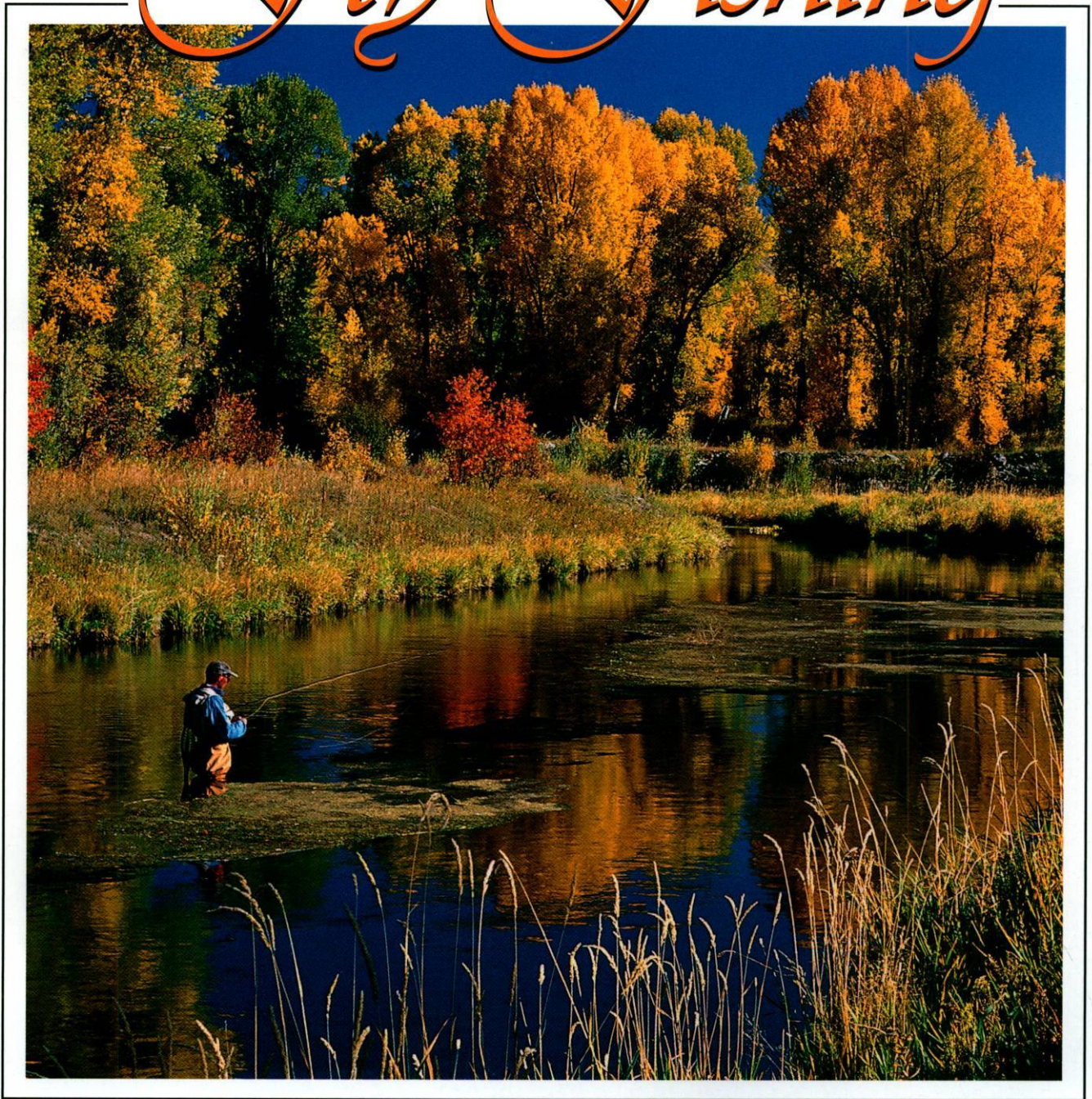


NORTHWEST

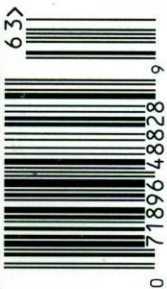
Fall 2006

\$6.95US • \$8.95CAN

Fly Fishing



Elwha River, WA • 38
Lower Yuba River, CA • 44
Klamath Lake, OR • 50
Upper Selway River, ID • 56



