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This interview was conducted with Peter Caverhill on Monday, March 30, 2015, in Western Libraries Special Collections on the campus of Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. The interviewers are Tamara Belts and Danny Beatty.

TB: So our first question is always: How did you get started fly fishing? And of course I know on your page it said you started at 14, but I was hoping you'd expand. Is there a family tie or a friend, just, how did you get started?

PC: Well how I got started fishing... I have a picture of myself and my best friend, and we were probably two years old, and we were sitting at the goldfish pond in the backyard at my grandparents' place with a stick with a string, and so that was the first fishing, and then there was a few more instances.

I got to go back to Calgary and spend a few months for a couple of summers. My aunt and uncle took me into the Rockies, and we did some hiking and did some fishing.

And actually before that, I'm sort of jumping a little bit ahead of myself. How I got into fly fishing, and that's very specific because there were two elderly gentlemen, I was probably 12. Yes, I guess I would have been 11 or 12, and these gentlemen took me on the Pacific Great Eastern, the PGE Railway, north of Squamish, to the dam on the Cheakamus River. We got off at a flag stop there, and we walked up the tracks, and then we went down to the big pool behind the dam. I was fishing with a bobber and a worm and so were my elderly friends. When I say elderly, they were probably an awful lot younger than I am right now (*laughter*). But there was two other people there, and they were fly fishing, and they were catching fish left, right, and center -- we were too, but on the bobber and a worm. I watched this and I thought that's really, really kind of neat, you know, casting a line out and getting these fish to take it. I distinctly remember that day that there was a big rainbow trout that leapt out of the center of the pool then went back in. I don't think anybody caught it, but it seemed enormous. As I found out later one of the fly fishers was Ted Peck, and the other was Finn Anthony.

Ted Peck had a radio show and a TV show as well. It was called *Tides and Trails*, so he was a well-known guru of all things outdoors, hunting and fishing at that time. I credit that day and I credit those two people, Ted Peck particularly, with sparking my interest in fly fishing. After that day, I went back up to the Cheakamus dam several times with these two elderly friends on the train because I was too young to drive.

And then even after that, my mother would drive me over to the Northshore (we lived in Vancouver), so that I could catch the train for my fishing spot north of Squamish. I'd go up off at the flag stop at Garibaldi Station then hike the tracks for half an hour to the dam. At first I tried to fly fish with a big old spinning rod, and it didn't work. After that, a friend of my stepfather's was giving up fly fishing. He gave me his cane fly rod, reels and boxes of flies. So I was kind of away-to-the-races. And from that point on, I acquired another rod and reel, and the collection began. A year or so later I went to Calgary to spend the summer with my aunt and uncle. I took my fly gear. My aunt and

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uncle didn't fly fish, but I sort of got them kind of interested and my uncle purchased a fly rod and reel. We made a trip that summer to the Rockies and into Kootenay country around Invermere in BC.

DB: In the Rockies, where were you particularly?

PC: We hiked into one set of lakes that was out of Banff, and it was above timberline, just beautiful. I remember that, you could hike on and on. There were no trees and you'd go over a set of hills and you'd come to this lake. I didn't have my rod with me at that point in time, but there were other anglers that were there and they were fly fishing and catching cutthroat trout (would have been west slope cutthroat). That countryside was so phenomenally beautiful! You just felt like you could walk on forever just to see what lay beyond the next hill? So that was probably the best experience that related somewhat to fishing, when I was back there.

DB: Were these lakes in Alberta or BC?

PC: They were in Alberta.

DB: They were a bit east.

PC: Yes. One day I should look that up, because with the Internet now you can find anything.

DB: Going back to this railroad that you went up, is that the one that goes up to the Hundred Mile House?

PC: Yes, and Williams Lake and Prince George. Back then it was called the Pacific Great Eastern or PGE.

DB: I'm getting ahead of myself. I'm wondering if you used it when you were older to go up to those lakes.

PC: Well when I was older, I could drive.

DB: Drive, right.

PC: So you know, the car took over at that point I guess, and—

DB: Okay.

TB: I want to go back to--how did you get to know Ted Peck and Finn Anthony?

PC: That's an interesting story, and I've got to be careful that I don't bad mouth them too much. But that same day that they were there, they threw a bottle of rye around all day long. And by the time we all went back down the tracks to get on the train at the flag station, they were pretty much under the weather. And actually the two gentlemen that I was with were not that observant of things like size and catch limits. This came up when the five of us got back to the flag station waiting for the train. There was an inebriated argument on the sins of too many undersized trout that threatened to end in fisticuffs. I was pretty naïve of all things legal at my young age. In adult age I was a friend of Ted's and told him that he was responsible for influencing my angling direction.

TB: So you weren't with Ted Peck?

PC: No, no. It was just an observation on the wonders of fly fishing for trout that stuck with me.



TB: Got it. That's fine. I thought that was who you were with, and I thought that's pretty fascinating company to start out going off with these guys.

Okay. I just was curious if you also had an interest in the railroads, but that was more of a transportation to get up there.

PC: Yes.

TB: Okay. And then anything else about your early fly fishing time?

PC: Oh, golly. In the early '70s, late '60s, fly fishing clubs in BC were starting to get going. Actually to back up just a wee bit, I had several summer jobs when I was—I guess the first one was when I was 15, 16. I worked two summers with Provincial Parks Branch on what they called the "youth crew" so we got \$3.25 a day, and we set up campsites and cleaned camp sites. And so there was some fishing opportunity. The first time was at Mount Robson in the Rockies, so that was really pretty nice country. The next time was up in Squamish at one of the provincial parks there. We did a little fishing there.

And then I, later on during university, I worked several summers with Provincial Fish and Wildlife. The first summer was in the Peace River country (north eastern BC), doing a fishery survey. That was the best summer I've ever had! We travelled the country by car, river boat and float plane and sampled the waters to see what fish lived there. One of our sampling methods was with rod and reel. We fly fished and we used rotenone (which is a pesticide, a fish poison) and nets. So it was fun. We covered an enormous amount of countryside. We had a big 40-foot river boat with us for about a month and a half. During another month we used a float plane to access many lakes. The main purpose of this survey was to see what fish resided upstream of the Bennett Dam on the Peace River which was under construction at the time. There was concern that northern pike were above the dam and that when the dam was finished the flooded reservoir could spill over into the Pacific (Fraser River system). The Peace system that we focused on was arctic water. So if northern pike got into the Fraser system that could predate on salmon, and they had a parasite which could infect salmon. So that was the main purpose of the survey. However, it was really a general fishery survey. We never did find pike but we did catch a lot of rainbow trout, Dolly Varden char, Arctic grayling and coarse species. Many of these were on our fly rods!

The next summer I spent four months on Vancouver Island, upper Campbell Lake and Buttle Lake. I was assisting a fellow doing his master's on these impoundments. We set nets to sample the fish and we trapped emerging insects at night. We also did not pass up the fly fishing to be had there.

