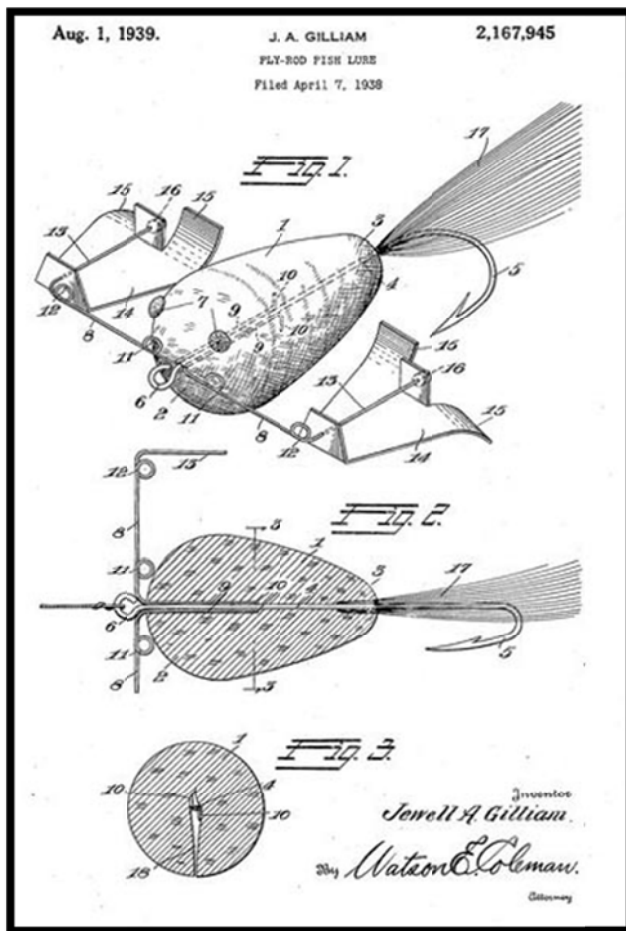


Jewell Gilliam

Jewell Gilliam was a lure inventor and lure manufacturer who sold his lures in the 1940's and 1950's out of Wingo, Kentucky. Jewell resided and made his lures just a few miles away in Water Valley, Kentucky. His Flying Tempter lure was patented in 1938 and came in several colors. The lure got its name from an early Sports Afield ad calling it the "Flying Tempter" but it was also known as the "Winged Bug."



His first lures were made of wood, either basswood or cypress with aluminum wings. He eventually moved to cork bodies and offered the lure in several different sizes. It was one of the earliest types of buzz baits that would eventually become a staple of every bass angler.

Jewell was also an avid fly-fisherman, and he created more than ten different models of other flyrod lures including; "New Kentucky Bug", "New Dizzit Bug", "Midget Corked Minnow" and "Winged Feathered Minnow". Production continued until 1956, when he could no longer find the

skilled labor he needed to make the quality of lures he desired. Mr. Gilliam

was certainly an early lure making pioneer and a veritable encyclopedia of early sport fishing history and tackle. His contributions are recognized by the NFLCC with this honorary membership.

For more information about Jewell Gilliam and his lures, please see the NFLCC December 1995 Gazette which includes a more in-depth look at his work.



Company Ad - Sports Afield, 1938

Honorary Member - 1996