NORTHWEST *Fly Fishing*

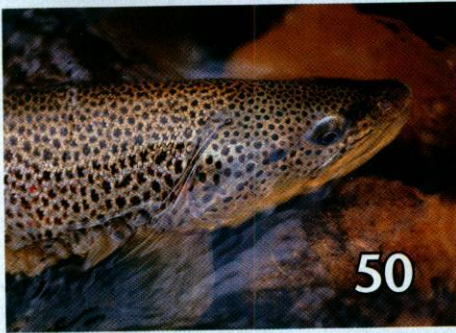
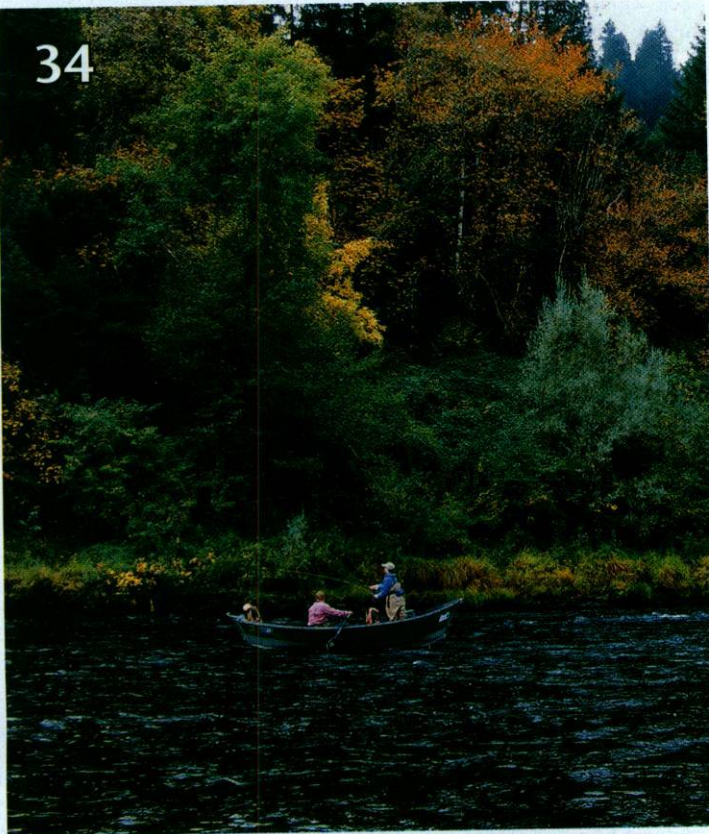
Volume 8, Number 3, Fall 2006
www.matchthehatch.com

Features

- 38 Elwha River, WA**
Trout That Fight Like Steelhead
By Mike Benbow
- 44 Lower Yuba River, CA**
Prospecting for Gold Country Trout
By Hogan G. Brown
- 50 Klamath Lake, OR**
Turbo Trout in the Tules
By Don Roberts
- 56 Upper Selway River, ID**
Dirt Road to Paradise
By Quinn Grover

Departments

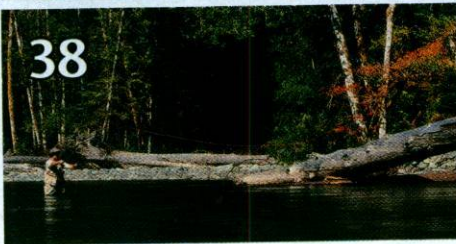
- 6 From the Editor**
- 8 Notes, News & Reviews**
- 22 Conservation**
Wild Steelhead Coalition Unveils Plan for Washington's Wild Steelhead •
By Richard T. Burge, Nathan J. Mantua, and Jack W. Berryman
- 24 Innovative Fly Tier**
Paul Stauffer • By John Shewey
- 28 Pioneers & Legends**
Lloyd D. Silvius (1902–1973) •
By Jack W. Berryman
- 34 Exposure**
Rogue Fall • By Dale C. Spartas
- 62 Readings**
The Compleat Angler • By Steve Raymond
- 78 Northwest Fly Tying**
Epoxy Sand Lance • By Tim Harris
- 80 Fish Tales**
Fire! • By Alan Liere



