish matched to the various lures, jigs, and spoons manufactured by Barracuda to catch them. The earliest version sports the beautiful oval leaping 'cuda logo so familiar to Barracuda collectors, in red and black ink on stock, while the later chart is a reddish orange and green ink combination on stock, with the Nutting Barracuda fish logo lifted from the 1954-1962 catalogs, minus the porthole and cabin cruiser. The text on both is identical, although the typeset font is different. It should be

Special acknowledgement and appreciation is extended to these FATC members for their generous loan of this wonderful assembly of FFTMC "Barracuda Brand" promotional material: Doug Brace, Ron Gast, Roth Kemper, Robert Pitman, Gary Robinson, Gil Sorensen, Al Helms, and Bill Stuart.

noted that both list a 36th fish, the Red Snapper, and for the

lure recommendation, "We give up, better try cut bait"!

Stay tuned for part III!





Fred Kerr (1924 - 2007)

Former President of the National Fishing Collectors Club and Florida Antique Tackle Club and fishing tackle industry executive Fred T. Kerr died May 15, 2007. He was 83.

A resident of Orlando since he retired in 1989, Kerr was well known to the tackle industry veterans. He started his career with the old U.S. Tackle Distributors, which was one of the largest tackle distributors in the 1960's, having distribution centers in five major US cities. He served as a road salesman, Regional Sales Manager and General Manager. In the 1970's Kerr served as the General Manager at Southern Tackle Distributors in Miami, Florida. In the 1980's he worked with Southern Gun and Tackle in Hialeah, Fl. and N.V. Spring Co. in Virginia Beach, VA.

After retiring Fred started his second career, collecting and preserving antique fishing reels, rods, and lures. A hobby since childhood this became his passion over the last 18 years.

"Fred was a wonderful resource for antique fishing tackle collectors" said Bill Stuart with Florida Antique Collectors Club.

"Fred was one of the really great people that always made you feel good about working in this industry. He liked people and they loved him. He would go out of his way to help people" said Ken Griese, Executive Vice President of Silstar Corp. of America / Pinnacle Fishing.

Kerr is survived by his wife, Lynda: four children; ten grand-children; and six great grand-children. Condolences may be sent to Lynda Kerr at Ikerr7@cfl.rr.com.



From the archives of our Club's history:

This was the FATC Fall Show November 9,10,11, 1990. The Show was held in Fort Myers at the Sheraton Harbor Place. The Show Hosts were Fred Kerr and Jim Supej. Fred, pictured in the center, is presenting the Club's first "Best of Show" award to Doug Brace with Don Morrow looking on. On Fred's vest is the Club's first patch, created just a few months earlier.

These were the days when the Club had a full 3-day Show. Saturday and Sunday were both open to the public. The Club auction began Sunday at noon and was projected to run until about 4:00PMI



Recollections of



BY ROGER AND BARRY NICHOLAS, AS PRESENTED TO RON GAST

I received an email from Roger Nicholas the other day and he was commenting on the Jim Pfeffer lures I had photos of on my website. When he told me that he knew Jim Pfeffer and his wife Betty, I asked him if he would do a brief write-up about his memories of them. He and his brother Barry grew up in Orlando and remembered them from their younger days. Their parents were long-time friends with and had met Jim and Betty Pfeffer at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Orlando. Below are the recollections of Roger and Barry Nicholas about them. Roger Nicholas provided the photo of Jim and Betty Pfeffer from the church directory.

"When I was a kid, 50 years ago, my mother used to do the laundry for Jim and Betty Pfeffer. Even though we were not related to them, we referred to them as Aunt Betty and Uncle Jim.

Uncle Jim and Aunt Betty went to the Orlando Central Church of Seventh-day Adventist, of which we were members. Jim wasn't much for church and only became a member a few years before his death.

I lost track of the Pfeffers when I was in the service from 1968-70. I imagine they both died during or a short time after that period. I have only one picture of Uncle Jim and that is with Aunt Betty. It was taken in 1968 for the church directory.

Well, as you know, Uncle Jim (Jim Pfeffer) was for all practical purposes the silent partner of mega motor-mouth, Aunt Betty. He and Aunt Betty would bring their laundry to our house because our mother was always interested in earning some "mad money" while being helpful and friendly. Mom would take Aunt Betty grocery shopping most every Thursday. I don't believe that Uncle Jim ever came into our house. He'd simply sit in the car and wait for Aunt Betty.

