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This interview was conducted Bill and Lori Jollymore on September 8, 2013, at the home of Tamara Belts, in Bellingham, Washington. The interviewers are Danny Beatty and Tamara Belts.

TB: Today is Sunday, September 8, 2013, and I'm here with Bill Jollymore, his wife Lori Jollymore, and Danny Beatty. We are going to do an oral history with the Jollymores about their fly fishing. They did just sign the Informed Consent Agreement. I'm going to start with our first question: How did you get started fly fishing?

BJ: That's been a long, long time ago. My fly fishing experience started at the same time as my fly tying. It came together. Back when I was born and raised in Sydney, Nova Scotia, we had a bookstore in town, and it was half books and magazines, and the other half was the fly fishing shop. It was called MacLeod's Bookstore, and it was on the main street. On a Saturday night in 1942, around June, my mother and father and my sister and I went to a show, what we called a show is a movie. And we come out, and my dad always went in and got the weekend newspapers, the *Boston Advertiser* and the *Toronto Star*. We went in, and he looked at the price of flies, and that was of course during the war, the war was on for three years, and the full dress, classic Atlantic salmon flies, the Victoria era flies, had gotten 25 to 27 cents.

He said, "Bill, I can't afford these. You're going to have to learn to tie." So he bought me a little three dollar fly tying kit, which was pretty junky. There wasn't much in it. And we went home and tore a bunch of pillows apart and found some feathers, because they had feathers in the pillows in those days. And I started tying these flies by copying what he had in the box, which wasn't very many. His fly box consisted of a cigarette-50 flat box with automotive gasket cork glued in it. I copied the patterns the best I could. That June on the Atlantic salmon fly that I had tied, I caught a seven pound Atlantic salmon in Grand River. That was when I started.

DB: How did you get your rods that you fished this with? Did you already have the rods?

BJ: Well, my dad got me a rod.

DB: Okay.

BJ: It was a Bristol steel, telescoping, tubular steel rod, and it had three guides on it. The wooden handle was set behind the reel seat and it had a little two-inch brass reel on it with a black and white chevron checked, enamel line.

DB: Okay. And the reel, what was it a –

BJ: Brass.

DB: Okay.

BJ: Little brass reel.

DB: And you were about, what, 10 years old?

BJ: I was eight.

DB: Eight years old.

BJ: Yes, and a little bit, almost nine.

DB: Yes, okay. And so, that was your start.

BJ: That was the start.

DB: Okay. And so you fished that area quite a bit from then on?

BJ: I fished –

DB: You left there when you were fairly young.

BJ: Yes, I left when I was 16. I was joining the Canadian Army as a boy soldier, and that was in 1950, so I had eight years of fishing in the Nova Scotia. In 1949, I tied enough Atlantic salmon flies and sold them to local hardware stores to pay for a trip to Newfoundland. Newfoundland at that time was only three months a province of Canada.

DB: Talk a little bit about the Atlantic salmon, and of course the famous Brook trout fishing of that area, and can you tie in Lee Wulff anyway with any of that?

BJ: Just very slightly, very slightly.

DB: Okay.

BJ: The Brook trout of course is not a trout, it's a char. They're fall spawners, as opposed to the true trout, which are rainbows and cutthroats and browns, they're spring spawners. But there used to be large quantities of Brook trout in Nova Scotia, and they've pretty much disappeared. They're getting smaller quantities, and you don't see the sea runs. In the river where I lived next to, the Brook trout used to run to the saltwater and feed, and then come back in June and they were all silver, and then when they got into the freshwater they changed color. But they were good fishing. They're a great food fish, for eating fish, than most.

But the Atlantic salmon is very, very similar to the steelhead, the west coast steelhead. Neither one feed in the freshwater. They're in the salt for three to four years. They make probably two to three migrations and live to be somewhere between seven and eleven years old. They spawn in December. The females come in the river in June and stay in the river. In October and November, the males come in, and they mate in December. Then the fry stay in the river three to four years, and they grow to just prior 10-11 inches long.

DB: So you joined the army and you were stationed in Germany.

BJ: I was –

DB: For a while?

BJ: Yes, yes.