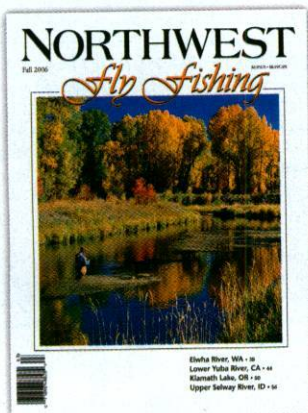
50



28



38



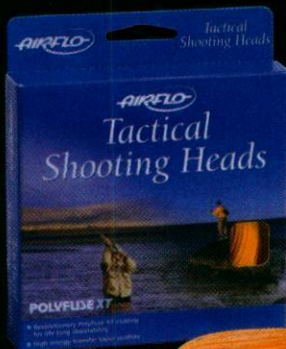
Cover: Fall on Wyoming's Spring Creek
Photo by: John Juracek



Page 78 Epoxy Sand Lance

AIRFLO

A line that used to
only be available
from a line nerd.



Tactical Shooting Heads

Skagit heads make casting ridiculously large extra heavy flies easy. People used to have to custom make heads to own a head that could do this. Airflo's new Skagit heads were designed by people who fish the rivers of the Pacific Northwest and perform like no other lines on the market. Heads allow a person to choose which running line best fits their needs. Choose from Airflo's pre looped floating running line, or the popular floating braided running line, or hard monofilament running line and you are ready to go fishing. No more cutting and splicing your lines together. Also available is a family of Scandinavian Shooting Heads. Airflo's Scandi heads come with loops on both ends to allow the use of different leaders or tips. Attach a regular mono leaders for most greased line fishing or attach a sinking leader to get your fly down to the fish.

Learn more about this line and other
Airflo products.

www.rajeffsports.com
Rajeff Sports, Vancouver Wa.
1-866-347-4359



Pioneers & Legends

Lloyd D. Silvius (1902–1973):
Eureka Fly Tier, Fly Shop Owner, and Originator of
Several Popular Steelhead Patterns

By Jack W. Berryman



Lloyd Silvius swings a fly through one of his favorite spots on the Trinity River, Mill Creek Riffle, in the 1950s. Photograph courtesy of Lila L. Haffner, Silvius's daughter. Fall Favorite, as tied by Steve Rosenberg of Eureka, California (inset)

Lloyd Dell Silvius was born February 19, 1902, in Carbondale, Colorado, the third child of Daniel and Marcia (King) Silvius. He had an older sister, Mabel, born in 1885, and a brother, Frank, born in 1892. In early 1907, his family moved to Humboldt County, California, and young Lloyd attended public school in Eureka. There, in the midst of local Eel River steelhead legend and lore, Lloyd befriended Sam Wells, who owned a local fly shop, and also met Jim Pray (*Northwest Fly Fishing*, Fall 2002), who caught his first steelhead on a fly in the Eel in 1910. Silvius remembered that by the age of 16 he "had become an uncompromising exponent of the fly for steelhead."

During high school Silvius worked at a local grocery store, and shortly after graduation, on August 19, 1920, he married Leona Beatrice Sutherland. She was from Hydesville, south of

Eureka near the confluence of the Eel and Van Duzen rivers. At the time, Lloyd worked for the Fluhrer Bakery; by 1923 he had taken a job driving a delivery truck for the Log Cabin Bakery. During these early years of marriage, Lloyd and Leona lived with Lloyd's older brother in Eureka.

In 1924 Silvius became a member of the Bakery and Confectionary Workers International Union of America, and the following year he was hired as a master baker by the Log Cabin Bakery. He and Leona purchased their first home at 211 W. Harris in Eureka and resided there the rest of their lives. They raised a son and daughter, Gene and Lila.

Lloyd fly fished the local rivers for steelhead and began tying his own flies during the late 1920s. Then, in 1930, he designed one of the earliest hair-wing steelhead patterns in the region, a fly he called the Silvius White


Bucktail: yellow hackle fibers for the tail, red chenille butt, oval silver tinsel for the body, a wing of white bucktail or polar bear fur, and orange hackle. A dark alternative pattern was dubbed the Silvius Demon. The tail, butt, and hackle of this fly were the same, but the body was oval gold tinsel, and the wing was either black African monkey or black bucktail. Later, the Silvius White Bucktail evolved into his famous Nite Owl. Four years later, Jim Pray moved back to the area and began to tie flies professionally in the mezzanine of the bakery where Silvius worked. They reacquainted, and Silvius became more and more enthused about fly fishing and fly tying.


