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**TB:** Today is Monday, August 20, 2018, and I'm here with Carl Johnson and Danny Beatty. We are at Carl's home in Snohomish, very close to Monroe. I always start with: how did you get started in fly fishing?

**CJ:** I grew up in a fishing family in New Jersey. I'm originally from the east coast. When I was a senior in high school, I decided I wanted to fly fish, bought my -- well, I had my father's fly rod, but bought an outfit because I had no idea what that one was, and spent much of the summer on the Musconetcong River in New Jersey. Fortunately, it was a stocked river with trout, but it also had bluegill, so I caught fish.

I then went to college and didn't do a lot of fishing.

Did some but not a lot. After college, my first job was in New Mexico, so again, fishing was limited. And then I moved to Colorado, and I have been fly fishing ever since then. I worked at a mine just outside of Vail, Colorado, so the Eagle River was my backyard, and I got to fish the river at least once a week, many times two or three days a week. And I fished during the week rather than the weekends when everybody else fished.

**TB:** Nice. Do you, Danny, have any questions about his early --

**DB:** Well, in Colorado, why don't you mention a couple of those famous rivers that you might have fished in -- They have the historical --

**CJ:** The ones that were closest to me were the Frying Pan and the Roaring Fork. I never did very well on the Roaring Fork, but I had some wonderful days on the Frying Pan. Actually I remember one, early season, it may have been Memorial Day weekend, and nobody was catching anything. And for some reason, there was a little island just off the bank from the road. And as I was walking by there, I think I was dragging my fly, and I had a fish hit. I spent the rest of the weekend fishing there and probably landed in the next day and a half, you know, a half dozen to a dozen trout out of that one spot. Apparently nobody thought to fish this one little pocket right there, and it kind of -- one of those times that opens your eyes that you don't have to fish the big water all the time.

I have put a fly on the South Platte down in that area west of Colorado Springs. It's famous, where the -- Colorado's interesting because Colorado is like the east coast. The landowners own the river bottom.

And so there is a number of private fishing clubs in that stretch of water, and there's some open water there also.

**TB:** Okay. So after Colorado, then, where did you -- because I don't think you immediately got involved in organizational structures.

**CJ:** No, no. I didn't get involved, actually -- So, from there, the company that I was working with at that time transferred me to East Tennessee, so I got to fish the tailwaters in East Tennessee, which were some interesting things. But I also learned the, what Dave Whitlock said, when you're fishing tailwaters - - because they refuse to put a horn up, because then they had liability. So when they generate, there's no warning. And Dave Whitlock one time said, You need to take a hundred dollar bill, put it on a rock that's just out of the water, he says, because if it's anything less and the fishing gets good, you'll forget about it.

But when it floats away, you pick it up and get off the river. (Laughing) But yes, when they start generating, you've got to watch in that neck of the woods. When they start generating, you want to be off the river as fast as you can, because the water can come up a couple feet in a matter of minutes. Depending how close you are to the dam.

**CJ:** So, I fished East Tennessee. I also fished in the Smokies. Beautiful water in the Smokies. Actually, I probably did most of my fishing in the Smokies in the winter when nobody else was there, which was nice.

From there, I went to North Idaho, and home water there was the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene, not a bad little creek to fish. Beautiful cutthroat water at that time.

Then I was transferred to Utah. The home water there was the Provo River. And then I kind of went back and forth, to Idaho, back to Utah. This was silver mining, so when the silver prices dropped, that job ended.

Then I ended up in Louisiana, which was a whole different world to fish in. But that's where I got involved in the organization. There was a club that was started in Lafayette, Louisiana, the Acadiana Fly Rodders. I saw a notice in the paper, showed up at the meeting, and I ended up being their first secretary. Then that job ended when I was vice president, and I moved to Butte, Montana.