DB: With the occupation forces?

BJ: No, no. It was after the war. I went over to Germany in 1955.

DB: Oh.

BJ: Yes. I was just part of that NATO, North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We were under the Brits over there.

DB: But were you able to do any fly fishing or any fishing there then?

BJ: I fished a little in Germany. That was about it.

But you mentioned Lee Wulff, the only real connection I've had with him was through his fly patterns, was the fact that when I was in Vancouver, lived in Vancouver, British Columbia, I was still in the army, I used to go into a very old famous old sporting goods store, Harkley and Haywood. Harkley and Haywood started in 1920 with two partners, Harry Haywood and Dave Harkley. I hung out in there, and they had a big fly tier in there, a Scottish lady. Her name was Mary Stewart. I went in one day and Mary said, I got an order for some Lee Wulff flies. Have you ever seen them? Do you know the patterns? I said, Yes, I know the patterns because I've been involved with them in Mid-eastern Canada. So she said, Well, I need a set tied up. So I tied a set of his patterns for her. She didn't know what they were.

DB: So let's try to tie together your leaving Nova Scotia, military time, and for how many years?

BJ: I was 14 years in the military.

DB: For the military. And how did you get back – at one time you lived in Idaho.

BJ: Yes.

DB: Was it during that time?

BJ: No, that was after. That came about as a result of – when I was in Germany, my father died, and they had moved to the West Coast, my mother and father and brother and sister. They'd moved to Seattle area. My dad went to – my uncle worked at Boeing Aircraft, and they convinced my mum and dad to go out there to live. So when my dad died, I got a compassionate posting, leaving Germany to Victoria, and then I started in the British Columbia type fishing then.

DB: Okay. Where did you live in Idaho?

BJ: I lived in Lewiston.

DB: Lewiston, and what was your business in that? Maybe not fly fishing or –

TB: We should go back to when you started your – you had the fly shop up in Canada in 1964.

BJ: In Canada, in British Columbia, yes. Yes, that's right.

Well, I was in Victoria, Vancouver and Chilliwack with the Canadian Army. I got out in 1964, had opened a store in Kamloops. I was a gunsmith by trade and a fly tier. So, I went to Kamloops and opened the store, and business was bad, the forest industry on strike, the pulp mill was on strike. So I had gone to Lewiston, Idaho with a friend on his business trip, who owned a ranch in the Chilcotin, and went into this store, and it was just raging, going, so I said – I got home and I thought, I'm going to move there. That's where life is. That's where things happen. So, I talked

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to the guy that owned the store, and he said, Sure, I'll sign the papers for you and get you into the state and you can come to work for me. And just prior to that, Omark CCI, that manufactures Speer bullets and primers in the shooting industry, reloading components, they wanted to hire me and send me to Australia to work for Sportco Firearms, to show them how to make rifle barrels. They could never make the chambers round. Well then they changed their mind about that, so then I was going to – at those days under immigration, I would have to move back to Canada. You know, you had to be gainfully employed. You couldn't go on unemployment insurance, welfare. You had no benefits whatsoever.

DB: I was trying to tie in some fly fishing around Lewiston, in the Clearwater or – Were you there long enough –

BJ: Oh yes, yes, I was there, I was there 10 years. Oh yes, so, when I got there, I fished Kamloops because I had the shop there. I guided there. I fished all those lakes in the Kamloops area, all the way up to where we live, in that whole area, all the way from Merritt to Lac le Jeune. But when I moved to Idaho, then there wasn't the trout fishing, and I – well, it's the store I managed was across the street from Keith Stonebreaker, who was a fine, fine steelhead fisherman. And Keith taught me to fish the Clearwater and the Grande Ronde for steelhead, so I fished that quite a bit.

DB: Quite a bit, yes, okay. So at this point, now you're not that far removed from fishing these Atlantic salmon in Nova Scotia and so forth.

BJ: Right.

DB: And there's always been a debate about which is the most fighting fish. Do you want to make a comment on that?

BJ: Yes, and the only thing I can do is reiterate and mimic what Steve Raymond said, that the Atlantic salmon fights with the class of the Marquis of Queensbury, and the steelhead is a backstreet brawler.

