

F.A.T.C. NEWS

Volume 20, Number 4



SETTLING THE EGER/PAW PAW DEBATE?



St. Pete Beach Award Photos

Not Pictured: Norm Pinardi, award winner for his reel display; Paul Snider for Heddon Crazy Crawlers; Doug Brace, although his award winning Bob Ousley display is seen below.



Ron and Kathy Gast, St. Pete Co-Hosts.



Ron Gast's self proclaimed "Director of Publicity," Dick Laneau, an award winner for his Jitterbug display.



Chuck Heddon and Ed Weston, Awards Co-Chairmen.



Auction Volunteers, Betty Morrow, Lloyd Jett, Jim Pitt, Sally Jett.



Virgil Stumbo, Heddon Cracklebacks.



Frank Carter, Florida Fly Rod Lures.



Gary Steenberg, Folk Art Lures.



Mike Mais, Florida Lures.



Maralyn Belliveau, Jitterbugs.



Mark Hostetler, Heddon Strawberry Spot.



Bill Stuart, Fly Rod Lures.



Lloyd Jett, Florida Lures.



Doug Brace's Bob Ousley lure display.



Frank Carter's Florida Fly Rod lure display.



Jay and Candice Zuhke, Auction Volunteers.

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Vice President... Larry Lucas, Holly Hill, FL
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John Mack, Birmingham, AL
John Stephenson, England
Paul Snider (Interim), Pensacola, FL

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Cover photo: Bob Farling has amassed this wonderful display of early Eger Mammoth, Ricochet, Shorty and other lures in the Dillinger and Candy Kid paint patterns. These lures underscore some of the points made in Jack Fenwick's feature storey. The "see-through" boxes are exceedingly rare. Thanks, Bob, for letting us drool!



F.A.T.C. NEWS

The Newsletter of the Florida Antique Tackle Collectors, Inc.

October 2006
Volume 20, No. 4

Contents

Deluded (Diluted?) Digressions.....	4
St. Pete Beach Award Winners	2, 4
President's Message	5
John B. Sweeny	7
Is This An Eger Or Paw-Paw?.....	8
Comely Daughters of Neptune Bring 'Em Back Alive	14
FATC Contact Information.....	16
New FATC Members /Address Changes.....	18

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FATC Fall Show

Oct 6, 7, 8, 2006, The Villages of Lady Lake, FL
Holiday Inn Express, 1205 Avenida Central
For Rooms Call: 352-750-3888

Show Host: Don Carlstrom, 155 NW 82nd Court, Ocala, FL 34482

LANG's TACKLE AUCTIONS - Fall Auction

November 3 - 4, 2006, Boxborough, Massachusetts
c/o John and Debbie Ganung
315-841-4623, LangsAuction@aol.com

FATC Florida International Show

February 23 - 25, 2007
Plaza Resort and Spa, Daytona Beach, FL 800-874-7420
Show Host: Larry Lucas, Larry@flowerscentral.com
386-254-5179, 386-295-7281

NFLCC Regional Meet Calendar

October 21 - 22, 2006, Allentown, PA... 610-759-7240
January 6 - 7, 2007, Pigeon Forge, TN... 615-499-5431
January 20 - 21, 2007, Milwaukee, WI... 262-632-4735

Since our last newsletter, **Bill Stuart**, past President, Editor, Author and all-around "major cog in the wheels" of FATC, celebrated his 70th birthday... July 7, 1936 was indeed a very special day! **Happy Birthday, Bill!**



DELUDED (DILUTED?) DIGRESSIONS

By Steve Cox

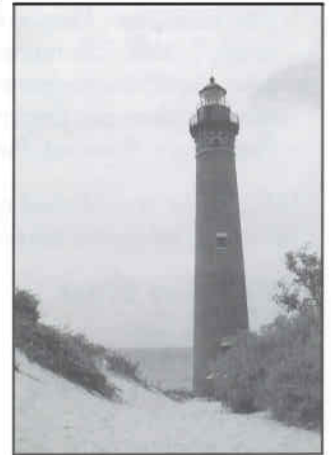
As I reflect on the two months since our last issue, I've had the benefit of attending the very nice NFLCC National in Grand

