

## North Atlantic Big-Game Angling

### *Improvements in Tackle and Methods of Fishing Account for Increasing Number of Swordfish Caught on Rod and Reel in Long Island Waters*

BY DONALD STILLMAN

**A**LTHO the sport of deep-sea angling for giant game fish in North Atlantic waters still is in its infancy, it is being developed rapidly, and the present season bids fair to outstrip previous seasons in the number of anglers engaging in the sport and the number and variety of big-game fish taken on rod and reel in the waters off coastal New England, Long Island and New Jersey. The big-game fish frequenting that area include the broadbill swordfish, the marlin, the bluefin tuna, and the mako shark. Among the smaller species sought by anglers are the dolphin, the little tunny, the bonita and the well-known bluefish.

Among the earliest of the anglers engaging in big-game fish angling in the North Atlantic were K. L. Ross, the late Capt. Laurie B. Mitchell, and Zane Grey. It was in 1911 that Ross captured on rod and reel off Cape Breton a 680-pound bluefin tuna. A few years later Captain Mitchell landed a 710-pound tuna near Medway, Nova Scotia. This record stood for a while and then was beaten by Grey, who caught a 758-pound tuna in Jordan Bay, Nova Scotia.

During the years that followed, many other large fish, including swordfish, striped marlin, black marlin and tuna were taken off California, New Zealand, Africa and the South Sea Isles.

#### Off Long Island

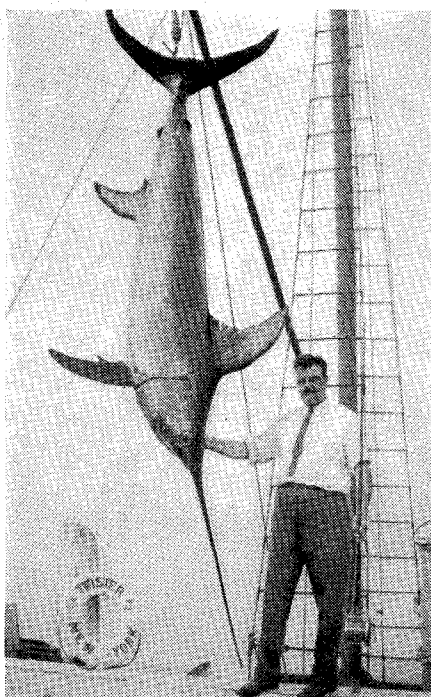
But while many Eastern sportsmen were traveling to far-off regions in quest of marlin and swordfish, a few enterprising anglers were seeking to devise means whereby the big swordfish and marlin which visit the waters off the east end of Long Island during the summer months could be taken on rod and reel.

Their efforts finally were successful. In August, 1926, Julian T. Crandall, of Ashaway, Rhode Island, hooked and landed a small marlin off Block Island. The year following, the late Oliver C. Grinnell took a large broadbill swordfish on rod and reel, fishing out from Montauk Point. Both of these fish were the first of their species ever taken on rod and reel in North Atlantic waters.

These catches focused the attention of many prominent anglers on the sport. Improvements were made in tackle and methods of fishing, and while the present season is not yet over, seven swordfish have been caught on rod and reel in Long Island waters since June 22 of this year.

The first of these was hooked by Mrs. Oliver C. Grinnell, widow of the pioneer of North Atlantic swordfishing, off Fire Island, Long Island. Mrs. Grinnell already had one swordfish to her credit, but unfortunately her second fish can not stand as an individual record, for two persons were con-

cerned in its capture, and the fish was not weighed. However, the battle which ensued when the fish was hooked, probably will stand as an all-time record for endurance, on the part of both the anglers and the fish, for Mrs. Grinnell hooked the fish about nine o'clock A. M. on Tuesday, June 22, and it was not landed until twenty



#### AFTER A TWO-HOUR BATTLE

*Charles L. Lehmann of New York with a 393-pound broadbill swordfish caught by him off Montauk Point*

hours later, or at five o'clock A. M. the following day. During this time both Mrs. Grinnell and her boat captain, Wally Baker, handled the rod; Mrs. Grinnell giving in to Captain Baker after she had battled the fish for ten long hours. The swordfish was hooked in the bony part of the head, and probably it was due to this fact it waged such a long and determined battle.

The rental of a boat for a day runs from \$25 to \$100 and if one wants to use one's own tackle the rod will cost from \$35 to \$60, the reel from \$85 to \$300 and the line about \$25. However, most chartered boats furnish the tackle.