DB: Okay.

BJ: So, I don't think there's anybody alive that's caught both, and I have caught quite a few of both, --

DB: Yes, I know, I assumed that.

BJ: -- that can tell the difference.

DB: It compares to –

BJ: The difference between the steelhead and the Atlantic salmon. The Atlantic salmon jumps more, but they don't make those big brash rolls and splashes, and the show is a little different.

DB: Okay.

BJ: 10 pounds for 10 pounds compare the fish, they're the same.

DB: Okay. So while you were in Kamloops and you owned the sporting goods and fly fishing shop, you met a person that knew Bill Nation.

BJ: Yes.

DB: And so that's a story in itself.

BJ: It is.

DB: Is this the time to include that?

BJ: Yes –

DB: Is it something down a little further away?

BJ: No, we can go back to Kamloops –

DB: Okay.

BJ: -- because that comes back in when I was – had come back to the state or came to states, it was tied in. One night I was working late at the store in Kamloops. And every time I worked late, I'd take the bus over to North Kamloops. I didn't have a car. And I always stopped at the Leach Hotel, and I'd stop in there and have a drink and go home about 10 o'clock. And one night I went in there and I was sitting at the stool at the bar, and this gentleman who looked a lot like Howard Hughes, well dressed, well groomed, three-piece suit, was sitting a couple chairs away from me to the right. And the bartender said, What do you do? And I said, Oh, I have a gunsmith shop and a fly fishing shop and fly tying shop. This guy said to me, Oh, you don't know anything about fly fishing, he said, you young fellows. I said, I don't know about that. So we got to talking. And anyway, I found out his name was Jack Morrill, and incidentally his father was the jury foreman on the Bill Miner trial, the great train robber in 1906, in Kamloops.

DB: Okay.

BJ: And his uncle and aunt, J. Arthur Scott and Vivian Scott, owned the Echo Lodge at Paul Lake. That lodge was built originally in 1917 on the north side of the lake and burned down. It was rebuilt in 1921 on the south side. Jack spent all his summers there as a teenager working, so he worked under Bill Nation as a part-time guide, he and a Scotsman named Alex Vinnie. So one time, Jack came to the store and he was tying flies for me in the store. I was always tying the Nation patterns. Since I was in Victoria I learned to tie them because that was the patterns in British Columbia.

DB: Let's get a date. What year about would this be when this was happening?

BJ: When I met Jack?

DB: When you met, yes.

BJ: That would have been 1964 -- late 1964. And so he came in the store, and he puttered around there and talked to people. He taught me to tie the exact replica of the same style of fly that Nation tied. And in those days, the patterns were popular. And of course I'm the only one that carries them in a box anymore.

So Jack had invited me over to his house. He lived on the west side, on the North Thompson then. I went over to his house, went downstairs, and he said, Come here, I'll show you something. So we went downstairs, and he had this old full top, halftone, steamer trunk. And he opened it up, and here's red ibis skins and mole skins and turkey feathers, and there was an unbelievable amount of stuff in it. So I went to pick something up and he said, Don't touch that. It's the kind of a guy he was, you know. He had it and you didn't have it, and he wasn't letting you touch it, you know. So anyway, several times he invited me down to look at that stuff in the trunk.

So years later, I used to bug him, and I said, Jack, when are you going to give me that trunk? Aw, probably never, he said, no, no, no, no. So, I never did get it during that time. So when we moved to the states, we'd go back up there, Lori and I, and we'd see Jack, and I'd say, Jack, I'm ready to take that trunk home. Oh, yes, I know, and then, blah, blah, wouldn't do anything. So then one day we got a letter from his wife that Jack had had a heart attack and

died in Mexico, and if I wanted the trunk and his rods and things, his other fishing goods, to come and pick them up. So I did.

Prior to that, Steve Raymond had bought the flies from me in 1965, for the book. And so I called Steve – I didn't know – I got his number through – didn't know him in person. I knew who he was. And I got a number from a fly fishing magazine, Frank Amato, and I called him and said, Steve, I said, I've read your book, *Kamloops*, and you've been in my store, but I said, I was always interested in the Nation history. So he said, Yes. I said, Well, I've got all of his fly tying stuff and his rods and his books and everything. He couldn't believe that. He said, I'm stunned. That stuff's been disappeared for 55 years.