Rapids, Michigan, and our outstanding FATC summer show in St. Pete Beach. I've added some great lures to my collection and learned more about some of the lures already on hand. FATC was well represented at the National and there were 25 plus FATC members in attendance. Room trading was challenging due to the very large hotel with multiple floors in two tall buildings. However, I found some great deals and a previously unknown wooden tackle box made in Jacksonville, FL! In one hotel room, I asked the occupants if they had any Florida lures, to which they replied, "#@%&, boy, you're in Michigan now!" So, I walked down the hall to the next open room and asked if they had any Florida lures. It was a pleasant surprise to walk out with a Bender "Potbelly", Bender "Smarty", and a Garland "Corkhead Frog"! Grand Rapids is a

beautiful city, and I took time out to tour several lighthouses on eastern Lake Michigan, visited a cherry orchard and bought some wonderful sweet cherries, and even closed out the trip with the stunning Frederick Meier Botanical Gardens.

Back in St. Pete, we were all treated to a great show that was very well advertised, and as a result, very well attended by the public. Ron and Kathy Gast did a superb job as co-hosts! We had lots of fun and enjoyed not one, but **two** birthday cakes for FATC member Frank Carter! I made two complicated (and rewarding) trades and even got some giant Megalodon teeth, in excellent condition, for my daughters' fossil collection. Hope to see you at the Villages of Lady Lake fall show. What a cool hobby this is!

Steve 




Award Winners

AT ST. PETE BEACH
August 2006

Exhibit Winners

Topical	Virgil Stumbo, Heddon Cracklebacks
Educational	Doug Brace, Bob Ousley Lures
Florida Lure Maker	Frank Carter, Florida Fly Rod Lures

Outstanding Display

Dick Laneau	Fred Arbogast Jitterbugs
Mike Mais.....	Florida Lures
Paul Snider	Heddon Crazy Crawlers
Gary Steenberg	Folk Art
Norm Pinardi	Reels
Lloyd Jett.....	Florida Lures
Bill Stuart	Fly Rod Lures
Maralyn Belliveau.....	Fred Arbogast Jitterbugs
Mark Hostetler.....	Heddon Strawberry Spot

President's Message



Editor's note: Our President instructed me to print his effort at "Social Darwinism" in it's entirety. Therefore, it is prudent to add this disclaimer...

Another great summer, and another great summer show! The club sends out a big thank you to Ron and Kathy Gast for hosting a flawless event in St. Petersburg. The show and its location right on the beach could not have been any nicer. Ron arranged some great TV and newspaper press that

had the public streaming in for most of Saturday. It seems any show hosted by Ron always goes off without a hitch.

It was great to see our good friend and auctioneer, Don Morrow, looking so well. Don, and his lovely wife Betty, conducted an excellent auction and brought in lots of money for the club. Team Zuhlke was kept quite busy on Saturday, logging in all the tackle that came in off the street. Two Otto Zwarg fly reels and two great Edward Vom Hofe reels were brought in by a family member of an old Zwarg factory employee. Please remember when you see a Zuhlke to thank that Zuhlke, no matter which Zuhlke you see. I know we all appreciate Team Zuhlke's efforts.

As always, there were some wonderful exhibits, and our gratitude goes out to everyone who took the time to create and set up a display. This extra effort made the show even more interesting. The club also thanks all the folks who volunteered to appraise the tackle that came in off the street. The only disappointment associated with the show was not seeing the "green flash" Ron promised us at Friday night's sunset party on the beach. Maybe we will see it at your summer 2008 show, Ron...

Isn't this a great President's message! No, I'm not referring to the content. I am talking about the professional look of the newsletter. Our new editor, Steve Cox, has been working very hard to transform our little publication and to streamline the whole operation. I have always thought the two most important things this club has to offer its members are the Daytona International Show and the club newsletter. Thanks to our growing budget, the initial push by Bill Stuart, and now the vision of Steve Cox, I believe the newsletter is the best tackle publication put out by any of the tackle clubs. It is truly something our club should be proud of, so please remember to mention it to those responsible; they deserve a big thanks from every club member! Also, thanks to Steve, Ralph Hecht still has nothing to do with all his spare time.