TB: Well, I was just trying to get kind of a chronologic order. Because one of my questions will be: When did you get interested in biology and fisheries biology?

DB: There was kind of a dual thing going on here, the fishing and your future career.

PC: Yes, exactly. When I decided that I'd focus on zoology at UBC. The decision was the product of my angling interests, my summer job experience and the fact that I never did like math. I figured biology would be more appropriate, and it was not until later when math – statistics – became important. I graduated in zoology. I took a year of teacher training after since I was still uncertain what my future path would be. I decided the last thing I wanted to be was a grade nine and ten teacher (*laughter*).

So then the provincial job came along. Linda and I had just gotten married so this was timely. I got on as a fish and wildlife technician, and that's where I essentially spent all of my 34 years, was there. I went from technician to biologist over several job reclassifications. And so all things were fishy for sure!

Around that same time that I got the job with the province, fly fishing clubs in BC were coming on the scene as they were all over the Pacific Northwest. The first fly fishing club in British Columbia was the Totem Fly Fishers (Vancouver). They were very restrictive on the number of members that they would allow. A number of us tried to

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get on with them. One of their members said, well why don't you start your own club? And that's what happened. We gathered a few interested names and we started the Osprey Fly Fishers of BC, which was the second fly fishing club in BC.

DB: About what year was that?

TB: 1968, wasn't it?

PC: Yes, 1968.

TB: Which is why I was wondering, is there any connection with also what was going on in the states and the establishment of the Federation of Fly Fishers, because that all happened mid '60s?

PC: Yes, it's going back into the darker recesses of my mind here, I mean, it was coming about then. Around that time there were a number of fly clubs in BC, and there was a desire to bring them together under an umbrella which was officially called the BC Federation of Fly Fishers (BCFFF). Back in the early 70's BCFFF was part of the Norwest Regional Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers. Later, we separated from the FFF as there was a new membership funding plan and we felt that it was too expensive. Many of us are members of both BCFFF and FFF.

DB: Was Gil Sage one of your original—?

PC: Gil wasn't an original Osprey Fly Fisher. He was part of the organized fly club scene for a long time and he held many positions in the BCFFF. He was president of the organization several times.

DB: Yes. But in the BCFFF, Rex—

PC: Rex Schofield.

DB: Schofield was one of the leaders?

PC: Yes.

DB: And Bill Young.

PC: Bill Young, and—

DB: And they were—were they Totems, or were they Osprey?

PC: They were Totems.

DB: And Gil was an officer, I think, in that time.

PC: Gil was—some of our members on the Osprey side are members of both clubs.

DB: Oh, both.

PC: Because the Totems annually had a steelhead camp on the Dean River. A lot of people want to attend the Totem Camp on the Dean River. You had more priority if you were a member of the Totems, so this is why the dual membership happened.

Gil and I had an agreement that I would stand for president of BCFFF after I retired. And if I did this then when Gil retired, he would follow me as standing for president. So, this is what happened. Very sadly Gil got cancer and had to back away from the BCFFF scene. He died shortly after. This was about four years ago now, I think.

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TB: So, do you want to talk a little bit more about, I mean, it's always interesting when someone is both a fly fisherman and in fisheries. So do you want to talk about some of the issues maybe that you were on both sides of the fence? Then also were you involved in some of the bigger issues related to steelhead, the sea run? And were you involved in any of the international agreements or anything?

PC: Well my focus at work was the anadromous side, so that's steelhead and cutthroat in the Lower Mainland Region of BC. I started out in 1968 and there was lots of field work and it was kind of nice.

DB: Where was your headquarters?

PC: It was in Vancouver—well actually in Vancouver, Burnaby, then it was in Surrey.

DB: Okay.

PC: I was part of the lower mainland region, so it was the southwest mainland corner of the province. So, I got to see a lot of that part of the coast. We did surveys, helicopter and all that sort of thing. When I was near the end of my work life (and it's the same with so many jobs now), the job became more dealing with people and issues and where to find funds to do what you needed to do. So we were always writing proposals and pulling our hair out to find the dollars. There was always a lot of internal competition for the funds so the proposals were not always successful.

TB: Well Art Lingren kind of credited you with maybe—because you worked for the forest and fish—

PC: Fish and Wildlife, yes.

TB: So you couldn't do certain things that—he alluded to the fact that kind of you fed club members maybe information or stuff—

PC: Yes, I'm sure. And I was always a member of the fly fishing club and the BCFFF. Working for Fish and Wildlife was my excuse not to take on any executive roles, although I think I was a director in BCFFF but this was very much in the background. It could have been considered a conflict of interest. Then when I retired, it was wide open. I could assume any roles that I wanted. In those past work days we really weren't given orders not to divulge certain information, the way it is now so often. Oh yes, people that work for the province, people that work for the federal government in environmental stuff, they're often muzzled now, and it's unfortunate, it really is. The government is so paranoid. I would think down here it's probably somewhat similar. We shouldn't get into politics, but we've had some massive changes federally to environmental legislation, and it's weakened the legislation for fish habitat protection. It has made the whole subject into a much more grey area than it ever was before. So that's still evolving. That's happened in the last two to three years. So we have an election coming up federally, and—

DB: You were involved about 1980, 1979, when they were talking about the Coquihalla Highway—following the Coquihalla River and that was quite an issue, and you must have been involved with some of that.

PC: I was. I was perhaps less directly involved than our habitat protection people. They were more on the ground there. But I mean, we were there as well, from a fish standpoint. So that was in 1986 when the highway to the interior was completed. It was aimed to be done in time for Expo '86. It was almost the death knell of the Coquihalla, and its' summer steelhead and bull trout. It was a really big thing that changed the river and the fishery. Prior to the highway going in, there had been two pipelines constructed through the narrow Coquihalla valley. And now, now there is a proposal to double the capacity of the oil pipeline. The oil pipeline crossed the river about 13 times, so as to increase the capacity the river would have to be dug up again to accommodate the larger pipe.

TB: Wow!

PC: That oil pipeline was done in the '50s, so before my time.

DB: And that's the pipeline that comes to Ferndale, isn't it?

PC: Yes. It's the Trans Mountain, Kinder Morgan one. New construction technology will eliminate some of those crossings, but I do—

DB: Excuse me. That goes back 20 years ago.

PC: Oh yes. And I've kind of looked into it now, hoping I could find some photographs of how horrible it was. Because in the '50s, they would just dig a trench across the river, and then, you know, get the pipe all set up, and it would be bleeding silt and covering important habitat downstream. And in those days, I guess it just didn't seem to matter quite so much. Now, I guess it would be a little less impactful, but nevertheless, you can't avoid a lot of it, you know, with digging those trenches through the river.

The Coquihalla was one of our two summer steelhead streams in the lower Mainland, and then there's a couple of other ones farther up the coast. Summer steelhead being the fish that everyone likes to go for because they take a surface fly, and the weather is usually good when you're fishing for them.