#### This Season's Catch

Six broadbill swordfish taken on rod and reel have been brought into the Montauk Yacht Club so far this season. These include a 393-pounder caught by Charles L. Lehmann; a 225-pounder caught by Dr. D. J. Dooman; a 130-pounder caught by E. C. Memschik; a 240-pounder caught by Landon Thorne; a 287-pounder caught by Dr. Sheppard Krech; and a 143-pounder

caught by Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney.

A number of small marlin weighing up to about 100 pounds have been taken by rod and reel anglers in the North Atlantic. Black marlin weighing up to 700 and 800 pounds have been harpooned off Montauk and Block Island in recent years, but so far as is known none of these big fish have been caught on rod and reel in those waters. As a matter of fact, most of the small marlin taken have not been caught by anglers fishing for marlin, but have been hooked on artificial lures trolled for bluefish or tuna. The marlin strikes with a ferocity equaled by but few species of salt-water game fish, and it is probable that the catches made on artificial lures were preceded by taps which the anglers failed to recognize as marlin strikes, and when the lures were kept moving the fish, in a rage, seized the baits in their mouths and were hooked. Some day a Montauk or Block Island angler will hook and land a really large marlin. When that happens, the swordfish will have a contender for first honors in northern waters.

#### Fishing for Tuna

Thousands of small tuna averaging from about twenty to forty pounds and occasionally running as large as sixty, eighty and 100 pounds, are caught by anglers trolling with artificial lures off the coasts of New Jersey, Long Island, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. A few tuna weighing up to 200 or 300 pounds have been caught by anglers fishing those waters, but to date, all the really large tuna, meaning fish weighing 500 pounds or more, have been caught off the shores of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. I am referring to the fish taken on the American side of the Atlantic, for enormous tuna, including the world's present record have been taken in the North Sea, off Scarborough, England. The big tuna visit the shores of Long Island and New Jersey and the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries has a record of a 1,600-pound tuna taken in a net by commercial fishermen off Manasquan, New Jersey.

It is doubtful if a 1,600-pound tuna could be handled on any fishing tackle yet devised, and due to the fact that this species battles less spectacularly than the swordfish and the marlin, the sport has fewer followers among American sportsmen. A few anglers in Maine and Massachusetts have put in considerable time angling for big tuna and with proper tackle there is no reason why they should not succeed eventually in landing big fish. Tuna are world travelers, and the present record may possibly be broken anywhere along the west coast of the Atlantic from Cape Breton to the Bahamas.

# Fair Golfers Ready for a War on Par

GOLF has had a big year, now rapidly coming to a climax, along and near the shores of Lake Michigan. The National Open at North Shore, the Ladies' Western at Oak Park, the Western Open at Olympia Fields, the P. G. A. at Milwaukee, where Gene Sarazen added to his laurels, the Chicago district qualifying round for the National Amateur at Bob o' Link.

And next week the center of interest shifts to the Exmoor Country Club, Highland Park, for the Ladies' Amateur. This will be the first time this event has been held in or near Chicago since 1915, when the Onwentsia Club at Lake Forest was the scene.

Miss Virginia Van Wie, the defending champion, will find a formidable and picturesque field assembled against her when she arrives to fight for her title. There will be Miss Enid Wilson of England, who recently won her third British Ladies' title. There will be Miss Hicks of Long Island, "Hard-hitting Helen of Hewlett," as they call her. She dethroned Glenna Collett Vare, five times champion, in 1931; and since the day last year that saw her out of the running she has won seven tournaments—the Bermuda Championship, the Belmont Manor, the Hot Springs Invitation, the Metropolitan, the Long Island Match, the Long Island Medal, and the New York State.

Then there will be, it is expected, Bea Gottlieb of Tuckahoe, New York, who recently burst into the limelight as the first woman golfer to beat the Prince of Wales. There will be, in addition, many other familiar figures and not a few new ones worth watching.

## Improvement in Their Play

Estimating the probable field, *The American Golfer* points out steady improvement during the past few years in women's play. Scoring among the top-flighters is appreciably lower. This factor, added to the high quality of the Exmoor course (6,473 yards, women's par 79), should guarantee a first rate showing in the crowning event of the ladies' golf year.