Keep in mind we are always looking for articles about tackle or tackle makers written by club members to publish in each edition. If you think you might want to put something into a written format and submit it to Steve, I can guarantee you it will show up in print. Yes, you too can be a published author!

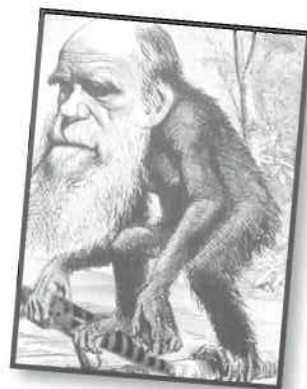
Every time I go to a show, I inevitably hear someone make the comment, "Tackle collecting is doomed! There are no new club members and everyone in the club is old and pretty

soon there will be no one left to purchase all our stuff and boo, hoo, hoo". Sorry, I'm not buying it. Sure, most of us guys are getting to the age where we qualify to hide our own eggs each Easter, but take a look around at the next show. I see new guys all the time and a lot of them are yes, younger than I am! Take Ed Bauries for example. I bet if we were to saw him in half at the next show we wouldn't be able to count more than 31 or 32 rings!

But seriously, I believe tackle collecting is in a transitional stage and there are LOTS of new collectors. However, they are not, for the most part, the ones we see at our shows. Here is how one of our past presidents, Charles Darwin, explained this whole new collector situation to me:

On the Origin of Species by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life.

By past FATC President Charles Darwin



"In the beginning", Mr. Darwin stated, "There existed a primitive species of hunter-gatherer types that just seemed to mill around aimlessly hoarding antique fishing tackle. This odd lot was given the name "Tacklust-Hoardi". "Tacklust-Hoardi" started assembling at places called "Shows" in "Pre-Computerous" times because of social and physical needs they could not explain, and because there was no other way for them to satisfy their instinctual urges to buy, sell and display their gathered tackle. "Tacklust-Hoardi" types were mysteriously drawn together four times a year, partly as a compulsion, but also because they really enjoyed their "shows". However, if they attempted to meet more than four times a year, they would run the risk of becoming "Collectorus-Divorci-Tacklus-Go-ByeBye", and would have to part with all their beloved gathered tackle (it was a real balancing act that some unfortunate "Tacklust-Hoardi" did not survive). Living in "Pre-Internetium" times, this was the only way for "Tacklust-Hoardi" to congregate; and it appeared to their "Pre-Computerous" brains that if fewer "Tacklust-Hoardi" were gathering at these "Shows", then tackle collecting as a way of life would soon disappear into oblivion, just like their closest relative, the "Collectorus-Divorci-Tacklus-Go-ByeBye", had done before them.

While "Tacklust-Hoardi" was busy attending their "Shows", another species of "Collectorus" started to evolve in a small, dimly lit, lonely realm known as "Cyberspace". This new species was dubbed "Cyber-Tacklust". The "Cyber-Tacklust" did not seem to know about "Tacklust-Hoardi" (in part because most "Tacklust-Hoardi" liked to keep their efforts a secret), and they developed into a completely different

species that had no desire and felt no need to attend the "Tacklust-Hoardi" "Shows".

The distinguishing behavioral trait of the "Cyber-Tacklust" was to sit at home all night, every night and view tackle in a bizarre, two dimensional fashion, buying and selling without ever actually coming into contact with another "Collectorus" type. Having no natural enemies, "Cyber-Tacklust" multiplied quickly, and although their exact population is unknown, they appear to number in the thousands. Just as their quantity remains a mystery, so do their individual identities, as "Cyber-Tacklusts" are only identified by seemingly gibberish sounding names such as "Reels-am-we", "ky85tg7" or "Glass-Eyed-Junky". These "Collectorus" types exist in a habitat called "e-Bay", and were thought to be unknown to "Tacklust-Hoardi". Slowly, however, the truth began to emerge.