DB: Yes, I was thinking most people that are going to read your history probably don't know Bill Nation – not all of them would know Bill Nation's history. He was alive during which, well, approximately what era?

BJ: Bill was originally a pharmacist in England, and nobody can trace him any further than that. We've had people try, and we've looked at it. He came to Canada in 1922, and he sat up a guiding outfit on the Adams River. And then he was looking for a home in the area, the Kamloops area, and he went to Echo Lodge and he started working there as a guide. And in 1932, he started tying his patterns, started creating them. He considered writing them – when he wrote a letter to Haig-Brown in 1938, Here are the patterns which I considered a set, which that means they were complete, and that was a set. So the first original patterns of British Columbia fly fishing was the Trapper Shirt, which is a red fly that was tied by an Englishman name Seton, who was an engineer, and they called Seton Portage and Seton Lake in the Littleton area after. That was the first fly, a British Columbia pattern. Then, A. Bryan Williams was the first game warden in British Columbia and the first commissioner and the only game warden. So he had a grey-bodied sedge, a brown sedge and a green sedge, and that was the first three original patterns. Then Nation took those patterns plus his observation of the wildlife and what was going on in the aquatic world and tied the patterns that he came up with.

DB: And what you call a sedge is a –

BJ: A caddis.

DB: Okay.

BJ: It's an American caddis.

DB: Okay, yes. Okay, so the British and the Canadians call them sedges –

BJ: Sedges.

DB: -- and we call them caddis.

BJ: Caddis, yes.

DB: So let's go on from there with the Bill Nation trunk and your use, and we want to continue to moving on, as you loaned it to Bill, or to Steve, and used here and so forth.

BJ: Right. Well the – seems it was a year and a half, year maybe Steve got a hold of me and said, Bill, we're going to do a museum in Bellingham, a fly fishing museum, and I don't know how that space – it was big, several rooms involved. And he said, We'd like to set up the Nation's position or station where he would be tying at the lake at Echo Lodge. And I said, Okay. So he said, Can I borrow some of the artifacts? I said, Steve, tell you what we'll do. You can have the whole trunk. So they reestablished in a glass box his fly tying bench with the green-bodied sedge in the vise, and an oil to oil lamp on the table, and a calendar of 1934 on the wall, on the backdrop, and all those artifacts were available for everybody to see.

DB: Were you there when Steve – when the museum set this up?

BJ: I took pictures of it in the museum. We visited it, and it was at Steve's anniversary. Yes. We came up that weekend and –

LJ: Yes. It was the opening, and he did the reading.

BJ: He did the reading, yes.

DB: Of course you probably met Ralph Wahl at that time.

BJ: No, I didn't. (*Editor's note: Ralph Wahl actually died prior to the opening at the museum*).

DB: You didn't. Oh, okay.

BJ: No, no, I didn't meet him.

DB: That was the theme of the exhibit, --

BJ: Yes, Come Wade the River.

DB: Come Wade the River. But you didn't get a chance to meet Ralph.

BJ: I didn't get a chance at Ralph, no.

DB: Did you ever get to meet him?

BJ: No, no, I never had that opportunity.

So, I donated some of the artifacts to the Kamloops Fly Fishing Museum of Nation's items.

DB: But in between Kamloops and Bellingham, wasn't this somewhere else, at Granville maybe, or no?

BJ: It was, no, it was in – yes, it went to Granville and it went somewhere else. It was gone – I don't know if it was Eugene, Oregon, Springfield. It had been at two other locations before I got it back.

DB: Yes. And now you own this –

BJ: Except for what is in the Kamloops museum, I donated that to them, and some of the things. It's not much because they didn't have much space. A few hooks, feathers, part of an old rod, and some tools, some of Nation's original tools. But I have the rest of it. The trunk is our coffee table in the living room, and I have a display case, kind of like the small museum, of Nation's artifacts in this case in the basement in my home –

DB: You still have a few items you've kept personal.