**TB:** Just go back. What year was that, probably, that you were in the Acadiana Fly Rodders?

**CJ:** It was, let's see, that would've been 1986, 1987.

**TB:** Okay.

**DB:** During this time in the west and the south, did you still have family in New Jersey and the east coast?

**CJ:** Yes.

**DB:** Did you go back there and do any fishing to make comparisons?

**CJ:** To go back up a little bit, my father died in an industrial accident just before my 11th birthday. My mother remarried, and then that gentleman had a heart attack and died. My mother's third husband -- who is still alive, is my father's brother. So my uncle is my stepfather. (Laughing) He was a fly fisher long, long beforehand. He started when he was a teenager, fly fishing, I didn't realize this until recently. And actually, that was the reason I drove or I went to the Atlantic salmon fly tying event in Miramichi this past summer. He used to fish for those mythical creatures on the Tobique River in New Brunswick, fished it until they closed it for Atlantic salmon fishing, and did one trip to Iceland, Atlantic salmon fishing. I took him up, he had a wonderful time. Then when I took him back home, he gifted me with five or six bamboo fly rods -- three Goodwin Grangers, two Orvis, and an unknown one, and his Atlantic salmon rig, which is a Bogdan. He calls it the winch. So, I'm very lucky to --

**DB:** This is the person that has a very low FFF, or FFI number -- life member number?

**CJ:** Yes, he was -- he is, I believe, charter -- his card says charter life, it's either 86 or 87.

**DB:** Yes.

**CJ:** So when they -- he won a bowling tournament when they sent out the thing that we have these life memberships for a hundred dollars. He won a hundred dollars in this bowling tournament, and he became a life member, from doing that. And so, he, you know, he has enjoyed himself over his years, and his stories are wonderful.

**TB:** Okay, so then you were at Provo. Was Provo the last place that you were, then, before you -- no, then you went to Butte.

**CJ:** -- Butte. I went to Butte and was not in Butte very long. I went to work for a mine construction company, and the mining company that had hired them after about a year didn't renew the contract because they were going to do it themselves. So that's when I moved to Washington, left the underground mining business, and got into the consulting business. And spent the next 15 years primarily working on the cleanup of mining sites.

**TB:** Interesting; how did you choose to come to Washington, then?

**CJ:** That's where the job was. I was working for a -- basically it was a large Beltway bandit. They were the largest defense -- the company was the largest defense contractor that did not make hardware. They were out of San Diego, a company called Science Applications International Corporation, and it was an employee-owned company, which was rather nice. They gave company stock as bonuses, and that was how I got to retire early because I realized how much stock I had and how much money I was not making, and the stock was worth more. I sold it and retired. (Laughing)

**TB:** Nice, nice. Okay, so then tell us about your life in Washington? How you got involved in the local organizational structure here.

**CJ:** I joined when I was in Colorado, I joined the Federation. When I moved to Butte from Louisiana, after about sending five change of address requests and hearing nothing, I didn't renew. Since they didn't send me a thing to renew, so that's when I dropped. I moved here in 1990. Probably in the mid-1990s, somewhere in the mid-1990s, I rejoined. I don't remember exactly where, when it was. Then my first wife passed in 2001, and that's when I got -- well, from there I got involved with the Evergreen club.

They had an FFF rep position on their board, and I went to a board meeting in Ellensburg, and I volunteered to help at the first fly fishing show in Bellevue. There was an auction that they did on Friday night, and from then, the arm twisting started. (Laughing)

Bob Shirley was council president then, and he twisted my arm to replace him. I did, and we had much different personalities, and I spent a few years having to tell people, I'm not Bob Shirley. But that was --

**DB:** You were ten years as the president?

**CJ:** Twelve.

**DB:** Twelve years. Oh that's right, you were thinking at ten years --

**CJ:** Well, at nine, we set up -- when we had to rewrite the bylaws, somewhere in 2005, because the national board went to three year terms. Well, because with the mail-in ballots, we were only getting twelve back a year. (Laughing)

**DB:** You started people thinking about it at ten.

**CJ:** Well basically, my goal was to do six or nine. At nine, I said, I'm not running again. When I ran at nine, I said, I will not run again. Somebody says, what if we can't find anybody? I found I had to say, I don't care, I'm gone, I'm done, I can't do it anymore, because I didn't have the passion for the job at the end.