I remember one time... Tell me if I'm getting off—

TB: You're doing great.

PC: -- track. You know, I'm babbling away there and sort of remembering things. But when I was still working, and this would have been, oh gosh, probably the mid '80s, I got a call from a fellow who was a member of the Totem Fly Fishers, and he said Lee and Joan Wulff are coming up and would be staying with Mike Cramond who was the outdoor writer for the province newspaper in Vancouver. He and the Wulffs knew each other, and so they were going to stay with him on their way up to the Skeena. So Mike got a hold of one of the Totems, and they brought me along to go up to Coquihalla as the captive biologist. So there was a number of us, plus Lee and Joan Wulff up on the Coquihalla. That was before the highway went through, so that would have been early '80s then.

That was an interesting day. I mean, they were so well known, and of course Lee Wulff, is one of the gurus of all time, in terms of fly fishing. He was (and I can't remember how old he was at the time), but he was a little unsteady trying to get down to the river. Joan, of course, being younger, was certainly more agile. We didn't catch any fish that day, but we saw a lot of summer steelhead. We could see them in the pools. At the end of that day, we went back to Mike Cramond's place, all of us, and Lee sat down, he tied a bunch of flies.

These were the plastic body flies that Lee Wulff was trying to popularize, way back. They would come with a hook and a plastic body, and then you would tie feathers on with the help of a fluid that would melt the plastic then quickly harden up.. So that's what he did. He whipped up these things and gave each of us a number of them. I have, I don't know, half a dozen. They're not very pretty. But I still have them. I look at them every once in a while and say, I really should frame those because they're, historically significant and whatnot.

TB: What was the plastic then, to make them ride higher (float),...

PC: You could make a surface fly because the plastic body was hollow. Then you put some hackle on it and whatnot so it would float. It had a little knob on top so you could put the hackle on in a parachute style. And if it was a sinking fly, I guess they would add some weight. But these were modified—he had some forms or something that he was able to mold onto the hook.

DB: Was he doing it without a vise at that time?

PC: No, he had a vise.

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DB: He did.

PC: Yes.

DB: There was always that talk about how he did things like that.

PC: Yes, so that sticks in my mind that he tied flies “in-hand” without a vise.

A friend of mine (Dave) and I flew up to the Queen Charlotte Islands to fish. This would have been in the late 70’s and it was in the fall because we were fly fishing for coho. And the fishing was very good. We rented one of those you “Rent-a-Wreck” station wagons that you don’t know whether it’s going to start or not. Well, it got us around. We ran into a fellow who invited us to stay in his lodge, which was a trailer that was converted into a bit of a lodge. This was great -- much better than the motel that we had planned to stay in. It only cost us for gas and food.

On the flight back to Vancouver, we went from Sandspit to Smithers, and then back to Vancouver. In Smithers, we picked up a number of people. Two of the people took the seats in front of us as they were empty. I kept looking at the back of one of the fellows in front since he seemed so look familiar. I said to Dave, You know, I think that’s A.J. McClane. I’d never met him before, but I’d seen pictures of him and read plenty of the things that he had written on fly fishing. So, I screwed up my courage, tapped on his seat, and asked, are you Al McClane? His answer was yes. And so we ended up going for Chinese dinner with A.J. McClane, and his partner (he was a magazine editor from New York). I guess they’d been up in the Skeena to do some sort of a magazine junket, and they were going to write articles about their adventures. They had a one night layover in Vancouver and hence the opportunity for Chinese dinner. So that was another remarkable opportunity to hob-knob with folks that we considered our fly fishing “heros!”

TB: Notables.

PC: Notables. That’s a better word. Yes. So where are we now?

TB: That was just one of your stories. Any more of your stories about people that you’ve ran into? Or favorite places that you’ve went, destinations?

PC: Well, I’ve been to Christmas Island for fishing. I went there with three other people, and that was some time ago now. That was in the ‘80s. And I spent a month in New Zealand fishing, and that was way back as well. So those were two exotic places, more or less, that I went to.

DB: Was the New Zealand one any sort of a back and forth between your agencies or anything?

PC: No, no. It was strictly, strictly—

DB: For yourself.

PC: Yes, strictly fishing. And we had a month of interesting conditions—it was wet, and one of the fellows that was with us, Jay Roland, he’d spent a lot of time in New Zealand. He was a Totem Fly Fisher. He had these great stories of how good the fishing was, and so we were lucky to have him along. But it was really wet for the whole month. We had rented a van and we camped in that, but we also stayed in, what do you call them? They are government run or the privately run “motor camps” that were around New Zealand. Anyway, the weather—we’d get to a river, it looked great, and we’d set up our tents. And then it would start to rain, and the river would come up and become unfishable.

DB: Ooh.

PC: We hiked into a series of lakes called the Mavora Lakes chain. It is just gorgeous country. It's sort of treeless and there is this beautiful river, and it's got big fish in it. We got in there, set our tents up and the same thing happened. It rained and rained and rained overnight, and the fishing just wasn't going to happen. Anyways, we hiked back out. One of the fellows that was part of our group of four (also a Totem) had a new pair of hiking boots. On the way into the lakes he ruined his feet. We were lucky there were some people in there that were poisoning rabbits, I think it was. You know, these things that people have let go in New Zealand that have become a scourge. So Dave ended up getting a ride out with the poisoners, and that saved his feet. So that was our month in New Zealand.

Maybe I'll go back to again to the Osprey Fly Fishers, I was the editor of the newsletter for the club. It was (and still is) called *The Osprey News*. My stint as editor lasted for 26 years (*laughter*).

DB: Yes, I wanted you to bring that up.

PC: I look back on that newsletter now and it was in the pre-digital age. We'd write out everything by hand and I'd cut and paste it the newsletter draft together on yellow foolscap. I'd pay a secretary at work to type out the master copy in her own time. I'd review it for corrections. After that I'd drive the master into Vancouver (from Surrey where our office was) in the morning and I'd pick up the printed copies in late afternoon of the same day. You could not do this these days with the traffic in the lower Mainland.

Then the process of getting the "news" out would be—fold these things and (I'm sure that Danny is well aware of this), stick them in the envelopes and address them. Then I'd stick a stamp on each envelope, like them, and stick them in the post (*laughter*). So 26 years of that, but after a while I did get some help. You know, people felt sorry for me. They said, Well okay, we'll fold them and we'll stamp them.

DB: I did it with a mimeograph machine, cut the stencils.

PC: Yes. And it was expensive because getting the *Osprey News* out, we did take it to a printer. It turned out for the time to be very nice looking. Now I think golly, with all the digital software that's there and the way people can put things together and put photographs in is just wonderful, quick and inexpensive. The send-out is by e-mail and the days of folding, enveloping, licking and sticking stamps and trudging to the post office are long gone – so thankful! Now in our club, The Ospreys, we have an editor who's—he really is good, and he produces a wonderful digital *The Osprey News*!

DB: I check it online once in a while.