In late December 1936, on the same day that Eureka angler Walter J. Thoresen landed five Eel River steelhead totaling 60 pounds, including an 18-pound fish that placed first in the annual *Field & Stream* contest, young Gene Silvius caught a 14-pound, 14-ounce steelhead on his father's Silvius White Bucktail. His fish took first place in the *Field & Stream* junior division. This day also marked the birth and naming of a new fly Pray had made and given to Thoresen to try. Noting the fly's success, and to commemorate their friendship, Pray named the fly "Thor," short for Thoresen. Silvius, too, began to gain local recognition for his Silvius White Bucktail and started to take orders for flies that he tied at his home.

Silvius and his wife opened their own bakery, the L. D. Silvius Bakery, in 1939 near their home. Their son worked with them in the business, and Lloyd became secretary for Bakers Union Local 195 in Eureka. He continued to tie and sell flies from his home, and his Silvius Demon was used to catch the *Field & Stream* fifth-place steelhead that same year, a 12-pound fish from the Eel. The next year, Pray developed his Black Optic and shortly thereafter other optic patterns, which won national attention and influenced Silvius. Eureka and the Eel River were rapidly becoming destinations for fly


PACIFIC FLY FISHERS

Mill Creek, Washington






Thousands of fly fishing & tying products



Demo rods & lines behind the store

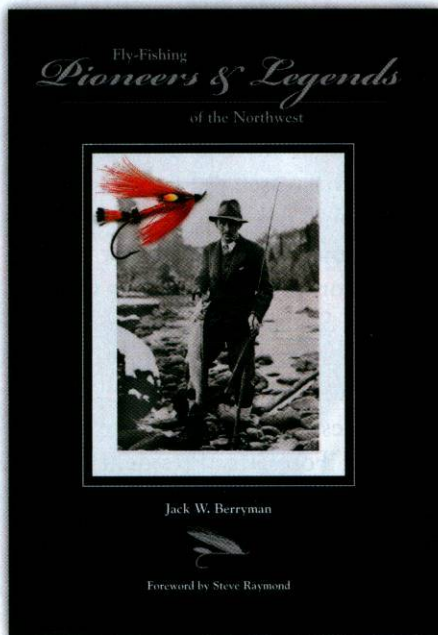


A full service

Fly Fishing Pro Shop

serving the Seattle-Everett and North Puget Sound areas.

1018 164th Street SE - Mill Creek, Washington 98012
Ph: 425-742-2402 - E-mail: Info@PacificFlyFishers.com
www.PacificFlyFishers.com
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5



"... if you care about our sport's history and its development during the 20th century, obtain a copy of Dr. Berryman's book and put it on your bookshelf before they are all gone."

—R.P. Van Gytenbeek, CEO and president, Federation of Fly Fishers

"... a remarkable series of columns... an intricate mosaic of the fly-fishing history of the West, particularly the Pacific Northwest."

—Steve Raymond, author of *The Year of the Angler*, and others

"I doubt that any other fishing book has ever done as good a job of celebrating the theories, achievements, and adventures of so many great fly fishers."

—Paul Schullery, author of *American Fly Fishing: A History*, and others

Introducing *Fly-Fishing Pioneers & Legends of the Northwest*, a unique book containing unabridged versions of the author's first 23 columns appearing in *Northwest Fly Fishing's* Pioneers

& Legends department, dating back to winter 2000. This color book is artfully designed and printed on a high quality Japanese matte paper, complete with plenty of original photography, fly plates, maps and more. This timeless book is sure to become a collector's item as it is passed down from generation to generation.

Order your autographed copy online or call 800-688-8020

www.matchthehatch.com


Windermere
REAL ESTATE - KLAMATH FALLS, OR

Riverfront Property FOR SALE



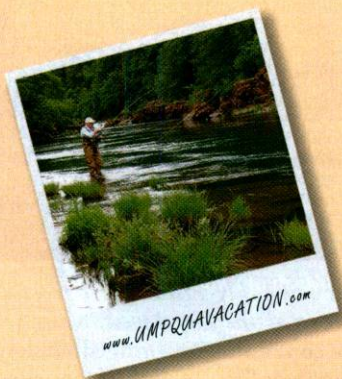
Williamson River

- * About ½ mile of river frontage & 1 mile of Hwy. 97 frontage.
- * World famous trout fishing on the Williamson River in Oregon.
- * Beautiful stand of ponderosa pines.
- * Asking price: \$2,000,000.