Over a period of time it would seem that many "Tacklust-Hoardi" were undergoing a behavioral metamorphosis, mutating into a uniquely new "Collectorus" hybrid that could dwell in the land of "e-Bay", as well as their natural habitat of "Shows". Much like early amphibians, out of necessity, "Tacklust-Hoardi" was crawling out of the primordial ooze and slowly evolving and adapting to the new habitat of "Cyberspace", where he found his beloved tackle being traded. This new mutation was know as "Tackleust-More-For-Meus"

"Now", Mr. Darwin warned, "here is where it gets a bit tricky." "Although early "Tackleust-More-For-Meus" met many new, strange, and wondrous "Collectorus" individuals in the land of "e-Bay", he never failed to be surprised when he accidentally bumped into one of his old "Tackleust-Hoardi-Show-Buddi" who also happened to be exploring this new "Cyberspace" territory. These "Tackleust-Hoardi-Show-Buddi" believed they were traveling anonymously in the realm of "e-Bay", because of their use of adapted (and quite undignified) names as a disguise, such as "Jerky-Bait-Dude". The pain and confusion was only made worse when his old "Tackleust-Hoardi-Show-Buddi" discovered he was, in fact, going by the name "Back-Off-It's-Mine-U-Twinkie". It is truly surprising and amazing that "Tackleust-More-For-Meus" survived this

bizarre and dangerous transitional evolutionary period. "Tackleust-More-For-Meus" would constantly complain that other "Tacklust-Hoardi" weren't bringing any good tackle to the "Shows" anymore, while being in a constant state of denial because **they** weren't bringing anything good to the "Shows" either. They also complained about their "Tackleust-Hoardi-Show-Buddi" turning into "Tackleust-More-For-Meus", while all along, they were closet "Tackleust-More-For-Meus" themselves." At this point Mr. Darwin commented, "The strain and confusion (of these times) on their limited mental capacities almost doomed them as a species."

Mr. Darwin ended his dissertation with this observation: "This mutated version of "Tacklust-Hoardi", referred to as "Tackleust-More-For-Meus", for the most part, still live in a state of denial, refusing to believe that any of the aforementioned new "Collectorus" species actually do exist, a seemingly unexplainable phenomenon considering he has contact with them on a daily basis in the land of "e-Bay". Darwin emphatically exclaimed, "Yes, there are new tackle collectors. No, they are not always visible to the naked eye." Confused, I asked Mr. Darwin, "My old "Tacklust-Hoardi-Show-Buddi" Percy recently morphed into "The-Ultimate-Mega-Death-Tackle-Behemoth!" "Will I ever see him again?" Mr. Darwin just shook his head, shrugged his shoulders and said, "Maybe yes, maybe no". I was still a bit uncertain as to why I could not remember encountering any of the new "Collectorus" species Mr. Darwin spoke of, and I approached him on this issue. He replied "Perhaps a demonstration is in order." He then proceeded to shut his eyes tightly and exclaimed, "Look, if I close my eyes you can't see me." And as I reflect on his statement, I think he was right!

That is how it was explained to me...by Charles Darwin...

(The views expressed herein are those of Charles Darwin and not necessarily those of the FATC. Any resemblance to real people either living or dead is unintentional and purely coincidental and yes, I am seeking professional help.)

Zever,

Ed 



Rudi Kramer, who ran the Otto Zwarg shop for many years and was Otto's head draftsman, died June 15, 2006, in Pinellas Park.

He is survived by his wife, Irene, a daughter, Robin Baxter of Newberry, a stepson, Ray Turner of New Port Richey, and several granddaughters.

Rudi was born and educated in Germany and came to Pinellas County in 1952. He met Otto Zwarg through a friend, and went to work for him as his head draftsman and head of Zwarg's machine shop. He was Otto Zwarg's close personal friend as well as an employee of the company, and was very close to Otto's daughter and granddaughter, LaVone Tucker.

After Otto's death and the sale of the company, Rudi left the company and was presented with a one of a kind "1/2-0" Maximo reel, custom made expressly for him as a Christmas gift by a co-worker. Rudi worked at several other businesses in Pinellas County until his retirement. He was 82.

Norm Pinardi 

On behalf of FATC,
we extend our
sincere sympathy to
member Ken Bay on
the loss of his wife
Jeanne, who passed
on August 21st,
2006.



JOHN B. SWEENEY

By Ralph Hecht and Bill Stuart

John B. was born in Long Island, New York, into a family of Johns, and he decided to add the "B" for identification. Without his permission, John B.'s parents moved to Florida when he was 14. His dad wanted to get out of New York, and his grandparents had already moved here.