PC: Yes, yes. He's done a great job, this guy. I mean, he's been doing it now for six years.

DB: Also your BCFFF, I go--that's one of my favorites to jump into once in a while.

PC: Yes, yes, yes. And our club, at this stage of things, is doing well. Clubs seem to go like this, you know. They go up and down, usually depending on, who's at the head and on the executive, and it's been good the last few years. One of the fly fishing clubs, at least, has folded, and this is a club that's been around for over 30 years. That's The Lonely Loons in the interior, and they just ran out of people that were interested in doing the work.

Then there was this, *The Gilly* book, which was an interesting project. Alf Davy, in the interior, he was the editor that put it all together. He conceived the idea, and he got 12 of us together and encouraged us to write something. I remember looking at the draft part of it and thinking, this is never going to go anywhere (*laughter*). Anyway, it came out in -- 1985, and in this form it was great, and it just sort of took off. You know, people really took it as a bible of BC fly fishing.

DB: Talk a little more about the logistics, because Alf lived over in Kelowna—over there, and you lived in Port Moody area—

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PC: And the other contributors to the Gilly—the rest of the folks were all over the place in the province, and the fellow who did the illustrations, he worked in the school system. I think he was with Alf in Kelowna. I mean, his stuff is really nice! Anyway, the book went on to become a non-fiction bestseller in Canada, several times over. It went through 11 printings, and the 11th printing was the last one. A large part of the proceeds, in the beginning, went to the BC Federation of Fly Fishers, and that was what we called The Gilly Fund. And The Gilly Fund is still there. It's got about a \$130,000 in the fund now. We don't get anything more from the book at all and the fund doesn't generate a lot of interest, but there's still a reasonable account that we can use. And we try and fund worthwhile projects out of it.

Then other fundraising that we do, that isn't Gilly related, we use these funds to support worthwhile projects that aren't eligible for the Gilly monies. It's interesting; we have the BCFFF AGM coming up in April 2015. It's in Comox, on Vancouver Island, and one of the fellows, one of the directors there, had the bright idea to look at *The Gilly*, because 2015 is the 30th anniversary of *The Gilly* now and have a component of the AGM evening devoted to The Gilly. He thought, well, it'd be great to get some of the authors together and have them do a 15 minute talk about how fishing conditions were and how they are now, how things have changed in terms of fishing methods, tackle and the health of the fish that we chase. My chapter in *The Gilly* was an angler's responsibility, so it was conservation related, and I was really happy about how it turned out. You know, I just—and it got some good, good marks, good comments. And there's nothing in what I wrote back then that's any different today. I mean, the same stuff absolutely applies, and maybe even more. So, right now I'm sort of putting together a little 15 minute presentation for my part in that, so it'll be interesting.

DB: Back to the biology part of your business. We did an interview with a fellow from the Spokane club, Jerry McBride, talked about how their club got started with sterilizing trout, and then the triploids. And he said that eventually Brian Chan picked up on that. Were you involved with any of that?

PC: No, I wasn't. That would be on the fish culture side. But, it's interesting to hear that Brian picked up on that—because the triploid program in BC has become quite important, putting these sterile fish into the lakes. They grow like crazy and they don't spawn, theoretically they don't. You know, they get really big and fat, and they stay bright.

DB: You're retired now aren't you?

PC: I've been retired for 12 years. It's hard to believe (*laughter*).

DB: So, are you using, you meaning your agency, using triploids in the lower mainland lakes? And how are they doing?

PC: Well, they do really well currently. The Fraser Valley trout hatchery, what they call the—oh, 12 years away from it—I haven't thought of what they call these fish. They call them the Fraser Valley rainbow trout because they come from Fraser Valley trout hatchery, and they are sterile. They've developed this group of fish, and they're really easy to raise, and they use them for stocking in the urban lakes, around the Lower Mainland. Actually also some other lakes in the province. The brood stock for creating these Fraser valley steriles (which aren't sterile) wears out after a few spawnings. These brood stock fish are large, they will put a few of those into the urban lakes so that, some little kid will show up on the front of the local paper with this big huge trout (*laughter*). It may be black as anything but the kid who has caught it is over the moon.

DB: The hatchery, it's in Abbotsford—

PC: Yes.

DB: Is that the private company, or is that—

PC: For decades fish culture for stocking lakes and streams was done by the provincial government. It was the fish culture portion of Fish and Wildlife. Well, it must have been about 14-15 years ago now when it looked like the government was going to privatize the whole fish cultures side of things to save money. In the end this would have been a private for profit enterprise. The fish culture people came up with the idea of making it into -- I'm trying to think of the word?

TB: Nonprofit?

PC: It's a nonprofit society. Now they work under the direction of the regional biologist, although they're not part of the provincial government anymore. So they get the biological direction as to where various fish should go. Just recently, just in the last month, they've gotten an extra \$3 million from license sales.

For a number of years, a large portion of the license sales went into general revenue, so it was lost to any form of fisheries management. So now it's coming back. And I mean, \$3 million isn't a lot of money, but still it's pretty good. So that will apparently be used for a variety of things. It'll be used to support stock assessment work. I think the comment was that it wouldn't really be too much used for fish culture. That part of fisheries management that really took a hit in the last decade has been regular stuff like going out and doing stream assessment work, lake assessments, and all that sort of thing. This will bolster that, and hopefully work will be done for steelhead too. Steelhead has taken a big hit.

DB: So on the biology of these fish, and that's your lower mainland fish, and then there's the Kamloops rainbow-- which is so important—

PC: Yes, Fraser, yes.

DB: --the interior of BC. Talk a little bit about the maybe differences. And I know you love to fish up there, so talk a bit about the caribou fishing—or the Kamloops.

PC: I probably haven't fished in the interior, lake fishing, for a few years. I do try and to get there annually, but I don't spend a lot of time on Cariboo or Kamloops now, certainly not as much as I used to. I like stream fishing, so my focus has been there. I go up into the Skeena in the fall and meet up with my friend who's up there with his trailer. We'll fish steelhead in the Skeena, Bulkley and Morice Rivers. I like to go to our Skagit River, which is an hour and a half from Port Moody. It provides very pleasing dry fly fishing for rainbow trout in July through to October.

In terms of those fish that are stocked into the interior lakes, they are generally from wild brood stock from Pennask Creek, Blackwater River, and Dragon Lake. Pennask has always been the most important source of broodstock for the provincial small lakes stocking program. The Pannask source is a bit at risk because there's acid rock drainage going into Pannask Creek. They were putting up a wind farm or something and exposed this acid rock. They are trying to figure out what to do to cap this stuff off so it doesn't end up going into Pennask Creek. We can't afford to lose Pennask wild stock as a source of brood fish for the lake stocking program!