Call Linda about this amazing property!

Linda Weider: 541.281.0500
519 Main St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601
KlamathBasin.com

The lure of the Umpqua...



There is an amazing 33 miles designated just for fly fishing on the North Umpqua River. For a free visitors guide to our land call 800-440-9584 or visit www.landofumpqua.com

fishers seeking large steelhead.

As America entered World War II and a shortage of flour affected the bakery business, Lloyd and his wife closed their store and went to work for the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company at the Naval Shipyard on Humboldt Bay. Once their services were no longer needed following the war, Lloyd opened the Silvius Tackle Shop in his home. Known locally as "Lloyd's," his small shop was a friendly competitor with Pray's shop on G Street. Silvius developed his own radiant-colored dyes, made his own vise, tied without a bobbin, and taught fly casting as well as fly tying. He prided himself on the conservation of tying materials and regularly used less than a foot of thread for each fly. Those learning the craft from him were usually warned about "wasting material."

By 1946, Silvius was listed in the *Eureka City Directory* as "fisherman," and had developed another highly popular fall and winter steelhead pattern he called Fall Favorite. His original version was tied with an optic head, with painted white eyes and red pupils. Another version was tied with gold bead-chain eyes, while others had no optic head at all. The fly had a body of flat silver tinsel, red hackle, and an orange bucktail wing. It became so popular on the Eel and other northern California rivers that Trey Combs noted in *Steelhead Fly Fishing* (1991) "in only a few seasons it became a winter steelhead standard."

The establishment of Six Rivers National Forest by President Harry Truman in 1947, with headquarters in Eureka, further focused national attention on Silvius and Pray as local fly-fishing experts. Their shops were central to six of the most famous steelhead rivers in the United States: the Smith, Klamath, Trinity, Mad, Eel, and Van Duzen. It was at this time, too, that Silvius befriended three other "pioneers and legends" from that area—Pete Schwab (*Northwest Fly Fishing*, Summer 2001), Harry Hornbrook (*Northwest Fly Fishing*, Winter

2004), and Bill Schaadt (*Northwest Fly Fishing*, Fall 2005). Together, these five Northern California anglers made unique and lasting contributions to steelhead fly fishing.

Silvius flies accounted for several large steelhead listed in the annual *Field & Stream* contest during the late 1940s. His Nite Owl took an 18-pound Mad River fish for third place in 1947; the same pattern accounted for third place in 1948 with a 17-pound, 9.5-ounce Smith River fish; Fall Favorites caught the fifth- and ninth-place fish from the Eel in 1949; and in 1950, Art Dedini, one of Hornbrook's mentors, caught the second-place fish in the Eel on a Nite Owl Optic. By this time, Silvius had established a profitable business tying and selling flies and tackle. He still found time to teach tying and casting, as well as do a lot of fishing himself, mainly on the Trinity and Klamath.

As Jim Pray became ill and passed away in early 1952, Silvius became more established and involved in the local fly-fishing network. He was a member of the Fish Action Council, which raised salmon smolts for release in Freshwater Creek and the Elk River, both Humboldt Bay streams, and joined the California Fly Fishermen United, Northcoast Fly Fishermen, South Humboldt Bay Conservation Club, and Redwood Sportsman's Club. His flies continued to catch large steelhead. The fifth-place *Field & Stream* record steelhead for 1951 was caught on a Fall Favorite from the Garcia and, in 1952, the second-, fifth-, and 10th-place fish, all from the Eel, were caught on Fall Favorites. That same year, the ninth-place fish fell to a Silvius Demon. In 1953, Bill Schaadt's third-place 17-pound steelhead from the Gualala took a Fall Favorite Optic and the sixth-place fish, from the Eel, also took a Fall Favorite. Overall, between 1939 and 1959, when *Field & Stream* record steelhead were increasingly coming from British Columbia rivers on other flies, Silvius flies accounted for 15 *Field & Stream* record fish. Still, the 1959 second-place

The Caddis Press

Aquatic Insect Publications
Since 1983



NEW!

