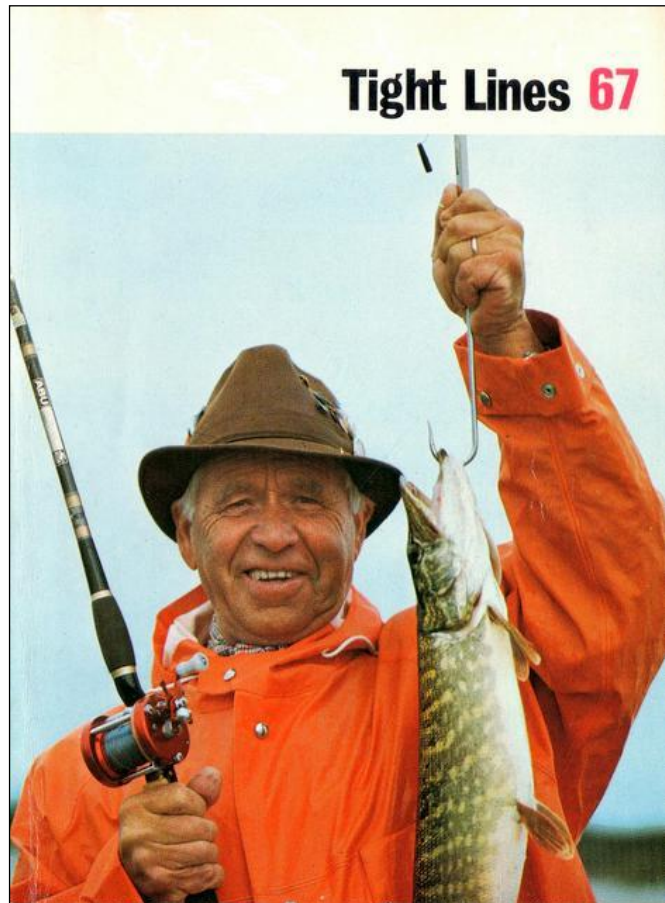


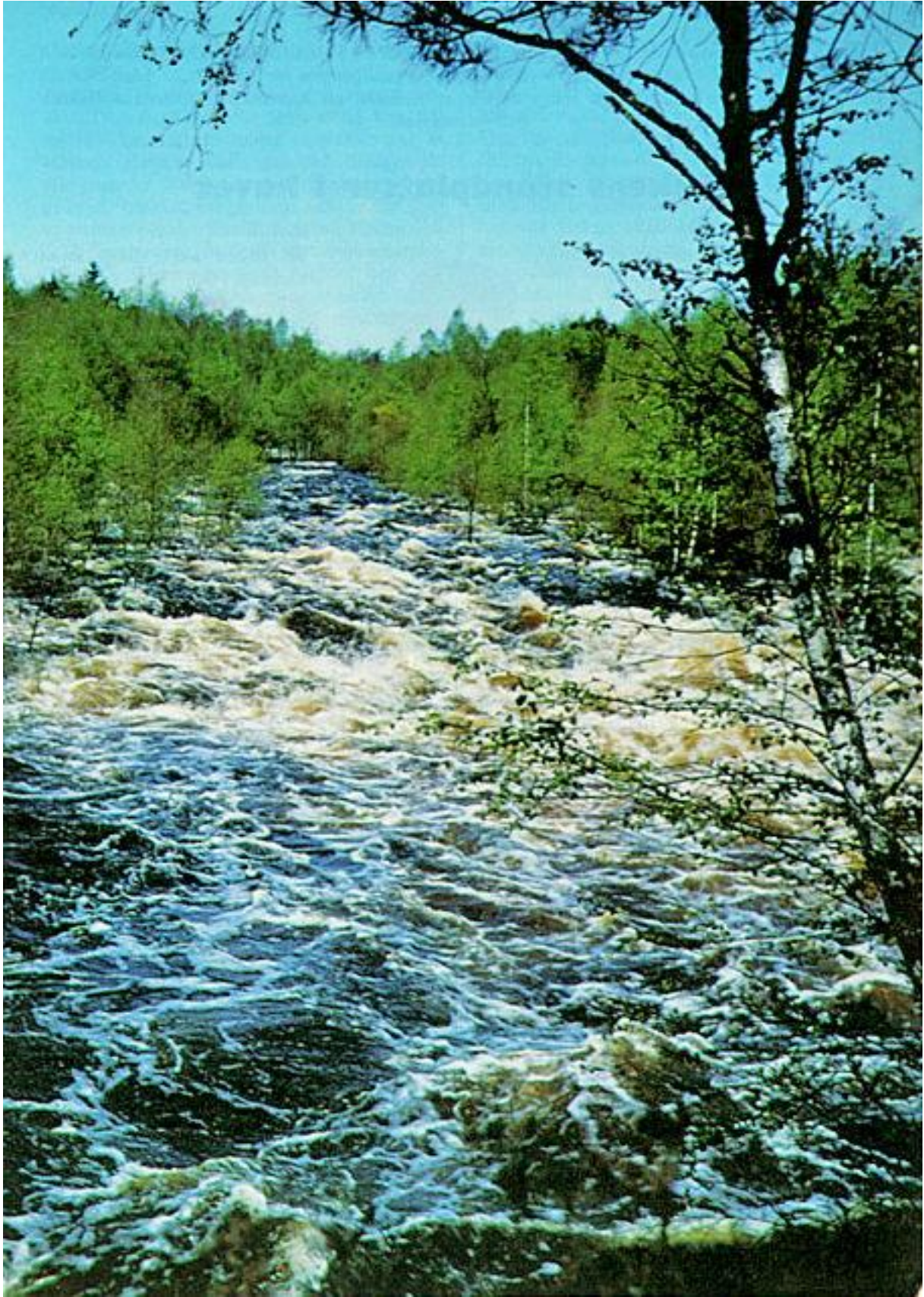
Tight Lines 67

Hans van der Pauw

By the late 1960's I started to expand the horizon of my youthful angling career and to look beyond the reach of my 14 ft bamboo pole. Many of the old angling shops were still in existence by then and the magic of these small and tight places, every square inch from floor to ceiling packed with wondrous and impressive objects, from rods and reels and lures and floats to wicker baskets and monstrous pike heads, was breathtaking. I was a regular visitor of these shops, most of the time penniless but always full of questions. Despite being a poor customer, I was usually met with friendly patience and my questions were answered, often with generous and valuable advice. One day the owner of a shop near Rotterdam, mr Martin, even asked me if I would like to have an angling catalog that he still had somewhere in the back of his shop. It was outdated by a couple of years, he said, but it



could still give me a good idea of the modern angling materials available and he thought it might interest me. I eagerly said 'yes please sir', whereupon he disappeared into a small storage room and after