Also Blackwater River fish are also used for lake stocking, but they're—I'm trying to remember whether they triploid those or not. They may do some triploiding on those. Creating sterile trout is useful. Normally as fish get three or four years old they'll want to spawn. Many of the interior small lakes have no available spawning so these fish lose their condition as they try to absorb eggs and milt. Without sterile trout present you'll catch these fish that are really dark, or you'll catch fish that are bright but very soft. These ones are females that still have eggs in them. They are sick and sometimes die trying to get rid of the eggs.

One of the projects that has been done on some lakes, is to set up an artificial flow into the lake. This will attract these fish that want to spawn into these temporary flows. There will be gravel there that the fish can use to deposit eggs and milt. The purpose of this is to allow the fish to get the fish to get rid of their gametes. It's not to produce

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any recruitment to the lake. This allows the fish to heal up and be good again. And I honestly don't know whether, they're still doing that very much. I just haven't heard very much about it lately.

DB: I'd like to communicate with you a little on that.

PC: Yes.

DB: ...females.

PC: Oh sure, yes, yes.

DB: Oh. I was going to say, elaborate a little on your fishing in the lakes up in—I know you did some.

PC: I did some, yes (*laughter*). I still do, like I say, occasionally. And I like it.

DB: Try to incorporate that with your fly.

PC: Oh, my fly.

TB: Now, do you only have the one, just the *Caverhill Nymph*?

PC: Oh, yes, well, I'll give you the whole story on that. That's when I did fish the lakes more. I really liked to get up to Dragon Lake, which is near Quesnel, and just north of Williams Lake. My wife and I would go up there in October. We had a '72 GMC and a 10-foot Alaskan camper, so we'd take that up there and take the boat and stick it in the lake, and I'd fish.

One time on Dragon Lake I was using this fly that I had tied and it was catching fish. Some of my other friends were camped with us in the campsite. They had seen me catching and asked what I was using. I showed them the fly. I gave the pattern to a couple of people. They went out and they did really well on this fly. And so they wanted to know what it was called, and I said, well, it's a Helen's Heller (*laughter*). They knew it wasn't the fly that I had named. So Jim Kilburn, who was there, and had done really well on the fly. He was a writer and an artist. He had written many articles on fly fishing for the BC magazine *Western Fish and Game* (or *Western Fish and Wildlife* as it was later renamed). He wrote an article in the magazine and titled it *The Caverhill Nymph*. So he'd determined that the fly was not a Helen's Heller. He decided to call it the *Caverhill Nymph* (*laughter*). So that's how that fly was born and became famous and quite widely used. After, I'd run into people and they'd say "Caverhill" wasn't there a fly with this name? And I'd say, Yes (*laughter*). So, all was good.

Actually, I've got a *Caverhill Nymph* for you here. I searched through my fly boxes to find a *Caverhill Nymph*, I couldn't find one. I'm rushing around and, god, what am I going to do? So I thought that I'd better tie one. So, I started to tie the fly and I couldn't find one of the materials. I searched all over, dam! Anyway, I found something that would work. I had to overturn everything to get at this one material. So, I go back to tying it and I get halfway done and the thread breaks (*laughter*). And, I have this bobbin—it is a Norvise bobbins that retracts the thread. Of course, the thread retracted right in, so I had to spend time to rethread the bobbin. The tying process kept on like this. I got partway through and I thought, this is the worst looking *Caverhill Nymph* I've ever tied. So I scrapped it and I got another hook, and started all over. I finished the second fly and it sort of like the original was. So there you have the *Caverhill Nymph* and its story. Anglers still know it, which is interesting considering how many new patterns emerge every year. The whole story, and my attempt now to tie what is a totally simple fly, is funny and a bit embarrassing actually.

TB: Have you done any others?

PC: Well, I'd done other flies that I've given names too. There aren't many flies that haven't existed before in some way or the other. I "tied" one I call a *Tape Fry*, and all I do is I take some muffler tape, it's silver and sticky one

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side. I fold the tape over the hook, and I then cut it to look like a little salmon fry. As a finisher I stick a couple eyes on it, and that's the *Tape Fry*. It has certainly caught fish. This fly and others that I have liked and invented are on the website for the Osprey Fly Fishers.

There's another one I call, I call it *Try It You'll Like It*, just because that seemed like a nice silly name. No one could ever figure out how to pronounce it or what it was, but it works too for coho and cutthroat. So it just shows you can tie anything and it may work. But—

Oh, and then there was the *Spider* (of which there's many variations that others have tied), and I didn't, I really like this fly. That's the *Spider*.

TB: Oh, there's your nymph.

PC: No, that's the *Try It You'll Like It*. That's the *Caverhill Nymph*. And this is that *Tape Fry*.

TB: Nice.

PC: Which—

DB: Besides doing the editing for the newsletter for The Ospreys, you did some other articles--I know I've read in maybe BC magazine? What was it? There was a—

PC: Well I've done a few for *BC Outdoors*— *BC Outdoors Magazine*. But they've been mainly related to BCFFF, and one was on BCFFF – the organization, another was on the Gilly Fund. I've also wrote some articles (and this was, again over ten years ago or so), for the Internet. The site was called *BC Adventure*.

TB: Right. That's where I got all my information on you.

PC: Yes, and they're still there. I don't know how *BC Adventure* has changed, but--I actually got paid for these articles!

DB: Maybe this is where I got my copy of—

PC: Could be.

TB: *BC Adventure*, yes.

PC: I was amazed, that I would get paid--I'd do these articles, and they were very generous. You know, I'd get \$300-400 for an article.

TB: Wow, nice.

PC: I thought, Wow! I don't think that happens anymore. And one that I did for *BC Outdoors* on BCFFF. I did not expect to get paid for this. A month or so later, I get a check in the mail for \$400. I am looking at it and it didn't directly say *BC Outdoors*, but I put two and two together and I figured, Wow, you know, I didn't deserve this, but anyway.

TB: Well what about your articles in *BC Adventure* about casting and about practicing, oh, also about having a plan to practice— Could you talk a little bit more about your interest in casting and—

PC: Yes, I can. Again, I think back to when I was a kid in Vancouver. It must have been after I got introduced to fly fishing up on the Cheakamus behind the dam. I used to go down to the pond in Stanley Park which was called "Lost Lagoon." There was a man and a woman that taught fly casting there. This was great. They had lots of fishing

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stories. I can remember that we were taught that you must glue your elbow to your side, and you should follow the clock positions with the casting.

TB: Ten and two, ten and two, yes.

PC: Yes, it was all that stuff. I always just loved the whole idea of fly casting. You know, it's pretty to watch and if you're doing it right, it's very satisfying. Then the FFF developed a casting instructor certification program. I'm trying to remember how long ago that first started. It had to be like 15 years ago or so.