Stoneflies (Plecoptera) of Alaska and Western Canada

by Stewart and Oswood
300 p. Hardbound. \$65

American Stoneflies: A Photo- graphic Guide to the Plecoptera

by Stark, Szczytko, & Nelson
106 p. Hardbound. \$50

Nymphs of the North American Stonefly Genera, 2nd Edition

by Stewart & Stark
510 p. Smythe-sewn, soft cover. \$75

Diagnostic Atlas of the N. Amer. Caddisfly Adults. Vol. I.

Philopotamidae. by B. Armitage
72 p. Soft cover \$20

Diagnostic Atlas of the N. Amer. Caddisfly Adults. Vol. II.

Ecnomidae, Polycentropidae,
Psychomyiidae, & Xiphocentronidae
by Armitage and Hamilton
152 p. Soft cover. \$25

Payment by personal checks and
money orders in U.S. dollars drawn
on a U.S. bank. Ohio residents add
6.75% state sales tax.

FREE POSTAGE

The Caddis Press

P.O. Box 21039

Columbus, OH 43221-0039

www.caddispress.com

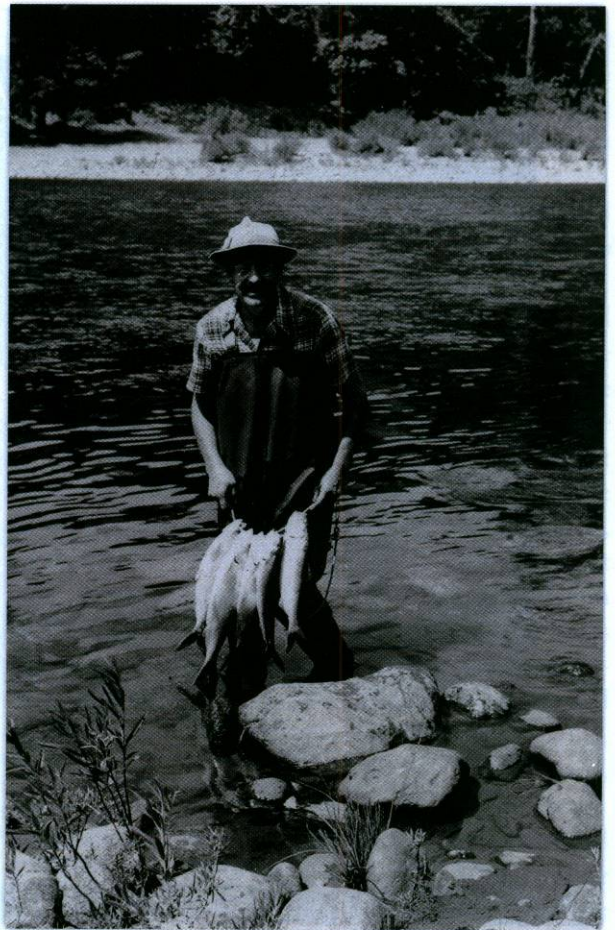
fish, a massive 20-pound, 12-ounce steelhead from the Kispiox, was caught on a Fall Favorite.

By the late 1950s, Silvius owned a fishing cabin on the Klamath River near Orleans and was also deeply involved in his hobby of growing flowers and vegetables. He also fly fished for shad on the Trinity River in Hoopa Valley and began tying Pray's Eel River Optic with a black head painted with white eyes and red pupils. This variation became known as the Mickey Optic or the Red-and-Yellow Optic. He regularly fished the Trinity from Cedar Flat down through Hoopa Valley, and his favorite spot was Mill Creek Riffle. The Klamath downstream near Klamath Glen, the lower Eel, and Big and Stone lagoons drew him

to pursue steelhead and cutthroat trout.

In 1960, Silvius developed his Brindle Bug especially for summer and fall steelheading on the Klamath. The fly became so popular that steelheaders on the Klamath began saying, "If you're not fishing a Brindle Bug, you're not fishing." Silvius preferred fishing most of his steelhead flies on a shooting taper, and, testifying to his belief in this system, his tiny shop held the record for selling the most shooting tapers on the West Coast for the Cortland Line Company.