**TB:** So, I don't know, and I'm not trying to look for whatever was different about Bob Shirley, but maybe just a little bit. What's your management style or your approach to being the council that might have been different than his or just --

**CJ:** Well, the big thing is, Bob liked to argue. I mean, Bob is very passionate about the Federation and everything. Bob liked to argue. We were friends, and I mean that, but I mean, he enjoyed arguing with people. I am not an arguer. I think that's one of the big things. But he was 110% in the Van Gytenbeek camp, and that's -- so basically, he had moved out of state by that time, which was a good thing, I think that was about after the first year. I've talked with the gentleman who's replacing me in the job, Bill Wheeler, people still defer to me. So I am backing away but still talking to Bill and still involved in the fair. But if I go to the meetings, they're going to ask me, what's your opinion? That's a hard thing when you've had somebody in the job that long to --

**DB:** Do you want to try and explain the transition from Bellevue to Ellensburg?

**CJ:** Okay. Well, they did the Bellevue show about three years in the 1990s, I believe? Something like that. I'm not a hundred percent sure because I was not involved when the council did the show, but the Bellevue that I mentioned where we did the auction was the big, commercial fly fishing show. They were in Bellevue for I want to say about five years in the early 2000s. When they first came, and what it was, was they had their celebrities that come to the show, they have to feed them.

So they talked the council into doing a dinner, and then we could do an auction, but their celebrities were there to eat. But it was a successful auction, but it was a lot of work, and the council decided not to do that in the future.

**TB:** Oh, so that's when you started the [fair] at Ellensburg?

**CJ:** No, I started the thing in Ellensburg when I took over as council president, in part because the year before they quit giving councils rebates. The year before I took over, and prior to that, I believe, if my memory is right, \$3 per every FFF member in the council was a rebate to the councils, and this was your operating funds. Van stopped that, boom. So that year, that was a third of our budget, and all we had then to raise money was a casting event that we held in Carnation in the fall, and it made, you know, hundreds of dollars. I had people tell me that there was some agreement between Oregon and Washington that they did tying and we did casting. I said, where is it in writing? Well, it's an oral agreement. I said, well I don't really give a damn. So we started the tying thing in Ellensburg. The first year, which is the poster up there, 2007, was a one-day event in the library in Ellensburg.

I picked Ellensburg because we are the Washington State Council and that's about as center in the state as you can get. And one of my [goals], and I have not been good at it, is try to get the east side involved in the council. Other than Inland Empire, there doesn't seem to be a big desire to be involved in the council. I think the Pasco club may have been very active at one time, but they dropped out of the organization when they had the Snake River Dam articles in *Flyfisher* and their rebuttal was not published. So, you know. This is the thing, the politics of organizations (laughing), and I'm sure Danny's dealt with that more than I have, dealing with it across the country. (Laughing) So anyway, but that's one of the things that I was not happy about, was getting the east side of the state involved more.

**DB:** So the Ellensburg fly tying show started in 2007 -- the politics of the FFF, I still communicate with a man named Karl Glander from Indianapolis.

**CJ:** I know the name.

**DB:** I don't know if you ever heard the conflict back in the 1980s. Anyway, between a woman named Brown that wanted to join a men's-only club --

**CJ:** I didn't.

**DB:** Oh, it's a story -- I was right in the middle of it.

**DB:** Jim, the lawyer from Michigan, oh man, woo.

**CJ:** Mess. Yes. No, I've been there, done that, had the t-shirt. I got involved in some of that with, you know, of course, Washington Fly Fishing Club.

**DB:** Oh yes, when they broke away --

**CJ:** They were gone when I got involved, but they had, they and -- actually, according to one of my friends who is a member of the club, one of their votes, it was a very close vote, of whether to allow [women], the deciding vote, one of the last ones cast, was Van Gyteneek, not to change. (Laughing)

**DB:** Yes, that's when Steve dropped away from it.

**CJ:** Talking about my time with the council, starting with the Ellensburg show. We started it in 2007 as a one-day fly tying event. Then the next year, we moved to the fairgrounds, which was a larger facility, and we added some vendors, we did more of an auction, etc., and had casting at the same time. So we went from a tying show to a fly fishing show. Then the year after, we went to the two-day show. We have been a two-day show ever since. Although one year we did Saturday/Sunday versus Friday/Saturday because all the people said, oh, if you were open Sunday we would come. They didn't.

