

Blue Ridge Mountains Spring Hook

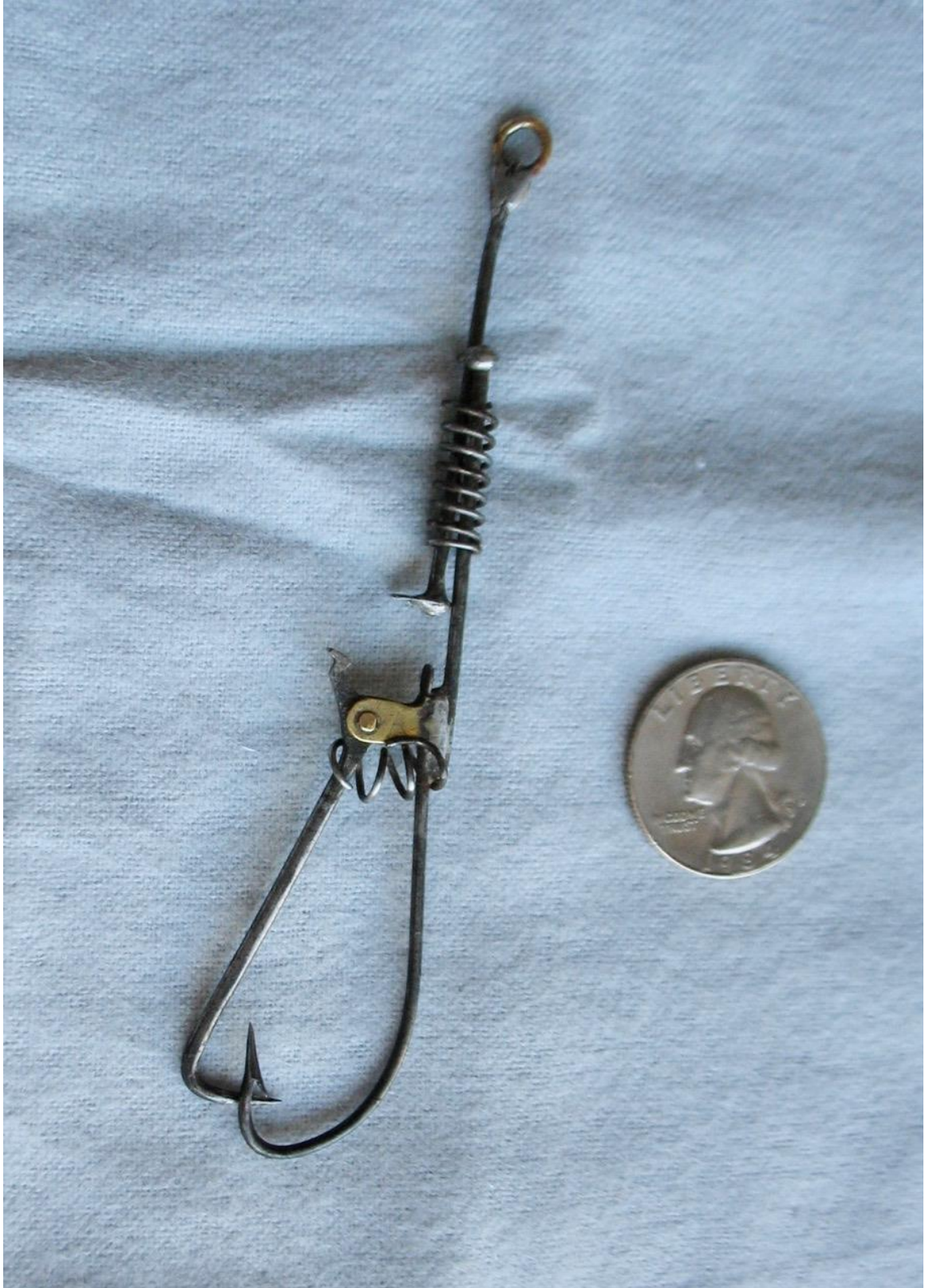
By William Blausen

This is a very finely made turn-of-the-century spring-loaded fish hook with a mechanism that I have never seen before, and that is much too complicated for it to be ever widely approved of by fishermen or to ever be of any financial success. It is made from steel, spring-steel and brass.

Due to the uniqueness of this design, this mechanical hook could have been patented, but no Letters of Patent have as yet been found for this unique piece of early American angling.

This spring hook was originally found in a pre-WWII tackle box in the Blue Ridge Mountains on the North Carolina-Tennessee border by a collector in the late 1950's and remained in that collection and out-of-site for the next 50 years....(from the collection of William Blausen).

Shown in the sprung position in the photo below with a quarter for scale. This spring-hook is 4" in length.



To set the hook, you must rotate the line-tie rod (which moves up and down easily through that section of coiled wire) 180 degrees so that the U-shaped notch in the bottom end (opposite the line-tie end) is facing towards the quarter....and then “cock” the striking hook until it is stopped by an arrestor....and then slide the U-shaped notch down until the curved end of the striking hook can latch onto it.