Another fellow in the lower mainland, Peter Morrison, and I decided we were going to get our certification, so we practiced together, which was really good. We practiced and practiced. We knew what was required, so we did that. There were two levels of certification. There was the casting instructor (CI), and then there was the master casting instructor (MCI). So both Peter and I went through the CI and the MCI. I'm a master fly casting instructor. I pay my money every year to maintain my certificate. If I had to go back and pass it now, I probably wouldn't be able to. You know, like a lot of things they start out in the beginning and they don't know how difficult to make the testing. As time moves along the tests are deemed in need of up-grading so they don't make them easier to pass – just harder. There's now a two-handed fly casting certification (THCI). I two-hand cast and fish but I don't aspire to this level of casting certification.

Very sadly Peter died a year ago. The program requires two masters to test and certify a casting instructor.

Peter and I tested fly casters for their CI certification a number of times. It was interesting. You'd think you could go out and do the testing in an hour, but it always took like three hours or four hours. Now there are very few master certified people in BC. Some of the certified people in BC (they are very few) have let their certificates lapse. And you have to maintain it to be able to legally, legally certify anybody.

Actually on Sunday I was out with a fellow helping him with his casting. We consider it mentoring. It's not really a lesson. This fellow is a reasonably good caster and angler. We were out in the pouring rain. You know how hard it rained this past Sunday! It's one thing to be dealing with someone who's just starting out. It's another thing to be dealing with someone who has a pretty good idea of what's what but still is just not quite able to achieve what they want to. So to try and analyze that and come up with helpful stuff is a challenge. We've been using video. We take videos—he takes a video of me so he can say, I need to see what you're doing. And I take videos of him so that I can analyze the casting, and it's actually very useful.

TB: Could you tell me about how your equipment impacts your casting? And has there been an evolution and change in the equipment?

PC: Yes, yes, there has. Of course it all started with wood and cane rods, way back. Danny's probably got tons of cane rods, and I've got a few cane rods. They don't usually see the light of day very often now. Then there was fiberglass, and that was fine. And then there was graphite. So since then, the rods have gotten much more high performance. Particularly the fly lines have become really well designed for specific kinds of fishing. Fly line technology is quite amazing now. Manufacturers can take a long string and coat it with a front part that sinks and a back part that floats, in any kind of—

TB: Weight?

PC: Well, shape. That's not the right word, but—

DB: Torpedo.

PC: Yes, it can be torpedo, it can be anything. They can incorporate little loops into the front and the back so that you can stick your leaders on and—your backing and running lines. The only problem with all that is it's made things a lot more complicated, and especially with a two-handed cast. Now people that have a two-handed rod,

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have to find the right combination of line that's going to suit their rod and them. And it's much, more tricky -- and it can be a lot more expensive. You end up buying these lines, and you find that it isn't the sweet line that you had hoped for, so you either give it away or stick it in a drawer and you get another one. But it's all part of the fun, and I don't know, I still love gear. I still love to go into fly shops and see what's there. I still get excited about it. And every once in a while I'll weaken and I'll get something. Luckily I, because I guess I'm casting certified, I get some advantage, cost-wise on some of this stuff, so it makes it a little more tempting to spend money on a fly rod or whatever. I don't need any more fly rods, but that's not to say that I won't still acquire.

TB: So do you like bamboo, or you're strictly whatever's current—

PC: I like it all actually. Honestly, I haven't taken my bamboo rods out in a long time. I still have some old fiberglass rods too, which I think I'll take out. But several of my bamboo rods are—they've gotten more valuable, and I'm a little afraid to take them out and risk them. One of these rods I've never used. I've had it for 35 years.

DB: I'd like you to--on your casting, just briefly describe your philosophy on the importance of good casting to catch a fish.

PC: Yes (*laughter*). You know, you can be a very mediocre caster and still catch fish and still enjoy being out there. It really depends on the individual. But you know, if you're a good caster, it certainly helps you to be a better angler. It doesn't necessarily mean that a really good caster is a really good angler. It doesn't always fit. Because a lousy caster can be a really good angler, you know, be very successful at finding and catching fish.

It was interesting. At one of the casting sessions that our club had (there were a dozen people present). One of the members videoed each one of the casters. I wasn't there, but I looked at the video clips. The plan was that Peter Morrison and I would look at the video and we'd try and come up with some helpful recommendations for each individual. But you know some of the members that have been fishing and fly casting for 50 years and there are casting things that they have never learned to do. Yet, I think they're somewhat satisfied. And I would not approach them and say, Hey, why don't you try it this way. I think from an ego point of view, when you've been at it for 50 years and you've developed bad habits with the casting that they've got to be reasonably happy. Unless they voluntarily come out and say, Yes, I'd like to—I've never learned the double haul, teach me the double haul – or something like that.

So, yes, I still really love casting, and it is fun to mentor and to teach people. What I do now in terms of payment for casting lessons or mentoring lessons is to just charge a bottle of wine (*laughter*), any wine, it doesn't matter.

TB: Nice. I've got three more questions, myself. And actually, one of them goes back to destination fly fishing. I was just curious, what drives you to want to go to a place? I mean, is it because you've heard other stories, or it's a type of fishing, or—

PC: Good question. I think it's probably the kind of fishing that you're going to expect. In other words, it is for me, stream fishing in a really nice location, where it isn't too crowded, maybe allows, say, dry fly fishing. Our Skagit River is pretty good that way. You know, it's a pretty mountain stream up in our part of the world, and it has good hatches of insects, so it's got good potential dry fly fishing. There's a trail. The part we fish is the trail accessible part. When I say "we," it's my wife and I. We go up and we camp at Manning Park, and then we go down to the Skagit and hike the trail. We can go down as far as we want, and sometimes we just go a little way. My wife's got ankle problems, and I have some toe and ankle problems myself. So if these things are bothering us, we're not going to go too far. But it's great up there. You don't usually run into an awful lot of people.

I've been to New Zealand, and of course exotic places like that always have what appears to be exceptional fishing. Christmas Island was being able to wade on the flats and cast for bonefish and other fish as well. I don't know, some people may want to go fishing because they hook up with a lodge that is really good. I just find a lot of that stuff now is so expensive. You think, five days for \$3000 or so? I could buy a bunch more rods (*laughter*).

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I don't know whether that answers the question—

TB: I know people do it, and I just wondered what your take on it was. My other question was what are your thoughts on the future of fly fishing?

PC: Yes. Fly fishing has changed a lot, in terms of the gear. If you take the interior fly fishing for example, what's become really a focus is chironomid fishing. You know, fishing the little midge patterns. The way that most of the people are doing that now is with a, well, it's called an indicator, but it's actually a float. So it's a float and a leader and-- (laughter). So you go out in your boat and you anchor, and you lob this thing out there, and it's a different form of fly casting.

I'm never critical of a lot of this stuff because it's all kind of interesting. With this kind of fishing, what you're doing is you're able to suspend your fly at a certain depth, and it's a little more scientific in a way because once you've found the right depth and the right fly, this seems to make a really big difference in the catching success. The differences in patterns on these chironomid flies often doesn't seem like it's very much, but it does seem to make a difference in what the fish like. So it's interesting that way, and I would fish that way. It's going over into river fishing too, and people are doing it for steelhead. If you're fishing a piece of water that's fly fishing only, then you can't legally use a float--and you can't use any attached weights on the leader at all. But you know, those kind of waters are somewhat few and far between.