John B. was a baseball catcher with national promise, and he considered the move to Florida the kiss of death to his major league aspirations. He did sign with the Chicago White Sox when he graduated from high school. He played for the Sarasota Sun Sox his first year out. Unfortunately, at the beginning of his second year, he blew out his knee, thereby ending his baseball career.

John B. and his wife Irene have been married for 38 years. Irene has been the leaven for keeping his enthusiasm and excitement in check. Behind every good man...

Bob Epstein wrote a story for the *Ft. Pierce News* on September 13, 2002, entitled "Fishing On The Fly." In the story Sweeney outlined for him what he must do to stay competitive in the tackle shop business. "1. You must be knowledgeable about the products you sell. 2. You must be friendly. 3. You must offer the best quality products with prices for all pocketbooks. 4. You must be honest with everyone. 5. You must be consistent and lastly, 6. You must offer a place where people feel comfortable spending their time and their money." Epstein concluded that John B.'s shop has everything for the light-tackle angler and can take care of just about anything you need, except for the weather.

John B. started making lures 35 to 40 years ago out of necessity. Through the years, he continuously experimented with new designs, new materials and innovative methods of fabrication. John B. also ties saltwater jigs that resemble such flies as the "seducer" and "deceivers".

John not only caught fish, he attracted both a local and international following. The commercial lure making fraternity also took note. In the 1990's Umpqua Feather Merchants of Glide, Oregon, contracted

with John B. to produce some of his designs. One of his more fascinating and innovative patterns is **THE RELAXED SHRIMP** (pictured below), which is a forward-swimming shrimp. Over 30 species of fish have been caught with **THE RELAXED SHRIMP**, and it will be offered by Fly H2O in 2008.

John B. is now in his third shop, which measures 2,000 square feet, packed to the gills with fly fishing equipment of all kinds. His guides keep him up to date regarding what and where the fish are biting locally, so that he can stay on the "edge" and keep the baits in stock.

When you walk into John B.'s, among the things that catch your eye are the thirty plus photos on the wall. These are pictures of fishermen, and their prize catches, all caught on flies tied by John B. You also notice a glass tank, with several flies fluttering in the water. For over ten years, John B. has used this test tank to study the motion of new fly designs and to show customers how the fly acts in water as well as how to fish it. This is just another example of John's attention to detail and desire to achieve customer satisfaction.

He has a separate room where he does his rod and reel repair work and his fly tying. He has taught fly tying and fly casting for a number of years. John B.'s passion is to teach beginners fly tying or casting **before** they spend money, only to discover they don't enjoy fly tying or casting.

Check him out at www.johnbflyshop.com.



IS THIS AN EGER OR PAW PAW?

By Jack Fenwick

How many times have I been asked that question by fellow collectors as they show me an "Eger-looking" lure with a Paw Paw style lip? Some years ago at a lure show, I sold a lure to a new Eger collector, which I believed was an Eger Dillinger "Shorty" with an unmarked Paw Paw style lip (see photo 1). A couple of hours later, this individual returned to my table with the lure. He had shown it to another club member who told him the lure was not an Eger, but a Paw Paw. As I reached in my pocket and laid his money on the table, I told him I would gladly take it back; but did he have a few moments to discuss what some of us (who collected Egers at the time) believed about the lure?

I took him over to my cases of displayed lures and showed him some other Egers with the **exact** same paint pattern, right down to the dot arrangement around the eyes. However, some of the lures featured in the cases had different styles of lips, and one or two, without the Paw Paw style lips, even had an Eger patent number stamped on their belly (see Photos 2, 3, 4, & 5). If I could turn back the clock, knowing then what I know now, my explanation would have been much easier and quicker! Fast forward to interesting new information, which has recently surfaced.

If you have a copy of *The Paw Paw Bait Company, First Edition, A History, Value and Identification Guide*, by Reed Stockman & Scott Tougas, you may wish to refer to some lures pictured on its cover page, as well as on pages 61, 69, 71, 74, 77, 167, and 193. You can see several of the lures we will be discussing which appear similar to those pictured in this article.

