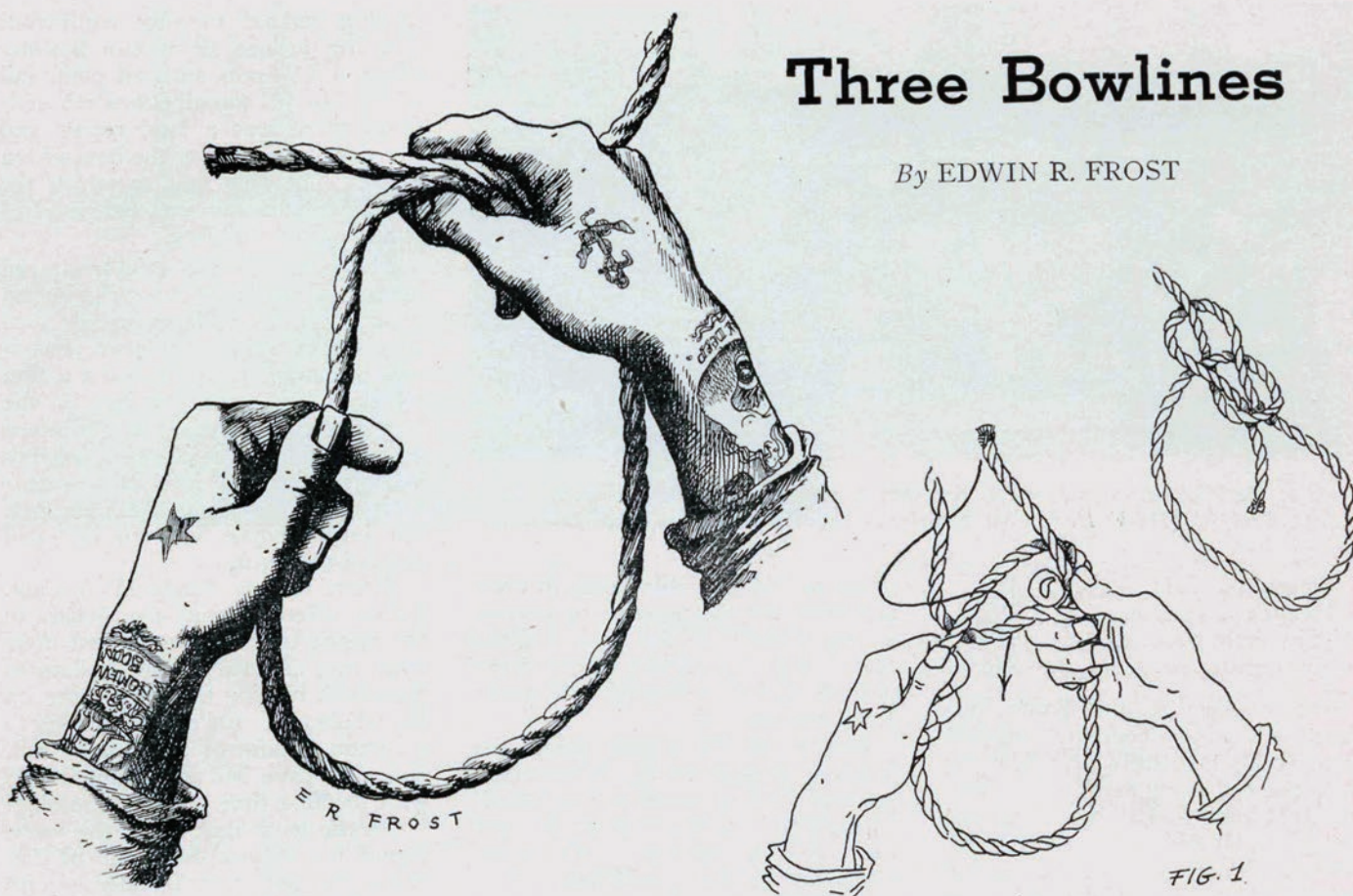


# Three Bowlines

By EDWIN R. FROST



**A**N ARTICLE on the bowline will probably seem pretty elementary to most readers, but I believe it may be interesting to some and perhaps helpful. A sailor doesn't need to know a great many knots, but those he does know should be a part of him and his use of each a reflex. He should be able to tie the bowline upside down in his sleep. It is very simply made by holding the rope as shown in Figure 1, catching it with the right thumb so that, when the hand is turned over, a bight or loop with the rope's end through it is formed. Complete the knot by passing the end around the standing part and through the bight as shown.

There are quite a few variations of the common bowline, but most of them are seldom used. A couple that might be are the tugboat bowline and the bowline on a ring bolt.

The tugboat bowline is something of a trick knot. It is good for impressing people who don't know how to tie it, and for putting a loop in the end of a mooring line quickly. Hold the standing part in your left hand, leaving plenty of working end,

let the free part fall back along the standing part, and with the right hand flip the end around both parts as shown in Figure 2. Now pull the bight thus formed in the right hand over the rope's end and through the bight held in the left.

The bowline on a ring bolt is mainly used to convert the end of a long line into a stopper. Thrust a bight of the line through the ring and place a half hitch over it. Pass the working end through the bight and pull taut (Figure 3).