Here's another thing with the future of fly fishing. We are able to get everywhere now, to a large degree because of the information on the Internet. It doesn't physically allow us to get there, but there's no place that the fish can hide. People share their information on the Internet, and everyone gets to see it. Favorite fishing spots are very easily divulged. All of a sudden, people say, Oh, wow, that's neat and they go there.

We didn't used to have this variety of little boats. Like, we've had float tubes, and they were the round donut things, and now there's all kinds of variations on that. They allow you to easily access rivers and lakes, in these individual, one-person, pontoon boats and other crafts. They allow you to get down a lot of rivers quite safely.

The gear, the Internet, and all the rest of the convenient modern world has changed how we now fish. You know, 30-40 years ago, it was all kind of calm, cool, and collected. Information just seeped around a little bit. And that's where the clubs really came in, I think, because it allowed people to share information within a club. I think part of the reason that clubs are maybe not as favorable now is because people are getting a lot of information on the Internet. They're also feeling like they're part of a group because they're chatting on the Internet. Even some of the Internet groups—there's a big one called *Fly BC*, actually have their own fish outs and get-togethers. They have their own sessions where they will come together physically. So, that's how it's changed.

TB: What about the ethics and the people? Do you find that etiquette on the river or the stream changing?

PC: Well that's an issue. How do you instill in all these folks now, the tradition and the ethics of how you behave out on the water? You'd think with the Internet you could. Some areas, like the lower mainland, have huge salmon fisheries on the Fraser River. If you have a big run of sockeye, you get thousands of people out on the river between Hope and Vancouver. People are out there to get a fish to take home, which is fine. But the ethics tend to fall apart somewhat out there. And people's treatment of the fish—fish they don't want to keep or aren't allowed to keep, end up being dragged up on the beach.

I'm just trying to think a little more about the ethical thing. One of the things that is happening, and it's based on more research knowledge on catch and release of trout, including steelhead, is what they call air exposure. There's concern if anglers are bringing their fish right out of the water and holding it for a picture, it is greatly reducing survival changes. This depends on the conditions... Let's say it's really cold or it's really hot, the fish may suffer but not die right away, it may be compromised in a sub-lethal way like having its ability to spawn somewhat reduced. They're finding this now with some of the news studies on fish handling. There's a bit of a move to try and get people not to take the fish right out of the water, but to keep it in the water and take a photograph that way.

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There's even talk about making a regulation for that. Now I don't know about making it law. I mean, you look at magazines and everything else, and—you know, all kinds of fish are pictured out of the water, even with Trout Unlimited, they have pictures like this in prominent places in their literature. So, it's a big job to get people to change their way of doing things there.

There is this whole business of fishing on a river, where anglers need to sort themselves out in a comfortable and ethical way. If you go down to a run and somebody is there, you either go somewhere else or you wait till they go further downstream. You may go up and ask them if you can go in behind them. You still get a lot of folks that don't understand how things are done. They'll come barging into the river immediately below you right into the water that you are moving down to fish. So, that's another challenge to get people to understand the ethics.

And I don't know. The thing is—all of the issues involving fisheries, the environment, and everything else in life, we're so swamped with all these things. I think there's a tendency for people just to say, don't bother me anymore with this stuff. I can't handle it. I find this myself, I get stuff from Sierra Club, I get stuff from Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Native Fish Society, etc., and I look at it and I don't have the energy or the time to read what they are saying and requesting. I'm terrible with the email because I keep getting quota warnings because I'm reaching almost the limit. And I don't know what happens when you reach that. I guess stuff starts to disappear. So I'm getting pretty brutal. And if I don't have a direct need or interest in looking at something, I'll get rid of it. And I sort of feel guilty because, all these issues and causes are important.

Another thing now, dealing with the recreational side of fishing as a concerned citizen, dealing with government is not like it was 30, 40, 50 years ago. I mean, 30, 40, 50 years ago, government would often listen. And when I say "government," I mean the politicians and the senior people. If you have concerns now, they're pretty much ignored. Even throwing yourself under the bus doesn't seem to work. There's a new bill being brought in called Bill C-51 that has to do with terrorism. It's written so that even environmental groups who are protesting could find that they're being investigated as potential terrorists. It's getting a bit out of hand.

It's a different world. It's a tougher and much more complicated world I think. And who knows, 20 years from now what it'll be like. We've got climate change to look forward to and whatever that will bring. Who knows, probably some good things but probably a lot of bad things too. We may not have cold water fisheries in the future?

I look at those pictures (Ed. Note: the conference room in which the interview was conducted includes a series of Ralph Wahl images). Those are great, the black and white that—*Come Wade the River*, that was the book, wasn't it?

TB: Right, right, and the exhibit was named after that too.

PC: Yes. I remember being down in Ralph Wahl's basement in Bellingham many years ago. A number of us drove down and sat down with Ralph in his basement there. He had all these tapes and all this really neat stuff. Did a lot of that come here, to the university?

TB: His papers are actually at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies.

PC: Oh yes.

TB: So they have most of it.

DB: The tapes are somewhere here.

TB: Well they're also at the Center. Some of them are at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, and some of them are here.

PC: Because I remember those tapes—oh, they may have contained discussions with many famous and important people in the world of fly fishing. There may have been Lee Wulff, Ernie Schwiebert, and even A. J. McClane.

DB: He took him fishing on the North Fork.

PC: Which him? Who?

DB: Ralph Wahl.

PC: Lee Wulff? Did he take Lee Wulff?

DB: No, no, Schwiebert.

PC: Schwiebert, yes. There was—

DB: He did the photography of the fishing trip.

PC: Yes. Schwiebert was a real genius, I think. You know, he was an architect, engineered and designed airports, and he was an artist. I mean, the volume of stuff that he wrote in books is just amazing.

TB: Our last question is (although Danny may have another one), but my last question is: Is there anything that we haven't asked you that you would like to mention? And especially, don't be afraid to brag about yourself. I took a lot of stuff off the website, so there's some stuff about you that I wouldn't know. I want you to be sure to—

PC: Well I'm not the kind of person that brags about myself.

TB: But we want you to, it's not called that. I want you too.

PC: (*laughter*) Well I, you know, I—put it this way, I'm happy with the efforts that I've put in for our fly fishing club, and for the BC Federation of Fly Fishers. I was president for whatever it was, the two-year stint, and I wouldn't be again. Although, I look at people that are in that president's role and I think, god, I could do a better job (*laughter*). But I'm not going to, at this stage of life, I just don't want to be bothered. I'd rather be in the background and help out where I can with probably the history of BC FFF, because new people come in and they haven't got a clue, you know, what's gone on before.

So that's not bragging about myself too much. So here's a brag -- I'm a pretty good fly caster.