For those of you who are not familiar with Eger history, it would be helpful to review it, as it has great bearing on the lures in this discussion. Around 1930, William F. Eger began manufacturing lures in his backyard garage in Bartow, Florida. The first Eger advertisement that we know of, featured three lures, which appeared in a 1932 Edward K. Tryon Sporting Goods Catalog. The three lures were Eger's "Frog", "Fish Hawg" and the "Florida Special".

The earliest "Florida Special" had glass eyes and a diagonal stripe paint pattern. It later evolved into a painted "bulldog"



Photo 1



Photo 2

ring around each eye, similar to the lovable mutt featured in the popular *Our Gang/Little Rascals* film shorts of that time. The diagonal stripes remained on the lure body. The ring later transitioned to a dot pattern, but the stripes continued on the body (see Photo 6). As the Eger product line expanded, this diagonal stripe and dot pattern was applied to many other styles of lures.

In the early 1930's, Eger's business was growing at the same time John Dillinger, a notorious outlaw, bank robber, murderer, and jail escape artist, captured the attention of the news media and the general population across the country. By 1930, Dillinger had already been sentenced to nine years in prison and was an accomplished holdup man and convicted felon. By 1933, he had completed a string of bank robberies throughout the Midwest and broke out of jail with the help of his gang. In January of 1934, Dillinger and his



Photo 3

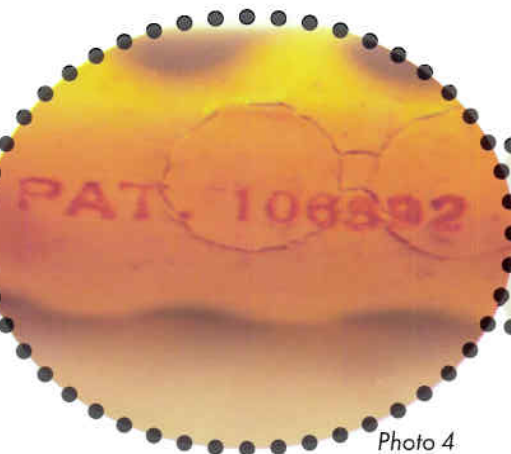


Photo 4



Photo 5



men killed an East Chicago police officer during a heist of the First National Bank. He was placed in jail, and escaped again, this time using the sheriff's car in his getaway. Then, on July 22, 1934, Dillinger was surrounded, shot, and killed by the FBI.

This little bit of trivia worked its way into the marketing and history of Eger's lures. Eger was finding great success in his striped paint pattern, which to the fisherman, resembled prison stripes. Anglers using these black and white striped lures nicknamed them "Dillingers" because they were deadly on fish. Eger quickly saw a marketing opportunity and adopted this name to identify his black and white color paint pattern. Yes, that's right, *paint pattern!* **In the early years, Dillinger was a color, not a lure name.**

An Eger Catalog, dated 1938, is the earliest known catalog in existence and is in the collection of Doug Brace. Doug has loaned copies of pages 6 and 9 (see photo) for this article. A close review of these pages tells us the name Dillinger was still being used to indicate a lure color.

- Eger's "Jointed Mammoth Candy Kid" lure was described as... "White body. Red stripes."... while the...
- "Jointed Mammoth Dillinger" was described as ..."White body. Black ribbed stripes" and the...
- "Dillinger Shorty" No. 701 was described as ..."White body. Black stripes."

A closer examination of the lures pictured on pages 6 & 9 in the catalog reveals some other factual and historic information concerning the Eger vs. Paw Paw debate. If you look closely, you will see they **all have Paw Paw style metal lips**. Even the large 6 1/4 inch "Jointed Mammoth Candy Kid" and the 6 3/8 inch "Jointed Mammoth Dillinger" utilized this style lip during this time period.