The commercial shows even, the O'Loughlin show, the one in Puyallup, the sportsman show, runs Wednesday through Sunday. Sunday is always terrible attendance. Nobody shows up until about 1:00, to speak of, generally, and the show's over at 4pm. Even the fly fishing show, which is a Saturday/Sunday show, Sunday's attendance is always lower. People just do not go to things like that on Sundays, so that was a disaster.

Otherwise, we've been [Friday/Saturday]. This coming year may be our last in Ellensburg. The new president wants to explore options on this side of the state, because 75% of the council members live between Olympia and Everett, and the total population of Washington residents is centered, when you do one of these models, it comes out almost straight downtown Puyallup. So, they're looking to move, and we'll see what happens.

**TB:** Oh, Puyallup fairgrounds might be a good site.

**CJ:** I'm not sure we could afford it. (Laughing) I mean, that's the issue. For years, people say you need to move it to the west side. My response was always, you find me a place and show me we can make money. Well, I don't have the time to do that. Well, I don't either. (Laughing)

So, I mean, I lost a couple board members who said, nope, it has to be moved. I said, find me a location. I think actually if we found something on the I-5 corridor, even if it was just south of Olympia down in the Chehalis area, I think that would probably work. But it's just a matter of finding what's available and dates. The other thing is I think our show the weekend before Mother's Day is late in the show season, and people are already fishing. I think that's the other problem with it.

**TB:** Okay. You've talked about the show, but what are some other initiatives that you felt were part of your council time?

**CJ:** Well, there is always stuff that went on. One that I am proud that the council participated in is, and the name is, the biologist who did the books with Les Johnson and Bruce Ferguson?

**DB:** Patrick Trotter.

**CJ:** Trotter, okay. He contacted the council because they were trying now with DNA, they were having a meeting in Portland, actually at the exact same time as the 50th was in Bend, to determine exactly how many subspecies of cutthroat there were. Actually the council donated, I think, either a \$1,000 or \$1,500 to this because they have to pay for all these PhDs to show up and argue. I guess that's what it was. But anyway that was one. And we also got the FF -- let's see, at that time it was the IFFF, a small grant of \$1,500 for them also, so we funded that.

There have been a number of conservation projects that have gone on. Probably where I think that the council has done a lot of work is in working with Project Healing Waters here in the state. And then

OPFI, which is the Olympic Peninsula Fishing Innovations, with their one-handed stuff. Have you interviewed Jesse Scott?

**TB:** No.

**CJ:** Jesse was the inventor of the Evergreen Hand, the one-handed. And he's 85 –

**DB:** Is the council involved with the program that Mike runs down in Olympia?

**CJ:** Yes. Actually we are listed with TU (Trout Unlimited) as sponsoring the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy in Lacey. It's a one week camp where they bring kids. It's actually at a church camp on a lake, about 16 kids a year I think it is. There have been some, you know, a lot of young fly fishers have come out of that who look like they're going to be fly fishers for a long time.

**DB:** We probably should put Mike's last name in.

**CJ:** Clancy. Mike Clancy. Actually, the gentleman who started that, whose name is Dick Nye, who was a teacher in the Olympia area, and he modeled it after a camp that TU does on the east coast, or maybe a number of places on the east coast. He's the one that started it, and then Mike basically, he's got co-chairs, but Mike does the heavy lifting on that.

He contacted me this last year to get Mike an award from the FFI for his efforts. I said, Dick, it's better to have somebody else write it than me. But you're the council president. And I said, Yes, and we're the ones that vote on the awards, so. So he got a few people, and he got the -- **the name's slipped over my head.** But he got one of the major awards this year for doing that.

Dick Nye was the guy that started it. Dick got the award for Mike Clancy. Mike Clancy got the award, but yes, it's one of those named after somebody, and it's gone for right now. (Laughing)

**TB:** We'll find it.

**CJ:** I've actually got the program because I'd like it if you can get it to Russ's wife, because they list the people who have passed this past year. I thought, Russ Ossenbach, is that how you say it?