They lived in a small (one bedroom) wood frame home at 1234 W. 18th St. in Orlando, Florida. I mowed their lawn a few times probably during the summer of 1961 or 1962 and on one occasion Uncle Jim showed me his shop in his unattached garage where he made his "baits", as he called them.

The shop was about 6'x10' with a door at each end. He had a small bench-top wood lathe with several steel dies of various size and shape which were the patterns for cutting the Spanish cedar, which comprised the main body of the lures. He also had a drying rack with multiple cup hooks which he used to hang the lure bodies after hand dipping the base coat. I enjoyed the smell of the wood shavings and even the paint, but my dad used to complain about the stink of banana oil, and said that it bothered his sinuses.

Jim had a box fan sitting in the doorway blowing out to keep the air circulating and the drying rack had old newspaper under it to catch the drips. The final hand painting and hardware installation was done on the enclosed jalousie window back porch of his house.

I have been in their house on numerous occasions and I saw, first hand, many of the lures that you have on display. They would be on racks in his living room drying.

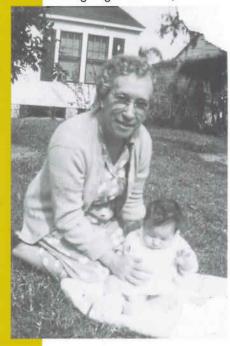
His house always had the smell of, what my father referred to, as "Banana Oil". There would be treble hooks, eye screws and other lure hardware by the thousands on his living room table waiting to be assembled onto the lures.

On occasion, Uncle Jim would give us kids a lure (which we were tickled to get). I have fished with many of his masterpieces. I wish I had kept better care and saved them. I only have one



Above: Jim and Betty Pfeffer as photographed for their Central Church of Seventh-day Adventists 1968 directory.

Below: Betty Pfeffer behind their W. 18th St. home in Orlando, holding Roger Nicholas, in 1948.



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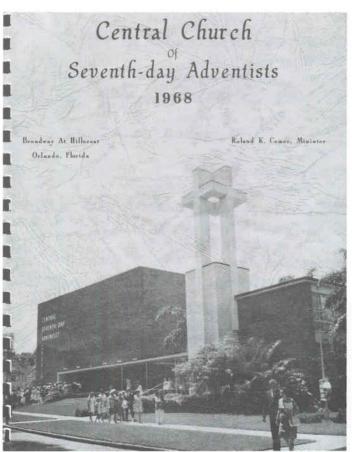
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The Central Church of Seventh-day Adventists directory cover.

"Banana Lure" of his and it does not have any hooks on it. It is, however, made from some kind of plastic. It has a different paint design than what you have on display. Other than not having any hardware, it's in good shape with the exception that the line eye has broken off with the threads in the head.

In the mid 50's there was a store in Orlando known as "Big Apple City". It was on the order of K-Mart and I can remember seeing Jim Pfeffer lures on sale there. He also sold his lures at Denmark Sporting

Goods in Orlando. I suspect he didn't get much more than a few dollars each once the store got their cut.

I caught my first bass on a Jim Pfeffer lure in the smallest section of Lake Lancaster in Orlando. I think I was about 9 years old, so that would have been in 1957. My dad and I were fishing from the bank and I was using what looked like a small silver shad. My dad said it was a salt water lure, but it was the only thing in his tackle box that I could toss more than 30'. Yes, my dad had a "fine" collection of fishing tackle. At the time his whole collection probably cost less than a "Latte Grande" at Starbucks today. Bless his heart, he lived through the depression and managed to feed and clothe 6 boys and raised us to be more or less useful citizens. Every time I see a manual bail flip spinning reel, I first cringe and then I recollect my first bait caster reel. This gives one some perspective.

On one occasion I was with my mother when she was bringing Aunt Betty back from grocery shopping. I helped bring the groceries in the house and noticed lots of Jim's finished lure bodies hanging on racks in his living room. There were lots of hooks, spinners, screw eyes, etc in what I remember to be muffin pans on the table waiting to be assembled. It is my understanding that Aunt Betty played a large part in painting and the assembly process.

While at their house on that occasion, I noticed a picture of a young man in a navy uniform and asked my mother who it was and she said "oh honey, don't mention anything about that". I gathered it was their son and perhaps he had been killed in WW2. I never heard them speak about it.

