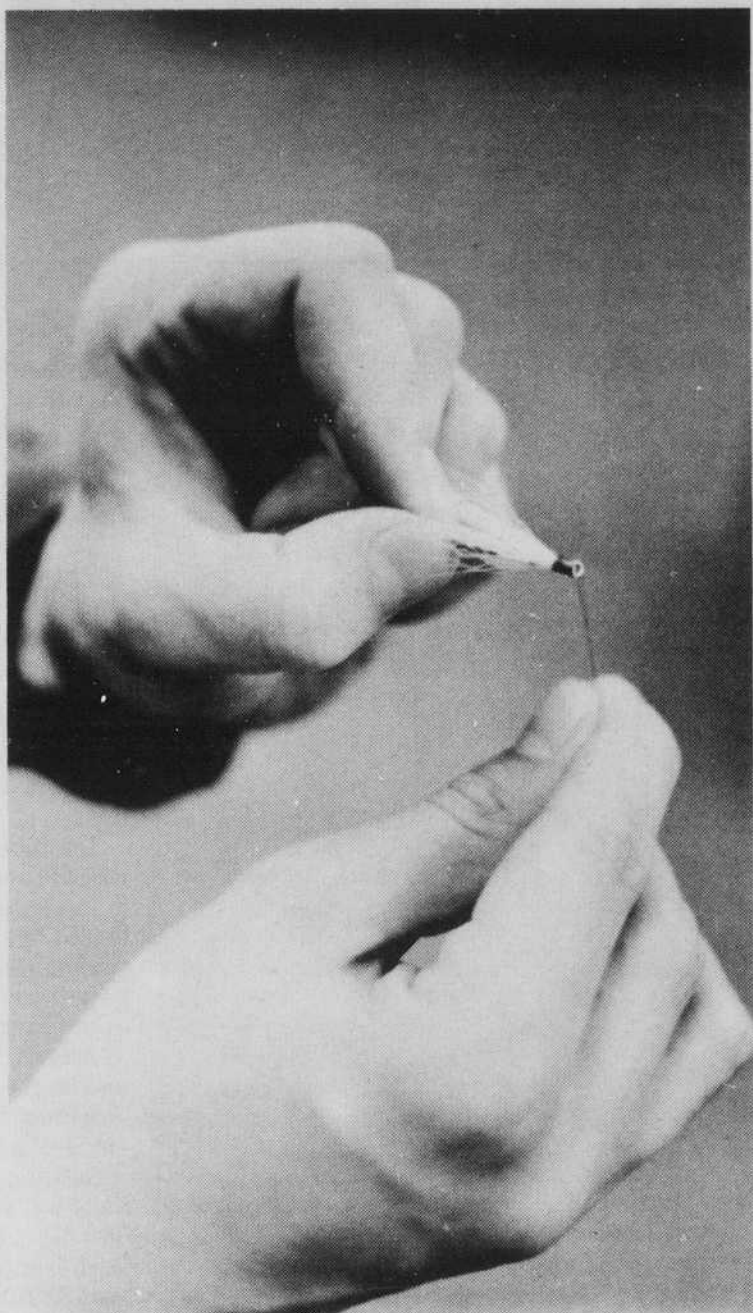


Flies

Neophytes learn to tie one on



Chicken feathers, polar bear fur and deer hair were stacked neatly on the side of the work table as 10-year-old Brett Vinson tried to decide which fly to tie.

Brett finally chose an "Improved Governor," but his father George joked that it may end up an "original creation."

The Vinsons were two of the participants at last Saturday's Fly Fishing Festival at South Eugene High School. The McKenzie Fly Fishers club sponsored the annual event.