BJ: Oh, I got the trunk is still full.

DB: Okay.

BJ: The trunk is still full, yes. I gave Steve the broad sheet, which was the regulations for British Columbia on a single piece of paper, the fishing regs 1939.

DB: Do you have any comments, I don't know exactly how to place this, but about fly fishing museums? You've been involved more with this display at Whatcom and you've been more involved with then the one in Kamloops.

BJ: Right.

DB: You've been involved in other fly fishing situations.

BJ: Right.

DB: Give us some comments about what your experience was then in the public's use and how important that is?

BJ: Of course, museums are always important, no matter what the object is or the subject or the program, because it's history. And the fly fishing history is being forgotten every day, a big percentage goes away because the young people aren't interested in it. They're too busy with jet skis and high speed boats and all kinds of other things that detract from people -- I worked a lot with the Margaree Salmon Museum, I've got, in Nova Scotia, I've got flies in there I tied when I was 15.

And then there was a famous fly tier that I knew when I was a kid in Nova Scotia, Joe Aucoin. And Joe tied some of the original hair wing flies between 1929 and 1937. After the war, when we couldn't get the good English flies and the good material, hard to get materials, was just about impossible, the exotics were all endangered species materials, they started using the hair wing. Well the traditionalists went crazy. But Joe, I bought materials from Joe when I was a kid, and he had a nice source in England, the Veniard's, and I learned to tie some of Joe's flies. And last year, last fall, I did a set. In fact, I spoke at the Margaree Salmon Association AGM on the history of when I started fly fishing. It was the 70th year I was fly fishing the Margaree since I started. I did a set of four of Joe's flies in the box. And the four flies sold for \$500 and some dollars. So, I did a shadow box with Joe Aucoin and the funny thing, I ran into his son in 1965 in Kamloops. He was in the Canadian Air Force. And 40 years later, I ran into him again in Kamloops. And he gave me his dad's reel, his father Joe Aucoin, and it's marked on the back, scratched, Joe Aucoin, the name right in it. He was from New Waterford, Nova Scotia. And I began a set of his flies and the reel and the picture of Joe with a fish, and it was presented in 2006 to the Margaree Salmon Museum.

DB: I have so many questions about this Kamloops area --

BJ: I'm here.

DB: -- because, you know, and I think it would be interesting if you'd talk about some of the old fishing camps, like Mile High or up at Hihium.

BJ: It's funny --

DB: And some of those ones that --

BJ: -- funny you mentioned that.

DB: -- that were so popular in Steve Raymond's books' time.

BJ: It's funny you mentioned that because there was a Chinese gentleman that owns a store in Little Fort, and Gung Loy Jim I knew very well. He owned Taweel Lake [Fishing Camp]. And I went in there one day and I said, Gung, you know what I would like to do? I want to pick your brains, because I said, I'd like to write a feature article or a small booklet on the old fishing camps in the Kamloops area, the fishing resorts. And he said, Yes. But he said, I know you. I said, Yes, you do. And he said, Oh, I remember. He said, You had a gun shop in Kamloops. And I said, Yes. And he said, You did a rebluing on my 270 Winchester. And he said, It's just as good as it was then. So he said, We can do that. Well, I never got to it, and he died, he was 94.

One of the first camps in British Columbia, in the center, British Columbia, Kamloops area, was at Adams Lake. And the family was named Lafave, Jack Lafave and his family, and it was on Agate Bay, and that was somewhere around 1916 that was built. And Jack bought Johnson Lake, and he run that. Where we liked to go, the Meadow Lakes, which is just north of Aurora chain, which was open a long time. This started in 1929. First place was built there, first cabin. And a guy named Shorty Blair won that camp in a poker game in Little Fort. In 1932, Jack Morrill, when he was at Paul Lake, took a doctor up there, drove a new Dodge up to Little Fort, and Shorty took them in on horses. And the doctor got sick, but Shorty wouldn't take him out. You're here for four days, you paid four days, you're here. So they walked out, down to Little Fort, 22 miles.

DB: Wow.

BJ: I don't know what for a trail.

