

# Fishing Tips from Tom McNally

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Most fishermen when walking from cars or from one spot to another carry their rods tip-first. If they stumble, the rod tip often digs into the ground and . . . "snaaaapppp!" Also a rod-carried tip-first tends to catch in limbs and brush, or the line or attached lure will snag.

Best way to carry any rod is butt-first. If you trip and fall forward the rod is safely behind you and CANNOT be broken. Moreover, neither the rod, line or lure will foul on leaves, limbs, etc.

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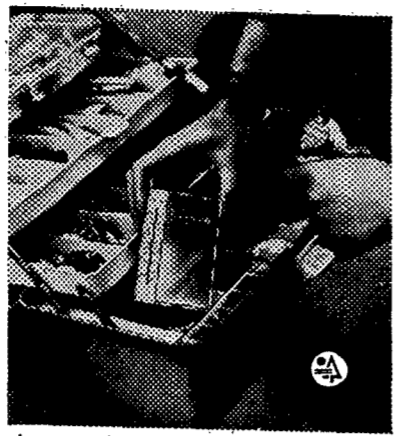
This is the time of year when black bass begin schooling and spend most of their time in deep-water "sanctuaries." Ordinarily these schools "break up" or disperse to the shallows only to feed, and these inshore migrations may occur at any time, not just mornings and evenings.

It's smart these days to start out by fishing the shallows, but if you don't score move to the deep water. Try deep-down along the edges of drop-offs beyond points and peninsulas that continue out from shore, and around reefs and bars 30-40 feet down.

\* \* \*

How many fishermen know of the "strip-cast" method of fishing with a fly rod? It's a super-system for fishing delicately with bait, tiny spoons or streamer flies.

Any fly rod may be used. The line is ordinary nylon monofilament, 15, 18, or 20 pound test—but the fly reel MUST be one with a tight-fitting spool. If the fly reel's spool is loose-fitting the monofilament can catch between the spool and the reel side-plates, either jamming the spool or cutting the line.



A transistor radio tucked into the fishing kit makes it easy for the angler to stay on top of the weather.

The "strip-casting" outfit is rigged like any fly tackle except mono instead of regular fly line is used.

String line through the guides, attach your bait hook, spoon or streamer to the end, then pinch onto the line three feet up from the hook or lure 5 or 6 lead split-shot sinkers. To cast all you do is strip several yards of line from the reel and let it fall at your feet in loose coils.

Now, with the split-shot sinkers hanging down from the rod tip about a foot (and the bait or lure dangling beyond) take the rod vertically back to about the 2:00 o'clock position, while lightly holding the nylon line in your left hand as you would fly line. Make a quick, flip-like forward cast—shooting for 11:00 o'clock—and release the line from your left hand. The split-shot sinkers will take off like bullets and pull all that loose line along behind. You'll be amazed at the ease with which you'll make 90-100 foot casts.

Because of the fine nylon line and the split-shot, your bait fly, or lure will sink quickly. In an instant you can be down 25-35 feet, where the crappies, walleyes, white

bass or large-mouths are. If fishing a worm or minnow you'll want to merely inch-in the line with your left hand, dropping it in loose coils at your feet; if fishing a small spoon, streamer fly or other light lure you'll probably strip-in line more quickly to give the artificial proper action.

When a fish is hooked it is "played" also by stripping line, and, perhaps best of all, you've got the added fun of fighting your fish on a fly rod.

\* \* \*

Some fishermen say tadpoles are poor bass bait. Don't you believe it!

A friend of mine has seven largemouths, 5-6 inches long, in a large home aquarium. Drop a "taddy" in there and even though the bass are well fed (they get live shiner minnows daily) it's like . . . POWWW!!! . . . as the little bass strike with blinding speed and the tadpole simply disappears.

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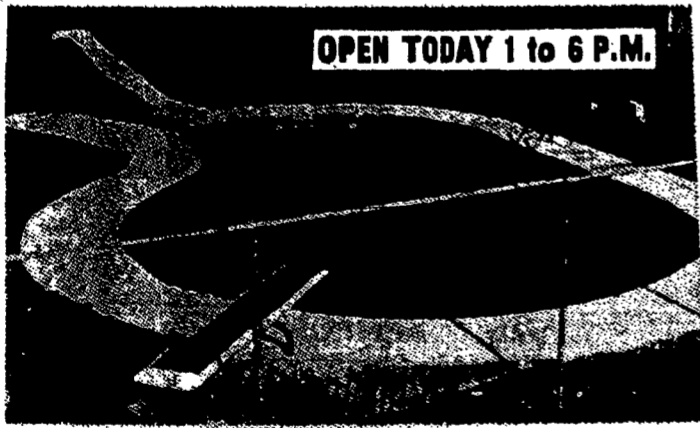
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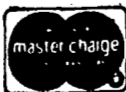


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