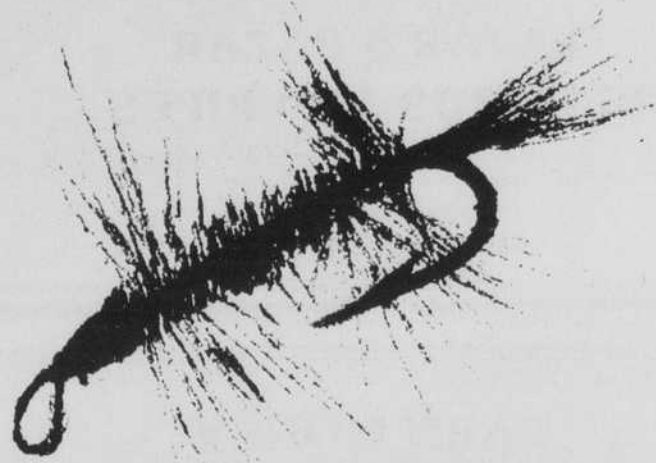
George Vinson was one of several McKenzie Fly Fishers demonstrating the art of fly-tying. By his side was a tray of exotic flies ranging from dark brown to pink and gold which he had made.

"Lot of fellows keep things simple and can tie a fly for two or three cents," Vinson said. "But you can get into some exotic things. This neck of jungle cock is from India. They're used to imitate the (fly's) eyes."

Vinson proudly held up another patch of feathers.

"Here is the Plymouth Rock chicken I got in Hong Kong. It seems to be the most expensive. It costs about \$50 (a patch)."

Fly tying is an art that anyone can learn, with a little patience, hooks and some feathers and fur.



Some of the more unusual materials are unavailable, such as the jungle cock which is extinct.

Skip Hosfield said most people tie flies for practical purposes, but others take it farther until "it becomes an art form, a greater interest than fishing itself."

Brett drew a small crowd as he mounted a hook in a vise.

He picked a piece of golden pheasant feather for the tail and secured it at the end of the hook with a strand of black thread. Then red yarn was wrapped around the shaft of the hook for the body, which was later striped with several rounds of silver ribbing.

The hackle, a small fuzzy black chicken feather, was attached to the neck of the fly. Brett then cut an inch of polar bear hair for the wings, tied the finishing knot near the eye of the hook, and applied a coat of head cement over the knot. Through the whole process, every addition had been held down with the original strand of thread.

With a few shortcut tips from his father, Brett completed the fly in a little more than five minutes. Brett gazed proudly at the finished product as his father congratulated him.

"It's a beauty," George said.

Continued on Page 6B

Cunningham not Oregon AD yet, says search team

The chairer of the athletic director search committee hopes the media's strong speculation of Gary Cunningham as the likely choice won't scare off other potential applicants.

"It is very important that candidates realize that we are conducting a wide-open search, no matter what speculations are being printed in the Oregon media," said Michael Ellis, committee chairer and head of the University physical education department.

Cunningham, athletic director at Oregon College of Education and former basketball coach at UCLA, has not yet applied for the position vacated by John Caine on April 1.

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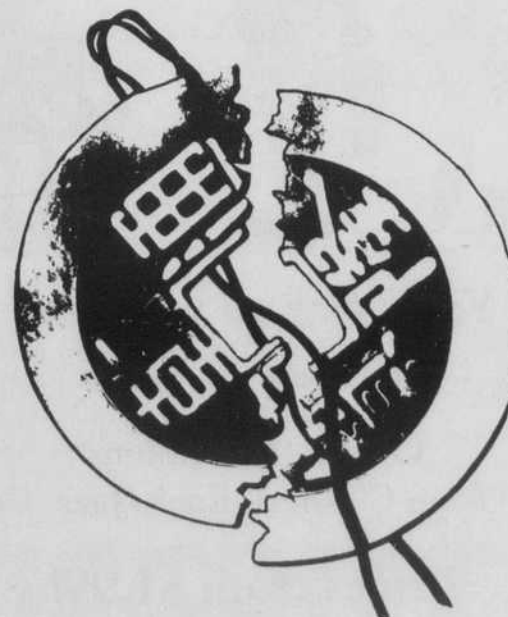
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