So, those are some of the first, earliest places, and then Echo was built in 1922 in the permanent location until 1976, I think, they tore that down, put condos in.

DB: You were there – were you there before 1964?

BJ: I was – no. I was fishing there in 1959.

DB: Okay. So you've been there long enough to remember the roads. Even then the roads weren't that great.

BJ: Oh, those –

DB: And talk, you know, getting into these places.

BJ: Yes, yes. It was impossible. What opened that country was the logging, the four-wheel drive, and the chainsaw. And this has been the demise of it too.

DB: Yes.

BJ: The country's in total ruin because of the type of people that go in there and have access to it unfortunately, just make a mess out of everything. They leave garbage around. It's absolutely terrible, the way it's handled. But when I was in Kamloops, there was only two four-wheel drive vehicles. Collie Peacock, who owned Collie's Tackle Shop and went broke, and went to work for the shooting and fishing department in Woodward's Department Store. He had a Land Rover – not a Land Rover, no, I'm sorry, a Land Cruiser. And a friend of mine that I hunted with, Jeff Sheckley, who was a psychiatric nurse at Tranquille, he had a Land Rover. That's the only two four-wheel drives. There was no campers. Everybody's boat was on a trailer, or on top of the car was a rowboat. There was no motors. Nobody had motors. And there was very, very few roads. The area where we live in now, the eight lakes we have – from our house we can go and fish 85 lakes without touching the same one twice, and half of those were, oh about half, a lot of those were fly ins, but some were totally inaccessible, totally inaccessible.

DB: Those old lodges, often there were stories that perpetuated over the years from their use and the people that went there.

BJ: The stories of it – well, I'm trying to think of some of the – some of the royalty from England and Europe fished at Echo Lodge, came to Echo Lodge. I knew Stane Johnson well from Mile High. I tied all the flies for Stane, all the ones for Tunkwa, all the ones for Thuya. Ross Beebe owned Thuya lakes in those days.

LJ: Didn't they wind up in Pennask?

BJ: And Pennask, and the royalty went to Pennask.

DB: You are a collector of Hardy Reels.

BJ: Yes.

DB: There was an interesting story years ago, the late 1950s, about the Mile High, about the loons catching onto the sounds of the –

LJ: They still do.

BJ: They still do. And they do at Corbett, and they do at Lost Horse, same thing.

TB: So what does that mean?

BJ: Well, when you hook the fish, the Hardy reels have a certain sound to the drag. It's a ratchet sounds drag, and it echoes for miles at night on the lake, and the loons hear that, they know somebody's got a fish. They know the sound of the Hardy. All the silent drag reels that have no ratchet sound, they don't pay attention, except when they see the splash. But the Hardys, they can tell them at night, and they'd come racing right to the boat and take that off the hook and would steal the fish.

DB: I've even had them do it at Lac Le Jeune.

BJ: Yes, yes, yes.

LJ: We saw a fellow in a Zodiac one day on Lost Horse. He's standing up like this, and the loon is towing him down the lake.

BJ: Yes, the boat's moving, the Zodiac's moving.

DB: Do you think you've pretty well covered the Bill Nation story? I know it's an ongoing –

BJ: It's still of great interest to me because today, since Doris Morrill's passed away, Jack's wife, she knew Bill, I'm probably the closest living person of association with Bill through Jack Morrill, and that's a history that's kind of forgotten. Not many people know about it.

DB: Are there other characters though in the Kamloops area that might, that should be -- How about the Carey Special story?

BJ: Well, that was done by, tied by a Colonel Carey. About 1925, he was fishing in a lake, and I think it might have been Lundbom, by Merritt, and he didn't have a dragonfly copy, so he sat down at the vise and cranked up this thing with a brown body – not a brown body, it was actually pheasant tail body, pheasant tail made the body, and then pheasant hackle, saddle hackle, made the hackle, and it was called a Self Carey, because there was no colors, there's nothing in it but pheasant. And that's when that started.

DB: Okay.

BJ: And somewhere around 1925, the Black O'Lindsay started. That was a doctor named Black from Lindsay, California, and he was the one that developed that. The Tom Thumb came from the – that was a California chap and was fishing in Jasper, and Collie Peacock named it. And the Halfback, which is a very famous pattern, I use it quite often, John Dexheimer from Savona did that one. The Dr. Spratley, actually, came from Mt. Vernon.