a while came back with... yes! a small booklet. "Tight Lines 67" it read. And on the cover was a smiling old man holding up a beautiful pike in his one hand and some enviable equipment in the other. Especially the shiny red reel - an Ambassadeur 6000, I soon found out - looked very desirable. It was the English edition of a catalog of a Swedish angling manufacturer, ABU. I was overjoyed. It wasn't just the beautiful spinning reels and rods, but also the pictures of the great Scandinavian countryside where the fishing took place, in clear wild streams amidst the fresh green spring foliage of the birch trees. On the back of the catalog two boys of my own age were pictured, one with a rod - it could be me, why not? - the other with a net at hand. And the picture of the old man with the pike on the cover showed what you could finally achieve, if you were experienced enough and well equipped, and how pleasant life could be then. From the contents of this booklet I'll show you some of the pictures that are still as bright and vivid to me now as they were back then.



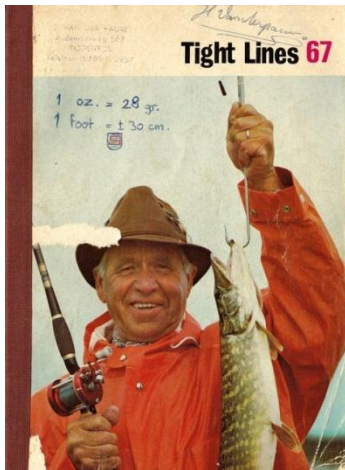
Scandinavia - At that time I had never been there, but in my mind it had to be close to heaven.