TB: How much time do you put in doing your own? Because one of the things you talked about in terms of your fly casting improvement plan was [practice, practice, practice] -- but I was also wondering, like, do you advocate for other things, like fitness, beyond just the ability to cast? I mean, do you advocate any other kind of activity—

PC: Well, I'm just trying to think.

TB: I think your article talked about its winter, kind of get in shape to go out fly casting. I thought, well that could be more than just doing the casting out there. It could be—

PC: Yes, I had written an article on keeping your hands warm. I always have cold hands, and Reynaud's, where your fingers—

TB: Oh yes, white.

PC: --which seems to have disappeared, which is good. Anyway, I still go out and buy gloves that I think will be better than the last pair. My criteria in a winter glove for fly fishing: waterproof, breathable, tactile for handling line and easy on and off.

In terms of physical condition and wading rivers, I'm less able to do that now. I'm more cautious. I should be doing more physical gym work, getting in shape. I've got a friend, he's the same age as I am, 72, and he was heavy. He decided he wants to live forever, so he's put himself on this really strict diet of—he eats chicken and rice and salad, and in the morning it's oats. He doesn't vary this regimen hardly at all. But he also spends a ton of time in the gym. He's one of these guys that are totally committed. He just won't vary from his schedule, and he probably will live forever, unless he gets hit by a bus. So I look at that and I think, hmm, I feel a little guilty because I'm not doing it more intensively. I'm reasonably careful, but I've had a number of health problems over the years. Both my father and my grandfather died very young, so there's a family history of heart related stuff. I've had a couple of heart attacks years ago, and survived. They weren't horrendous. Now both my wife and I have pacemakers, so we're a bit bionic, but, it's good.

What else can I say?

TB: Is there anything else? Did you have anything else?

DB: No.

PC: I'm racking my brain for things that I might have said, or I could have said, that were somewhat important. Hmm?

TB: We'll give you a chance, like I said, we'll send you a copy and you can edit. But you could also add in something if you totally forgot something.

PC: Yes, sure, if I've forgotten anything, I can just add it in.

TB: Keeping this your story, we'd really like something that kind of reflected your story.

PC: Yes, sure.

TB: Do you have other book and writing projects coming down the pipe?

PC: An idea that I had was to put together what I had written over my 26 years as editor of the *Osprey News*. I had put a lot of thought and effort into writing editorials when I was the editor. I thought I'd go through all the old issues and pick and choose.

TB: Oh, like a compilation.

PC: Yes – pretty much a compilation. I would type them out again because they are all on paper. So then they would be digital. If I saw errors that I could correct them. I might even add new material that is relevant to the present. I enjoy digital photography so I'd add photos.

TB: And even the rest of the story, like if you wrote an editorial advocating for something, maybe what happened. You know, how successful was that?

PC: Yes.

TB: Or maybe something's changed. I mean, it might be kind of nice, a before and after kind of thing.

PC: Yes.

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TB: Or maybe your thinking's changed?

PC: Well, it may have. I've always liked, sort of philosophical writings, sort of descriptive writing. I can remember when I was in elementary school, we were required to write a descriptive paragraph. I always got a kick out of that. So I mean I guess— (*laughter*)

Everyone is polishing their writing skills, and certainly I am. Although some of this stuff I've written, I read it now and I think, hmm that's not bad and it is relevant today as it was back then. I wrote a short piece on the summer steelhead of the Coquihalla River, and it was in the Internet thing.

TB: Oh, *BC Adventures*?

PC: Yes, *BC Adventures*. It was about the future of the summer steelhead in that river. It's just short, and a couple of pictures accompanied it. But it tries to capture what has happened in the valley and to the river over the decades. In that river went the Kettle Valley Railway way back. They blasted and charged their way up there, and people died in the process. And, since then there have been pipelines and a highway through the valley. I kind of related that to the fish having to get up there, because they had several obstructions in the river that they had to negotiate. We used to go down and count and record the number of leaps that they'd make at these obstructions. The fish would take a leap and then bounce off the rocks. They would go and try again and again! We didn't see all that many successful challenges, but they obviously get up there after trying and trying and trying. That always impressed me, with that energy and that fortitude. I sort of related that to the energy and the fortitude that the railway would have had to have taken. Of course the railway's not there anymore, but all those other things are there that happened and worked to degrade the Coquihalla.

But you know, it's the odd thing like that I've written that I think, hmm, that's okay (*laughter*). And some of the stuff, I've been going over and retyping it, and I'm thinking, Oh, oh, that's not very good (*laughter*). So, I don't know what I'll do with it. It's a bit of a project that I hate to see that stack of paper, disappear as it will. That's the only place that it's captured. So if it's captured digitally, at least it can be shared, it can be there forever, I suppose, if that's possible. Maybe they'll change the way the digital stuff works and there will be a whole new system in place and all of this will be lost -- who knows.

TB: If there's nothing else, I'll say, Thank you very much, and we'll shut this off.

End of tape one

PC: We always used to get donations of flies from Harry Lemire, and Peter Caverhill got roped into framing these things. I guess people liked the way they were framed (if I want to brag about something). They don't look too bad. So now, Harry is gone and his friend Rocky Hammond, who belonged to the same fly tying group as Harry did, has a bunch of Harry's flies. Rocky is now donating Harry Lemire flies. So he'll mail me up a fly, which I do have, and it's up to me to frame it. His do fairly well at our fund raiser. I heard that they do better down here – a framed Lemire fly could probably go for a thousand dollars or thereabouts down here.

TB: Wow.

PC: Up our way, it would go for less. It might go for \$600, but people really do admire his work, and he ties it in hand without a vise. I didn't see the Lemire plaque on the wall when I came in (referring to the framed print and fly tied by Harry Lemire). That's pretty neat.

TB: Bill Kindler, who's on our advisory board, got that for us. He won it.

Anything else, sir? How did you get into framing?

PC: Well, I guess I got into framing because our club used to have an annual auction, and I would do stuff for that. Some of the early stuff that I tried to frame didn't look all that great by today's standards. And I don't make the frame. I look for frames that are good, that aren't too expensive. Then I'll find matting to go with the shadow box type of frame. Then I'll try and think of some interesting way to put it all together in an artistic way. It's like the one I'm going to do now. I've tried to find a chunk of sheet copper, you know the stuff that used to be done where you would emboss the copper by pounding on it. I just want a piece of copper to put in the frame, and then the fly will stand out from that. I can't find a piece of copper in BC. You know, Michael's and all the hobby places don't have it. But in Mt. Vernon, there's a Hobby Lobby, it's very big—I remember seeing copper sheets there on another trip. I phoned down and they had one sheet left. So after this, I'm going to run down there, as they set it aside for me. We'll see how that turns out. I hope my bee-in-the-bonnet will be okay, otherwise I've just bought a piece of copper sheeting that, who knows, maybe I can use it for something else?

Yes, so that was an addendum.

TB: Okay, okay. We're good. Thank you!

End of Recording