DB: Yes.

BJ: He was a dentist, Dr. Spratley, and it was –

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DB: A friend of ours bought his business when he retired.

BJ: Is that right?

DB: Yes.

BJ: Yes. I used to have Ralph Shaw, who was a great fisherman, Jack Shaw, Jack Morrill, Collie Peacock, and Hebe Smith, all those guys used to come in my shop and hang around. I knew all of them, and fished with them, and tied with them, and talked with them. And of course, Hebe Smith was considered by Haig-Brown the best of the British Columbia freshwater guides. Yes.

DB: Where might we bring Lori into – her fishing experience -- She's a fly fisher and –

BJ: Yes, and a good one, and a good one.

DB: How do we bring that into the story?

TB: Well how did you get started fly fishing?

LJ: I met Bill.

I was born and raised on the Mississippi River, and you don't fly fish the Mississippi. Well, a few people do now. But when I was growing up, we fished for catfish of course, and crappie and bass and that sort of thing, all the scrap fish. But once I met Bill – and I hadn't fished for years and years. It was something my family and I did until we moved to Washington. In fact, I love to tell a story about my mother, because she loved to fish too. And we kids would be out in the yard playing, this was in Illinois, and I would hear this tap-tap-tap-tap-tap, tap-tap-tap-tap-tap. It was my mother's thimble on the window, and that meant, Get in the house. So we'd get in the house, and she'd say, I'm ready to go fishing. So we'd get up and we'd all go fishing.

DB: And where was this?

LJ: In Illinois.

DB: And how did you meet in Illinois?

BJ: We didn't.

LJ: No, we didn't. I moved to Washington State. I moved to Washington state, and we, Bill and I met, and we were both single, and so we ended up getting married, and we've been married for 30 years?

BJ: 30 years.

LJ: Yes, anyway, he wouldn't allow me to use a worm anymore, so I had to learn to fly fish.

TB: So did that happen automatically, or did you resent him going off fishing and so you decided to be with him –

LJ: Oh, no, no, no, no. I loved to fish, and just my first husband did not fish. He was not a fisher person. So when Bill said, Let's go fishing. I said, That's a good idea, let's go. So he took me to Heffley Lake actually. The very first time we ever went fishing together, we went to Heffley and stayed there and fished, his old stomping grounds. He showed me all around, and we've just been doing it ever since.

DB: And where are your favorite places to fly fish?

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LJ: Well, I'm – of course I love our own lake, Lac des Roches, --

DB: Yes, oh yes, very popular.

LJ: -- which is a wonderful, wonderful lake to fish. But I love the Atlantic salmon. I really do.

DB: Oh you do?

LJ: I really do.

DB: So you've been back to Nova Scotia –

LJ: Yes, yes.

BJ: Yes, yes.

DB: -- during this 30 years to do some more fishing back there.

BJ: Oh yes. I took her back to Nova Scotia. The first time with me we went back was in 1985, and we've been back to Nova Scotia 15 times since then, 14 times. And we've been to Newfoundland fishing five times.

DB: But your family – did most of your family leave Nova Scotia?

BJ: No, I've got a few cousins there.

DB: Oh, your cousins, okay.

BJ: My grandparents died and whatnot there, you know, they stayed. I was gone, but I still have a few cousins there, and second cousins, but my mother and dad moved away.

DB: Do you still have family in the Illinois area?

LJ: Yes, I have –

DB: Do you go there some?

LJ: I haven't been back an awful lot.

DB: If you do end up fly fishing there, it would be more for bass or –

LJ: We don't fish there.

DB: Oh, you don't, okay.

BJ: Into the good waters, the good fishing.

DB: Okay.

LJ: I love the river fishing, so –

DB: So, you spend your time between Lac des Roches and Olympia, and in Canada you're fishing mostly the lakes.

BJ: Yes.

DB: Have you gotten involved any on the coast of BC?

BJ: No. When I lived in Chilliwack, I used to fish sea run cutthroat in the back waters of the Fraser.