Well, that's our story and we're sticking to it. I hope it is of some interest to you."

Post script: To show the Club's appreciation for him sharing his stories, I sent Roger a Jim Pfeffer wooden Florida Shiner in excellent condition. I knew he would appreciate it and it would bring back memories for him.



Correction: Due to a "cut and paste" computer malfunction, Part I of the "Barracuda Brand" Catalogs and Advertising Through the Years article from the Volume 21, Number 2 issue of FATC News requires a correction to the last paragraph of page 14. It should read:

The 1962 – 1963, and the slightly modified 1964 catalog, sport a new logo displaying the same barracuda from 1954 – 1962. However, it now faces to the right and down, and the background has a green, red and black plaid pattern on white stock. The company name and address is listed on the bottom. The porthole, cabin cruiser, fishermen, palm trees, and clouds are no longer illustrated. For 1965 through at least 1971, a 60/40 two tone background offering more streamlined lettering, a contrasting ³/₄ oval, and **air bubbles** emanating from the fish's mouth were introduced. The words "QUALITY PRE-TESTED TACKLE THAT CATCH FISH" (please note catch, not catches) are displayed in the lower left. Discovering the catalog cover overprint provides further insight into the fortunes of FFTMC, and one of the methods they used to cut printing costs. "The Fabulous 50s" were finally over.

WANTED:

Barracuda Golden Falcon Jig in new condition and original plastic tube packaging with papers. Also PT109 Jig in similar condition.

> Contact Steve Cox at 850-769-5585, 850-867-0739 (cell) econfinatackle@knology.net swcoxclu@knology.net



The FATC News is the quarterly publication of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.

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Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.

A NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR ANGLING HERITAGE.

Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc. (FATC) is a non-profit, educational corporation, incorporated in the State of Florida. The purpose of FATC is educational through the collection and distribution of historical and technical data regarding fishing equipment, its development, its inventors and manufacturers from the earliest times through the present day, and to assist other groups and individuals having a similar purpose. In order to enhance the knowledge of these subjects, the collection and preservation of examples of fishing tackle is to be encouraged for the benefit of present and future generations.

FATC was founded in 1987. The founders felt that a statewide organization would provide additional opportunities for residents of Florida and others to learn more about the history of angling in Florida and elsewhere. FATC sponsors four

exhibitions, open to the public, annually at different Florida locations. At the exhibitions members display their collections, interact with the public, and engage in other activities in keeping with the purpose of FATC. FATC publishes a newsletter quarterly, and an annual membership directory. FATC is not affiliated in any way with the National Fishing Lure Collector's Club (NFLCC) or the Old Reel Collectors Association, Inc., (ORCA) but encourages FATC members to support those organizations.

FATC annual membership dues are: \$25.00 domestic, \$30 Canada, \$35 Foreign or \$500 (Domestic) Life Membership, \$600 (Canada) Life Membership, and \$700 (Foreign) Life Membership (20x annual dues). Please direct membership inquiries or applications (with your dues) to the FATC Secretary listed in the box above.



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Looking for that one particular lure to complete your collection? Want to sell the rare lure that doesn't quite fit with the rest of your collection? FATC News is introducing a new classified section for its members. For only a few dollars you can place a 4 line classified ad for all your fellow collectors to see in the next newsletter. Contact Steve Cox for more information or to place your ad, 850-769-5585, email: econfinatackle@knology.net

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Please refer questions to John Mack. 205-591-7205 or jlmack@bellsouth.net



Note: Anyone who has purchased Vol. IV of Florida Lure Makers and Their Lures since last June please check to be sure that you have pp 866 & 867. If you do not just email me or drop me a note and I will send them to you. Thanks, Bill

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Bstuartmof@aol.com





by Charles E. Tanner

and Where It Has Led Me

The FATC has been very helpful in my pursuit of antique fishing tackle, inspiring me on my very first visit to a show in 1997, somewhere in Polk County. "Wow, what am I getting into?" Surrounded by all the beautiful displays of great old reels and lures in mint condition, neatly placed in what could only be described as "Queen Anne" cabinetry. Every old wooden bait made by Heddon, Creek Chub, (and all the other masters of attracting a fish to the end of your line) were in view. All the floaters, wigglers, and divers were in arrangements that dazzled the eyes of a novice like me.