**DB:** Oh, yes.

**CJ:** Yes. I've got one if I could give it to you, if you can get it to his wife, I'd appreciate it.

**DB:** Okay, Nora. That was a sudden situation.

**CJ:** Yes.

**TB:** Could you tell us a little bit more about Healing Waters? I think you yourself have actually participated in that, right?

**CJ:** Yes. Healing Waters was started by a gentleman, a retired Navy captain, and he was in the hospital back in the D.C. area, I assume Bethesda, but I'm, not sure. All these young men and young women, but

mostly young men coming back from Iraq with various disabilities. He's a fly fisherman, and he thought fly fishing might be a therapy for these people, and basically that started the organization. They showed up for the first time at the conclave when it was in Bozeman, a number of years ago, I'm not sure exactly but I could look it up. But I don't remember exactly.

**DB:** 1990s?

**CJ:** 2000s. It was after 2001, because that is when the big push went into Iraq. Project Healing Waters, yes.

**DB:** Van was the president.

**CJ:** Van was the president. So anyway, they had a young man who got up and spoke who had a nice deep voice, a young army captain, and he talked about the organization and really got everybody excited. They had an auction item to fish with them in Washington, and I bought it. And [Schram] said, you know that's not Washington state. And I go, I'm not dumb, Jim. They're headquartered in D.C., that's where it's at. I actually went and they had it in Virginia, and we went the next year. They had an event, we went, and it was, I mean, you get around these young men who have every reason to be upset and aren't. It is truly amazing, and you realize how blessed you are.

Then Ed, for years, is bringing a bunch of navy buddies to Montana, about five miles from where I have a second home. So, for a number of years I got invited, if I was there, to take people, usually it was some of his navy buddies, down the river.

The last time we did, it turned out to be two Project Healing Waters' participants. One was a Vietnam era veteran from Long Beach who, you know, because it's open to anybody that's a veteran that needs the help. The other was in the Air Force, and he had, whatever the Air Force special forces is, and he was on the ground and lost both legs above the knees. And he had these -- and they've done, I mean, the artificial limbs are just, I mean, what they've been able to do with them with the computer chips and everything. So, it's the only time in my life I ever expect to have somebody when we get to the boat launch, can I leave my legs in your truck? Literally, that's what he said. I said, sure, because they didn't want those computer chip knees anywhere near water. He basically put some stumps over, or some protectants over his stumps, and walked on his stumps down, got in the boat -- and we went fishing. And we had a good time.

Now, I grew up, my grandfather had lost a leg below the knee in a railroad accident, so I mean, so we talked about that and all. So we got along fine, but I will never forget spending a day with this young man who sat there in the seat and fly fished as we went down the river, and we had a great time. As we got close to the takeout, he says, I sure hope that they shuttled your truck. I'd hate to have to hitch a ride up to the top. I said, yes, I do too. But if they didn't, I was going to ask you to do the hitching. He goes, why's that? And I said, because they're going to stop for you long before they'll stop for me. (Laughing)

But you know, he had that ability, he could laugh. That's one of the things, what I've seen with a lot of the people with Project Healing Waters, and any of those programs, that, you know, it gives them a sense of belonging and doing something useful, I guess is the best way to say it.

Actually, before Project Healing Waters got started in Washington, but after it got started back east, there was a colonel, and I believe that he was named Colonel Perry, down at Fort Lewis, had heard about the



program. He was a fly fisher. And he thought some of his soldiers could benefit. He contacted somebody back there who then contacted me, and I had spent just enough time in the military to realize, okay, I need to find a colonel to talk to a colonel. Well Jesse Scott was a retired lieutenant colonel, we were in the Evergreen club. So I talked Jesse into meeting with this guy, and they ended up putting together a fly tying program at Madigan for soldiers with upper body injuries. It worked very well. Their first day they did it -- they went through a bunch of hoops to get it into the hospital. The first day they did, one of the soldiers who was there, they asked him what he thought of it, and he said, this is great, no more wallets. Actually he used an adjective that I won't repeat, but his therapy for his injuries was, you know -- making the wallets. This is something, this is one of the things, I mean, the gentleman who spoke, one of his therapies was to take beads out of one bowl and put them in another. I mean, you know, these are the type of therapies if you can add something that's more useful or adult. (Laughing) So this worked.

