

Photo 14

Photo 13

Photo 12

Photo 10

Photo 8

Photo 9

Photo 11

EGER BAIT MFG. CO.  
BARTOW, FL  
#701 RICOCHET TACK EYED  
"DILLINGER" - WHITE BODY, BLACK STRIPES  
022106 (LGL.11) 3 3/16"

LATER STYLE STAMPED PAW PAW LIP  
PATENT #106592 PRINTED ON BELLY

garage business in 1944, he supervised the construction of a new two-story facility on Hwy. 17 in Bartow. Years later, during one of several interviews with Doug Brace, Leroy commented, "On several occasions, Eger Bait Co. notified Paw Paw that they were violating Eger's patents".

This notice could also have referred to Eger's frog skin lures as well as the Dillinger paint pattern. We do not know exactly what, if any, correspondence took place between Eger and Paw Paw. It could have involved either frog skin lures or been in reference to the Paw Paw "Jet" Series No. 2300. This series only appeared in Paw Paw's 1960-61 catalog (see page 140, *The Paw Paw Bait Company*, First Edition by Stockman & Tougas). However, this is doubtful, since the Eger Bait Co. had been sold to York Sports Products Inc. by this time. Earlier Paw Paw internal documentation, in the form of a letter from Counselors at Law, Earl & Chappell to the Paw Paw Bait Company, has been discovered. This letter dealt with Eger's 1937 patent on frog skin covered lures which, "...indicates that they (Eger) were not able to secure a broad claim to a bait with a frog skin applied thereto...".

Some interesting theories abound. Perhaps Paw Paw traded or sold their style of lips to Eger, or Eger acquired their lips from Paw Paw's supplier. We know a similar situation existed with lures from the Porter Bait Company, of Daytona Beach, FL. Many Porters have been found, new in the pack, with Eger's marked props on them.

These theories are certainly very real possibilities. However, recently, another interesting lure surfaced. A few months ago, FATC Club member Robert Farling added another Eger "Dillinger Shorty" to his collection. This lure has the Dillinger patent number stamped on its belly, but **also has a marked Paw Paw lip** (see photo 11). After a close examination of the lip, Robert determined that it was factory installed and had not been switched out by some fisherman or collector.

Now, let the speculation begin! It should be a pretty safe bet that Paw Paw did not decide to copy a cataloged lure with a patented Eger paint pattern, using the same shaped wooden body, painted with an identical paint mask, and then finish it off by stamping Eger's own patent number on its belly. Could Paw Paw have made the lures for Eger? Possibly, but as the saying goes, "I wasn't there when they made it"! To date, we have no documentation or facts to indicate Paw Paw or Eger jobbed out lures to each other. Furthermore, we have been unable to locate any paperwork or a single catalog from Paw Paw which illustrates a lure that looks like Eger's 1938 catalogued "Mammoth", "Jointed", or "Shorty" Minnows.

I believe the likely explanation to the Paw Paw vs. Eger question is that Eger acquired some lips from Paw Paw or from their metal lip-manufacturing source. We do not know how long Eger utilized a Paw Paw style lip. It must have been a relatively short period of time in the mid to late 1930's. 1940 is the date of our next known Eger catalog. It has

no lures pictured with a Paw Paw style lip. In addition, the Eger Dillinger's "Shorty" name has been changed to an Eger "Ricochet", and it has a small, screwed on lip, under the chin. The "Jointed Minnow" also has this same lip, while Eger's "Mammoth Lure" transitioned to a Creek Chub style lip, some of which were stamped with Eger's jumping fish logo.

Over the years, Eger did use four styles of lips:

- The Paw Paw style metal lip. (see photo 12)
- A simple screw on metal lip. (see photo 13)
- A Creek Chub style metal lip inserted into the wood, usually stamped with the Eger fish logo, as typically seen on their props. (see photo 14)
- A modified Creek Chub style that inserted into the wooden lure like a Creek Chub, then turned down at an approximate 45 degree angle. It has the Eger fish logo stamped into the lip. (This lip is seen only on the extremely rare No. 4000 series "Special Muskie, Kingfish & Tarpon Lure" catalogued in 1941).

As a collector of Eger lures, the answer I'll give the next time someone asks me to identify a lure I know is pictured with a Paw Paw style lip in Eger's 1938 Catalog, and has a patented Eger paint job, will be; *"I'm not sure what it is, and I don't collect Paw Paws, but how much do you want for it?"*

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Eger "JOINTED CANDY KID"	No. 303-3
Eger "JOINTED TIGER"	No. 304-4
Eger "JOINTED GREEN DRAGON"	No. 306-6

SERIES 700 . . . . . PRICE \$0.80

Length 3 3/4" Weight 3/4 oz.

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White body. Red stripes. Rust proof hooks.	
Eger "TIGER SHORTY"	No. 704
Yellow body. Black stripes. Rust proof hooks.	
Eger "GREEN DRAGON SHORTY"	No. 706
Green body. Black stripes. Rust proof hooks.	

Page 6

**EGER BAITS**

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These baits have all been tested in the water where the fish are found for which these lures are recommended. They give plenty of action and are properly shaped and colored to attract the fish.

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Length 6 1/2" Weight 2 oz. PRICE \$2.00

White body. Black ribbed stripes. Indestructible eyes. Rust proof hooks. Plenty of the proper action to get them.

Page 9

Special thanks to both Doug Brace for providing historical information as well as copies from his Eger Catalog (above) dated 1938, and to Robert Farling for providing photos of some of his Eger lures.