Eureka attorney Stephen Rosenberg took his first fly-casting lessons from Silvius as a teenager in 1968 and remembered his teacher as "an energetic man" who "never charged for any help." Rosenberg said that Silvius "sold me my first fly rod, reel, and line and taught me how to tie needle



Lloyd Silvius with a stringer of shad caught at the Mill Creek Riffle on the Trinity River on July 27, 1955. Photograph courtesy of Lila L. Haffner, Silvius's daughter

knots and splice loops into backing," and emphasized that he was "generous with everybody."

The following year, after starting his exhaustive research on the history of steelhead flies and fly fishing, Trey Combs featured the Nite Owl as his first fly in a new column published in *Salmon Trout Steelheader*. Silvius also helped Combs with his research and provided several flies for publication in *The Steelhead Trout* (1971), which lead Combs to write in Silvius's personal copy, "To Lloyd Silvius, who more than any other helped make this book possible."

By the time Lloyd and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1970, he was conducting business at the fly shop only three days a week. The other four days were spent at their trailer parked on a lot they owned at Gambi's Village, about

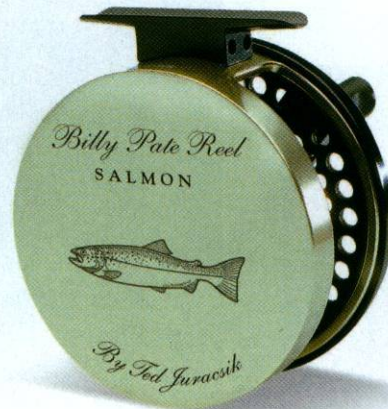
50 miles east of Eureka on the Trinity River near the Humboldt/Trinity county line. From this base, Lloyd fished the Hoopa Valley and Gambi areas on the Trinity as well as the Orleans area on the Klamath.

Silvius died on October 6, 1973, and was buried in Sunset Memorial Park in Eureka. His obituary in *The Times-Standard* noted, "Over the years he has developed many original fly patterns that are in wide use in northern California. He taught many local individuals the art of fly casting."

Combs used several Silvius flies in *Steelhead Fly Fishing and Flies* (1976), provided a short biography, and listed Silvius's favorite flies for the Northern California region, noting that he was a "Eureka professional fly tier and half-century Eel River resident." Later, in *Steelhead Fly Fishing*, Combs referred to Silvius and his Brindle Bug fame on the Klamath and provided recipes for each of Lloyd's famous steelhead flies. The following year, Dick Stewart and Farrow Allen, in *Flies for Steelhead*, credited Silvius for his original flies and noted that his Nite Owl "was one of the early hairwing steelhead patterns from one of the best-known fly tiers on the West Coast." More recently, Terry Hellekson, in *Fish Flies: The Encyclopedia of the Fly Tier's Art* (2005), explained, "Lloyd Silvius filled the gap that Jim Pray left behind in northern California" and argued that it "would take a very unique person to fill the shoes of either of these men." Hellekson also remembered that Silvius "was always one to share, and he showed the utmost respect to other fly tiers, especially if he knew they were also trying to make a few bucks to support a common habit, fly-fishing."

Jack W. Berryman is an angling author and historian who lives in Kirkland, Washington.

Old School



Since its introduction in 1976, no other fly reel has matched the Billy Pate's durability & dependability, day in, day out, year after year, regardless of condition, locale or species. If you know your fly fishing history, then you know this is the reel that set the hook!

- Classic anti-reverse design.
- Available in 4 sizes.
- Corresponding game-fish engraving on each model.



TIBOR REEL CORPORATION

Makers of the World's Finest Fly Reels

www.tiborreel.com

Maintenance Free • Warranted for Life • Made in the USA

WE CALLED IT THE BEST OF KAMCHATKA FOR A REASON



This unspoiled corner of the world has rivers which offer absolute solitude and exceptional fishing. Wild trophy Rainbows, monster Grayling, colorful Dolly Varden, and thrilling Silver Salmon. This is the year to live the dream. Come experience the spectacular beauty and power of the Ozernaya Spring Creek or Two Yurt River.

WILL BLAIR
THE BEST OF KAMCHATKA
PO BOX 720206
REDDING CA 96099

(877) 707-0880

THEBESTOFKAMCHATKA.COM

THE BEST OF
KAMCHATKA