About a year into it, Project Healing Waters came and kind of took over, but it was still the same people going down there. Jesse was going down there, doing it on Tuesdays, and they had a gentleman who was there who had taken a round in his shoulder and had limited use of his left hand. So he and Jesse started working on how to tie a fly one-handed. That was the beginning of what is now known as the *Evergreen Hand*. And Jesse named it the *Evergreen Hand* in honor of the Evergreen club in Everett, which he was a member of at the time.

But yes, the iterations that it's gone through. He was, I remember after he pretty much had got it to where it was working, he was afraid somebody was going to try to patent it and sell them. So they did all the research and found if you published it, then it's out there and nobody can then patent it. They got the *Flyfisher*, the FFF magazine, to publish it, so they did that. Now that's rolled into OPFI with their casting buddy, so they're doing it. But both the casting buddy and the *Evergreen Hand* are not sold. They are free for anybody who needs them. A lot of former fly fishermen who can't do it anymore because of strokes are some of the people who are [using] the *Evergreen Hand*.

**TB:** Oh nice. What are some other initiatives that you were involved in that we haven't talked about?

**CJ:** I'm trying to think, and it's somewhat of a blur. (Laughing) It was pretty much trying to promote fly fishing, doing whatever I could to promote fly fishing, because it's what kept my sanity at times with work and everything else. I mean, we all have that, what we do, our passion that relaxes us, and for me it was fly fishing. And you know, so this was an opportunity for me to give back to. Then the other piece to it, and this is the best thing of the name change, is the new tag line. The new tag line at the bottom. The old one was restoration, conservation, education, or something like that, those three words. The new one is conservation, education, but the last word, which is the most important word of this whole fly fishing world, is community. Because it is one big community.

I go to Boise to see friends more than anything else. And I think Danny understands that. I mean, I now have friends scattered all over the country that we go there, and it's a -- And this is one of the things the office is losing is this. They've got the word there, but they don't, I'm not sure they a hundred percent understand that half the people who show up, show up not for the meetings but for the friends. But it is a big sense of community, and this is, you know, I was so blessed to be able to do that job for 12 years because I got to know so many people in the area, particularly in Washington.

Actually, an interesting story, early on I had somebody who noticed anytime I went into a fly shop, as I walked in the door they greeted me by my first name. So he thought, oh, you get that by being council

president. Then he realized, no, you get that by working. Because I would go into the fly shops early on. If I'm somewhere and there's a fly shop, I would go in. But unfortunately, clubs tend to go into fly shops with palm up. If they go in and, I'm with club X, we need something for an auction, we need, we need. I would go in with my palms sideways, How are you doing? Can I help you with anything?

I've told clubs, if shop X gives you something for your auction, every time one of your members goes in, say, thank you for donating. I said, if they did that, you're going to get more stuff and better stuff, because now they can quantify, okay, we gave that fly line to, and I'll use the Evergreen club, just because I'm a member of it, to the Evergreen club. Now they've got 30 people that came in during the course of the year saying thank you for donating, and they're buying stuff. [The shop owner can see that]. But that's, I mean, it's the community. That's what made the job easy is the people I've gotten to know and the friends I've got, and it just, but [twelve years I'm starting to burn out]. (Laughing)

**TB:** Are there other things that we haven't talked about that are some of the things that you're most proud of in regard to your fly fishing? And have you been involved in either developing a signature fly, getting involved in rod building, any other kind of side bar besides –

**CJ:** Actually, I made a conscious decision not to tie when I took the job, because I felt I had time to fish or to tie flies, and I'm a fisherman. Actually, this is my one problem with the organization. We have too many groups that forget it's about fishing. It is about fishing and that's what it's about. Casting is a piece of fishing, but it's not fishing. Tying is a piece of fishing. Conservation. They're all pieces, but it's about fishing. The vast majority of people do a little bit of all of it. I've had friends, Why don't you become a casting instructor? I have no desire to teach. Well, but you'd be a better caster. I said, the fly goes where I want it. I don't need to be any better. But you could throw a longer line. I said, why would I want to cast and fish the bank? (Laughing)

**DB:** I would like you to bring in with all this now, since you've moved here to the Monroe/Snohomish area, talk about your fishing experiences here. I remember you talking about the south and Colorado. Let's bring in the area here.