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This cover and accompanying article first appeared in the September, 1940 issue of the Northwest Florida Sportsman. It featured "two comely angling daughters of Neptune", the Salun sisters, of New Orleans, Louisiana. The article detailed their deep sea fishing exploits while on a day trip out of Panama City, FL, my home town.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines **comely** as follows:

indicated manner <come in handy> b: to make reply to a signal or call <come in loud and clear> 4: to assume a role or function <that's where you come in> 5: to attain maturity, fruitfulness, or production — come in for: to become subject to <coming in for increasing criticism>  
**come-ly** \ˈkəm-lee also ˈkɒm- or ˈkäm-ə\ *adj* **come-li-er, -est** [ME *comely*, alter. of OE *cymlic* glorious, fr. *cýme* lively, fine; akin to OHG *kūmig* weak, Gk *goan* to lament] 1: having a generally pleasing appearance: not homely or plain 2: pleasurably conforming to notions of good appearance, fitness, or proportion: SEEMLY <everything in neat and ~ arrangement> *syn* see BEAUTIFUL *ant* homely — **come-li-ness** *n*  
**come off** *vi* 1: to acquit oneself <came off well in the contest> 2: SUCCEED <a television series that never came off—TV Guide> 3: HAPPEN, OCCUR  
**come-on** \ˈkəm-ɒn, -ən\ *n*: an attraction used esp. in sales

While probably no longer considered a politically correct description of the fairer sex, it does make one pause to reminisce about the "good old days" of fishing in Florida some 66 years ago, and how quaint and distant it seems today.

This issue was Volume 1, No. 2 and was described as a "monthly publication devoted to all sports activities of Northwest Florida." It was published by Pfeiffer Printing Co. in Pensacola, Florida. G. C. Pfeiffer was named as publisher, with R. J. Holly and Arthur Oliver, editor and associate editor, respectively. Unfortunately,

Pfeiffer Printing Co. has long since closed its doors.

Ron Gast found this issue on e-Bay and sold it to me for a very fair price. The issue is 33 pages in length, and is "chock-full" of cool ads, interesting stories and historic photos. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

Steve 

## PAST AND CURRENT NOTES OF INTEREST

### Florida Game and Fish, 1940

According to an excerpt from the September, 1940 *Northwest Florida Sportsman*, the publication quotes *Florida Game and Fish* as stating, "Florida's first fishing law was adopted by the state legislature in 1832, when the damming of navigable streams so as to prevent the passage of fish upstream for a period of 24 hours was prohibited".

### BASSER Magazine info from Bernie Schultz

Bernie Schultz notified us that his current copy of *BASSER Magazine*, a popular Japanese fishing publication similar to *Field and Stream*, features a nice article on this year's FATC Daytona meet. Bernie says, "The article has plenty of pics and text (that I can't read)". Thanks for the update, Bernie. It's good to know some of our Far East members are spreading the news about FATC.

## Comely Daughters of Neptune Bring 'Em Back Alive

Our cover this issue shows what the fair sex can do with our finny tribes, whether it be fresh or salt water. These lassies did not have to alibi for the big one that got away as the photo on cover proves they can bring 'em to gaff.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Salun, Jr., and Mrs. Salun's sister, all of New Orleans, La., while vacationing in Panama City several weeks, enjoyed the beaches and deep sea fishing in the gulf. Mrs. Sulan expressed her desire to return next season and try for tarpon as her ambition seems to run large, according to the huge sailfish she landed.

The party left early Saturday morning, August 10 for the snapper banks, about 15 miles in the gulf, for a last day's outing before trekking back to New Orleans. Skipper (Capt.) Walter Semore of the yacht Monarch, who handles many deep sea parties during the year, was guide for the day and said if they would troll along the way before reaching the snapper banks, they might hook larger game.

Equipped with all necessities for deep sea fishing Mrs. Salun, about half way to their destination, was nearly jerked from her chair, and giving a warhoop to stop the boat, she started displaying the skill of a seasoned fisherman. Mrs. Salun says she never had so much fun in all her life. Exactly 20 minutes after the sailfish struck, and having leaped 14 times during the melee, she brought it to gaff, ready for another try.

The catch weighed 60 pounds and measured from tip of nose to tip of tail, seven feet and three inches, as you can see from cover photo, with Captain Semore seated on bannister of wharf holding the tail fin. The party enjoyed the balance of the day catching snapper and others, and on hearing about the rodeo being held August 28, 29 and 30, expressed their eagerness in trying to return in time for that. Mrs. Salun said she would like to show up some of the male contingent who will be on hand trying for the monsters.



Photo of window display at Fisher-Stinson Hardware Company, showing prizes to be given for high point anglers at the Gulf Coast Anglers' Third Annual Rodeo.

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  
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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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**"The Tackle Box" Classifieds**

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 members to see in the next newsletter. Contact Steve Cox for more information or to place your ad, 850-769-5585, email [econfinataackle@knology.net](mailto:econfinataackle@knology.net)

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**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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- Froggie w/ cork body & Rub. Legs
- Japanese Beetle NOC
- Skunk Tail Minnow NOC

Peckinpaugh Doodle Bug (a.k.a. Lucky Bug)

\*\*\*\*\*



#### Can you identify this lure?

Bill Stuart procured it at the St. Pete Beach Show  
2 1/2" long, glass eyes, 3 treble hooks, and  
10 solder joints in metal work

## Bill Stuart

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US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO 33  
PANAMA CITY FL