At the time, my collection consisted of a few newly purchased steel rods and a couple of Shakespeare and Pflueger reels to go along with the pieces I used for fishing in earlier days. The show had reels and lures worth hundreds to thousands of dollars. I could never afford these beauties, and it was obvious that it must take years to amass these collections. I happened to be a late starter...

I joined the club and immediately went home. Planning my next move, as soon as I was able, I hit the flea market and garage sale circuit. Grabbing any tackle that looked old, I especially sought out steel rods, as they were usually the cheapest items. These purveyors of junk would try to aet you riled up, goading you into paying a little more. Their typical response would be "I have someone coming later who is interested in steel rods". I got wise to their game and devised a ploy to ask them if they had any old fishing reels or rods? I would tell them that my grandchildren were coming down for a visit and that I needed some inexpensive tackle. I stated "I didn't care if it was 50 or 100 years old". The stuff would be tossed after the kids went back home, anyway. "Yeah, tossed right into my collection!" Let them try to outsmart an old New Yorker. Well, anyway, I bought

I eventually filled up rooms with my selections. My wife did put up with this intrusion for a while,

their junk. Perhaps, they were wise guys from New York, as well.

but then that's another story. I made my own display cases, however crude they might be. They looked like antiques from day one. I threw in a couple of steelies, a reel, and a lure or two, and that was that. I rented my first table for these displays at an FATC show in the Panhandle. The menagerie won a blue ribbon for best educational display! I believe the award committee didn't know what to make of my stuff, never having been exposed to such an attempt at collecting before. They may have felt sorry for me...

I was off and running. The club had given birth to the "Mad Collector". I hit eBay when the local dumpsters dried up. I became one of their top buyers, gold star or silver, I don't remember. Eventually, though, I settled down and decided to be more specialized in what I collected. Steel rods were my favorite, and I researched the companies that produced them way back then, putting together a number of stories about their history. The FATC News kindly printed several, not realizing at the time that I was using the "Letter" to gain provenance and, in turn, value for my collection. This sounds like something that stock analysts would do, in other words, not too honest. Well, anyway, I now collect only top of the line steel rods along with rod/reel combos, unusual reels, fish scales, fish scalers, and trolley



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weights. Go ahead, laugh. It's possible the best is yet to come.

Having now been present at many shows, I have noted how the lure professionals examine unmarked lures and consult with their peers, shake their heads and hand the piece back to the inquirer saying "don't know". Great balls of fire! The lure becomes an "Unknown Lure". What does it tell you if the sharpest lure guys in the world are unable to ID a bait? It gives this "Unknown" an air of mystery and intrigue. The fact that the specialist examined and fingered the carved art does seek to put the lure in a special class with a great deal of added pseudo-provenance. Can you guess what my next interest in collecting will be? You got it, "Unknowns".

Karl White's third edition on collectibles illustrates at least 120 unknown lures. There must be plenty out there, most of them one-of-a-kind. Carl Luckey's covering of lures evolved into accepting plastics. The lure historians haven't yet caught on to what I expect will be the interest in "Unknowns". Maybe it will take a Lang's Auction selling one for a bundle before this collecting specialty catches on. Many of these lures are unique, so, I challenge you to compare the value of a one-of-a-kind "Unknown" to an old, famous, Kentucky reel maker. The only one ever made was a prototype... you got it right, Big Bucks!

Now I'm counting on my fellow members to keep my latest fantasy under their FATC caps. Yes, I plan to collect

"Unknown Lures". I will need the help of a few experts to verify that a lure submitted is truly not the product of a respected manufacturer. We may have to revise the FATC bylaws to include how to identify and certify that a lure may be similar to a popular bait, but not actually that bait; and to then confirm that it is an unknown bait of indiscernible origin. That starts to sound like a bylaw should. We would need a lawyer to fully clarify this rule.

If, and when, the FATC News publishes this article, "Unknowns" will no longer be unwanteds. They will (deservingly) come to the forefront of tackle collecting. It would be a shame to waste all these gems; however, there is a downside. What if a brainiac identifies your "best of the lot" lure in the collection. No way! This can't be! Mine is a very rare, unknown plug. Don't anyone dare to ID the lure pictured with this piece. You could lose a good friend. Please, Lang's, don't call me for at least a week after this article has been viewed.

Another thing I fear is that the experts may look at a lure and propose that it could be, could be, what? I don't have the room to hold a "Could Be" lure collection. There are probably even some "Should Be's" out there, as well. Perhaps a "Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda", too...





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