**CJ:** When I moved here, I started to fish for those mythical fish around here called steelhead. I have caught a few. (Laughing) Well, I mean, that's a lot of hours for not many tugs. Because I moved here in 1990, so that was a time when the steelheading wasn't great. My first steelhead I ever caught was on the North Fork of the Stilly, right about where the monument is now. I fished the Stilly a lot. Then I got a drift boat, and then I fished the Sky a lot. But I really enjoyed fishing the Sky back in the 1990s for the chum. Oh, October and November, going down fishing for chum, they could fight. I spent a lot of time driving. I probably fished Lake Lenore a lot in the 1990s. But Montana was always the tug. In 1999 -- well, so, pretty much every year my late wife and I would do one to two weeks in Montana, mostly me fishing. In 1997, she says on the way home, if we're going to do this every year, maybe we ought to look for a place over here. I said, well if you insist, dear. (Laughing)

It took us two years to find a place. As we started seriously looking, we kind of picked Missoula because that's a day's drive, so we could do that easily. Then we started looking around Missoula and realized, Mineral County to the west was a very depressed real estate market, and so we concentrated looking in that area because we could afford more. At that time, the Lower Clark Fork was a very good river to fish.

It's now coming back into its own, but when they took the dam out above Missoula, it wasn't the contaminated sediments, it was their temporary dam that ruined the river. Because they had a concrete

dam, so they had to put an earthen dam in to take out the concrete dam. It was hundreds of thousands of yards of, and this is an EPA term -- clean dirt -- that went downstream from this dam. Because if you build an earthen dam, the only way you take it out is let it wash away. You can't do anything but that. So that first year afterwards, the bottom of the Lower Clark Fork was just covered with sediment. We had no bugs, no bugs whatsoever.

Last year was the first time I saw not heavy hatches but hatches of mayflies, rather than, oh, there's a mayfly. So the stoneflies and caddis came back very quick, but the mayflies are just coming back. Actually, this year on April 4, I was over there, I forget why, I went over for something, and in the afternoon I had some time. The Clark Fork in that area is not a fast river. There are a number of places I can launch the drift boat and actually row upstream, and take out at the same place, which is what I did. So I went over, launched, actually, this is before the mud got in there and I had to clean the ramp out, but launched and figured I'd be nymph fishing. So I go over and there's a big eddy on the other side, and I get in the edge, anchor in the edge where I can fish the edge of the eddy. And I make my, and I think it was my second cast, and I had a nice pink bobber on, and it drifts about two feet, and a trout about that big comes up to try to eat the bobber.

Then I look, and there are mayflies and there are fish upon mayflies. Well, I happened to have left over from last fall a couple of *Purple Haze*, which is a very good dry fly for that river. I switched to dry flies, and I landed, I think it was six cutthroat, cutbows, and rainbows. They were all in that 14-16 inch range. It was a fun day. But I hadn't seen that since they took that dam out. But yes, so now days, since I've been council president, I probably have spent more hours fishing Montana than I have Washington.

**DB:** That's fine.

**CJ:** Well, it's like, I have a lot of friends who are lake fisherman. I like fishing rivers. And --

**DB:** Did you have an alternative place during that time of when the Clark Fork was having problems? Did you have an alternative lake or river around there?

**CJ:** Well, there's the Flathead, which actually has a nice smallmouth bass population, and it's close by. You're not that far from a little creek called the Bitterroot and there's Rock Creek. You've got Fish Creek, which dumps into the Clark Fork and the St. Regis. Both are rather interesting.