ABU 503

NEW

Pictures that speak for themselves. And each one of them enough to interfere with my home work for school...



**LITTLE WIGGLE
(Lill-öringen)**

A "MUST" for trout and perch. In 1966 Mr. Koitto Sillanpää, Finland, caught a perch weighing 4³/₄ lbs. with this lure.
Size: 1/4 oz.

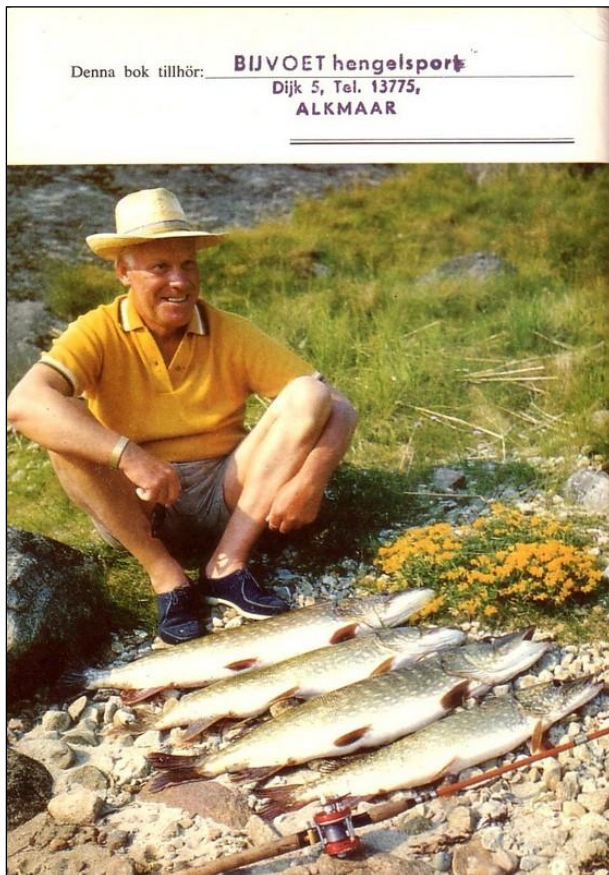
LU (Mörtblänk)

Safe all-round spoon for all types of predatory fish. In 1965 Mr. Bernt Nilsson, Sweden, caught a pike weighing 29³/₄ lbs. with a Lu.
Sizes: 1/4 and 3/4 oz.



< My old, worn out copy of Tight Lines 67 with its spine repaired when it was finally read to pieces and tended to fall apart.

All those idealized images, pictures of beautiful fish in a gorgeous scenery, linked to the most desirable fishing tackle, have proven to be ineffaceable. Over the years they have become icons to me. They may be romanticized and idealized - of course they are - but in my mind they are real just the same and they still inspire me as much as in my childhood. ■



PS - There's a post scriptum to this short impression. My angling friend Jan Eggers is an international angling journalist, also known as 'The Pike Ferret', and a great ABU fan. When I told him how my appreciation and enthusiasm for ABU tackle was kindled by this old man in orange on the cover of the 1967 Tight Lines catalog, it turned out that he had a very similar experience. To Jan it was also a picture in an ABU catalog that seized his imagination and became an icon to him and a source of inspiration. It was from the Swedish 1965 Napp och Nytt and it showed ABU founder and director Göte Borgström sitting behind a great catch of pike, of course with his fine Ambassador reel and ABU rod on the foreground to prove the effectiveness of his tackle. This picture, shown to the left, is from Jan's own copy of the catalog and it carries the stamp of the once legendary ABU-dealer Cees Bijvoet, nicknamed 'ABU-Ceesie', who owned an angling shop in Alkmaar (Holland). Cees was a peculiar guy: if he wouldn't consider you 'worthy' and appreciative enough of an ABU reel, he refused to sell it to you!