Prophecy is dangerous business, of course. There is no telling who will be the greatest menace to Miss Van Wie's laurels. Stocky, robust Helen Hicks's seven recent victories certainly mark her as some one to watch, if these victories do not at the same time mean that she is overgolfed. There are times when Miss Hicks gets too much of the links and has to relax at one of the other sports at her command—riding, swimming, tennis. Two years ago after winning the national title was such a time, she told Grantland Rice in a recent interview. Her athletic range has always been wide. As a girl it included basket-ball and baseball. It is to be hoped, for the sake of general interest, that this feeling of surfeit will not attack her next week. The estimate of her once credited to Sarazen still holds good: "She can match the best of the men in length of driving and second shots." But whereas she was once known primarily as a hitter, she now has acquired a swing.

Miss Wilson, three times British Ladies' champion, is, like Miss Hicks, a golfer who has other recreations at her command—woodcraft, gardening, hiking. She arrived in this country for the Exmoor play, announcing that this season will see her "through being serious about championship golf because it is too hard work."

Miss Wilson, Gerry Moore of the Boston

Bea"), and she began her golf career on public links.

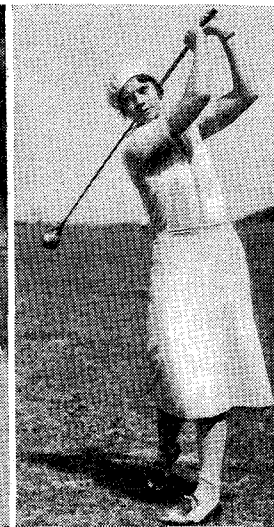
Miss Gottlieb, it is expected, if she plays, will add color to the Exmoor tournament. But when considering her as a picturesque figure, don't forget that she is also a fine golfer, that in her home district she is ranked on skill only a little lower than such players as Miss Hicks and Miss Orcutt.



Helen Hicks



Beatrice Gottlieb



Virginia Van Wie

*Evening Transcript* continues, has picked up some of our slang during previous visits to the United States. For example, she spoke of George Dunlap "going haywire" at Hoylelake after a splendid beginning. Asked where she had acquired the expression, she admitted that she had first heard it in the "good old Middle West."

"Here is a temperament," Bernard Darwin explains in *The American Golfer*, "that does not allow her to take a championship, so to speak, in her stride. She would much rather play a friendly foursome for the fun of it; rather still, perhaps, wander over the countryside looking at birds and beasts, but, as long as she does play in championships she will spare no pains to win them. She will train and toil and practise and agonize, she will either be her very best self, or she will be nobody. . . . At the present moment she is beyond question a very fine, powerful golfer, not possessed of quite the supreme quality of Miss Wethered, but formidably armed at every point of the game."

## Colorful Miss Gottlieb

Bea Gottlieb commands our attention because of her recent victory over the Prince of Wales, trading him a golf-club for a box of balls and an autograph on her score-card by way of souvenir. "She is not the best golfer in the world, just a Met finalist so far," Nan O'Reilly of the New York *Evening Journal* concedes. But the same paper, calling her the "Beau Geste of women golfers," recalls that she once bought a second-hand car to make the rounds of the Florida tournaments. She is blonde, slender, short (hence her nickname, "Little

## A Desert-Driving Marathon

Because of a spectacular driving exploit on the great salt desert 120 miles west of Salt Lake City, Ab Jenkins can now occupy any one of a whole row of speed thrones. Early this month, Jenkins, driving continuously for approximately twenty-five hours and twenty-four minutes, broke thirty-eight American class speed records, fourteen international class records, and fourteen world's unlimited records, by going a total of 3,000 miles at an average speed of 117.9 miles an hour.

The run was timed and sanctioned by the American Automobile Association. Jenkins, who now holds more speed driving records than any other A. A. A. sanctioned driver, hit a top speed in his Pierce-Arrow Twelve of 128.1 for five kilometers.

He lifted the unlimited world's 200-mile record of 118 miles an hour to a new mark of 123.8; the 500-mile record from 119.24 per hour to 124.04; the 1,000-mile record from 116.36 to 123.01; the 2,000-mile record from 112.87 to 117.04; the 3,000-mile record from 113.13 to 117.9; the 12-hour record from 112.82 to 120.5; the 24-hour record from 113.5 to 117.8.

All of the foregoing records were European ones, and for the longer distances were established by crews of three and sometimes four men driving in relays, whereas Jenkins, bringing these records back to America, drove singly, never leaving his seat except for brief moments during the two-minute refueling stops.

The car, a roadster, was stripped of fenders and windshield, was equipped with special rear axle gears, and carried auxiliary fuel tanks.