Actually, I have a funny story on Fish Creek. When the conclave was in Spokane, somewhere probably around 2010, two thousand-- I invited all the council presidents to spend the weekend before at my place and go fishing. The guy who was council president for the Florida council at that time, he wanted to go catch bull trout, and he read that Fish Creek had bull trout in it. So one night he goes down to Fish Creek, and it's a small stream. When he comes back, I said, how'd you do? He says, There's no bull trout in there. It's just brookies. I must have caught 20 brookies. Well the next day he was fishing with me, and Fish and Game stopped and talked to us. I don't think it was the wardens, I think it was just some employees. But we were talking and I said, this guy said he caught a bunch of brookies in Fish Creek. The guy from Fish and Game goes, I hear that all the time. We shocked that thing and there is not a single brook trout in that creek. This guy goes, well, I grew up in Connecticut, I know what a brook trout looks like. He says, did you look at the dorsals? And he says, what? He says, that's the only way you can tell a small bull trout. Brook trout have those squiggly on the dorsal. Bull trout do not. He says, you caught baby bull trout. (Laughing)

**CJ:** My place is about an hour and a half drive to Idaho and the St. Joe and a two hour drive to Kelly Creek. So there are plenty of opportunities.

**DB:** Oh yeah, I just wanted you to mention them.

**CJ:** But during that time, the big fish were still in the river. There were a lot of -- you didn't catch as many fish, but when you caught a fish, it was large. But I think one of the problems with that river is because of so few tributaries in that stretch, a lot of fish were spawning in the main river and not in the tributaries.

**TB:** So anything else? What are some of the things that you think are important about fly fishing that we haven't talked about?

**CJ:** I'm not sure if I've missed anything. Like I say, the biggest thing is, in general, fish don't live in ugly places. When you're fly fishing, you can't think about anything else and be successful. I mean, that's why it works, is you're in a beautiful place and you can't worry about whether you had an argument with this person or, you know, the money issues, or whatever. If you're going to be successful fishing, all that has to go away for a while.

**TB:** Nice. And then, any other thoughts about the future of fly fishing?

**CJ:** Well, I think that it's like anything else, it's going to change. As a student of geology, I kind of -- these people that talk about change like it's a bad thing, it's like, it's always been happening. I mean, if you fish rivers, they don't stay the same. That hole that was there last year, if we had a bad flood, it might be full this year. And part of it is, you have to keep learning, because the rivers change. Lakes change, more slowly than rivers, but lakes change also. I mean, it's change, and it's going to happen, and you have to keep learning.

We have our issues with the earth getting hotter. After my trip, in 2016, my wife and I spent the summer in Alaska, pulled our trailer up there. We went up to the Arctic Circle on a tour (I'm glad I didn't decide to drive my truck, I had somebody else drive). But the one thing that I noticed on that is up in that area up around the Arctic Circle, it's the spindly black spruce that grow up. But every place where they have cut out the trees, whether to put a road in, whether to put a drill pad, whatever, allowing the sun to come right to the surface melts the permafrost enough that the deciduous trees can grow right in that area. Well, if up there that makes that much difference. I've only been in western Washington since 1990, but how many acres in the Seattle metro area that in 1990 were covered with trees are now black roofs and asphalt? I think that is a bigger part of Seattle's temperature increase than the carbon issue and I think that's one nobody wants to touch.

But I think there's so many pieces to all of this change, and a big piece of it is how many people are on this planet. But change is a part of it, and the sport will always change. I'm a dinosaur, and I like doing it in some of the old ways. But it's about having fun, and if you're enjoying fishing it, I mean. I fish bamboo rods almost exclusively because I enjoy doing it. It's a slower pace than some of these composite rods. It doesn't mean there's something wrong with them, it's just what I enjoy. It's about enjoyment, and I think that's the thing. It's all about enjoyment.

**TB:** Okay, is there anything else we haven't talked about that we should? And/or Danny, do you have any other questions? Is there anything we haven't talked about?

**CJ:** I mean, the only thing I would say. I've been blessed to be able to give something back to the sport that gave me so much.

**DB:** Yes.

**TB:** Alright. Well, I'm going to call this a good one. It was 59 minutes and 43 seconds, so thank you.  
*End of audio recording*