How could this be? Were Eger's lures made by Paw Paw? Possibly, but the facts of the story get even more interesting! On July 8, 1936, prior to the printing of this catalog, William F. Eger filed for Patent Number 106,592. He was awarded this patent on October 19, 1937 which; ... **"applies to the design for an artificial fish lure which is characterized by the elliptical arrangement of dots around the eyes in combination with bands of color applied to the body of the bait."**

After this patent was awarded, Eger began stamping this patent number onto the belly of many of their different styled and colored lures having the pattern of stripes and dots. This includes "Mammoth Dillingers", "Master Dillingers", "Junior Dillingers", "Sea Dillingers", "Weedless Dillingers", "Zig Zags", and many others (see photos 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10) **This patent number was also stamped on the belly of many of Eger's "Dillinger Shorty" minnows with the Paw Paw style lip** (see photo 8 - middle lure)

In 1943, W. F. Eger's grandson, Leroy O. Eger, took over management of the Eger Bait Co. A graduate of Texas Tech, Leroy would later redesign and build much of Eger's production equipment. After a fire destroyed the

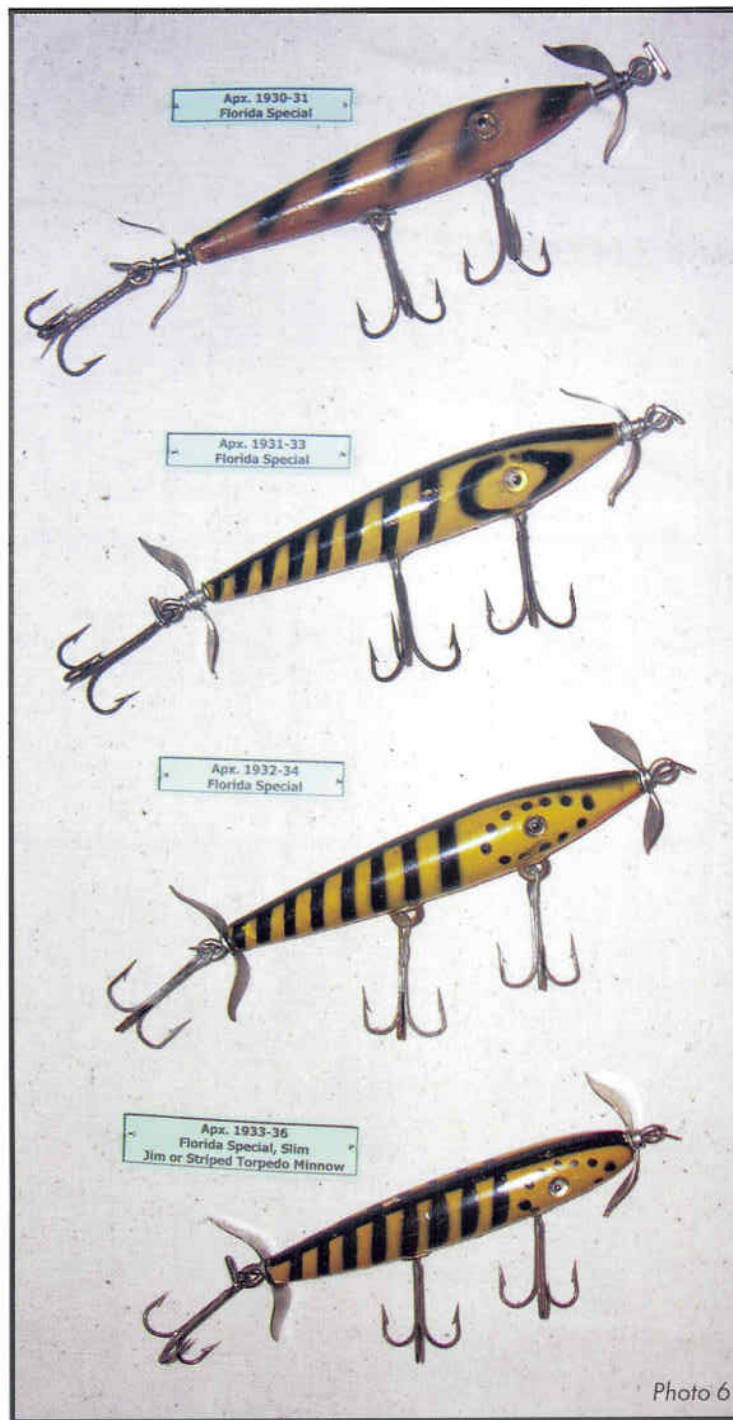


Photo 6



Photo 7