DB: Yes.

BJ: But that was the only coastal type fishing that --

DB: Okay.

BJ: I don't understand, I don't have much to do with the Pacific --

DB: Have you been involved any with the people of the Greater Vancouver area in terms of fly fishing?

BJ: Well, I used to spend all my day Saturday at Harkley and Haywood, and that was full of fly fishermen. And through a guy by the name of Cliff Welch, who was a fine, fine fly tier and fly fisherman, and bamboo rod maker. He was making hollow built bamboo rods in the 1920s, long before anybody else was doing it. Cliff and I were good friends. And through Mary Stewart, I met a lot of people from around the area. Art Lingren is a very good friend of ours.

DB: He is, okay.

BJ: He comes up and fishes every --

LJ: Yes, certainly we are quite involved with the BC Federation of Fly Fishers. We --

DB: Art is noted for his writings and --

BJ: Yes, Art comes up every year, spends five days fishing with me.

LJ: Yes, he went back, his first trip Atlantic salmon fishing?

BJ: We took him back --

LJ: We took him --

BJ: --introduced him to Atlantic salmon, and I gave him the fly, and in about 20 minutes he had his first 20 pound fish.

DB: I have a signed set of his stamps. The British Columbia --

LJ: Oh.

BJ: Postal stamp?

DB: There was a big Canadian postal stamp [Canada Posts' Commemorative Fly Fishing Stamp Issue (1998)]. That was kind of interesting.

BJ: Yes, I've got a set of those.

DB: Do you ever -- early on though, when you were in Vancouver, did you ever meet Tommy Brayshaw?

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BJ: I did. I fished with Tommy in 1959 on the _____ with a fishing buddy of mine, name's Roy Scott, from Chilliwack. Yes.

DB: The collections has a set of his paintings.

BJ: Oh yes. Those originals are beautiful.

TB: Well how did you get to know Harry Lemire?

BJ: I talked to Harry at a show one time, and I don't know. We got to talking, and I don't know, we just kind of kept in touch kind of with each other. Then, he came up one time with a guy from Sandpoint, Idaho, Warren Ballard. And there was another chap from Vancouver, Seattle, married to a doctor, a Chinese lady. There was four or five of them that came up to Sheridan. So they called, and I said, Warren, come on over and have a drink with us. So they come over, and all five of them that came liked Zinfandel, so we drank a bunch of wine, got talking. So I said, Harry, so why don't you – and the other guys left. I said, when they left Sheridan, I said, Harry, why don't you and Warren come over and have dinner. Oh, no. So anyway, Harry come over, finally got them there, and we did a six-course, five-wine, gourmet, French-class dinner for them. And Harry loved to eat, but he liked that kind of food, and he said, told Warren, he said, We should have come earlier when he first asked us. So anyway, they just kept coming back, Warren and Harry, to the house.

TB: Didn't you go out on some trips with them though too?

BJ: No, he fished on our lake. He fished on our lake. I first met Harry the first time in October 1961 on the Thompson. I was steelhead fishing and so was he.

TB: So that was even before you opened up your shop?

BJ: Oh yes, yes. I was in Chilliwack at the time.

TB: So you just spontaneously met each other there.

BJ: Just met.

DB: How long have you been at Lac des Roches?

BJ: We bought the house August 31, 2001.

DB: Oh, okay. There was a fellow from Seattle that's well known in this area named Boyd Aigner, and he loved to fish that lake. They'd go up and kind of like one of the grazing fields around and set up camp. He had friends from Calgary or Edmonton, and they'd all get together there.

BJ: Harry loved to fish there because we have a callibaetis hatch on this. It's a big, big mayfly, and Harry would get into that hatch of mayflies, and he was –

DB: Yes, they'd try – around the 4th of July would be about the time. Well, our 4th of July would be about when they'd like to be there.

BJ: Yes, yes. Last year the fishing was poor on the lake, and so was this year. 2011, Lori and I fished the 13, 14, 15 of July, and we had 70 fish between three and seven pounds.

DB: Oh!

BJ: We missed the Friday, the 16th, because it rained. We went out on the 17th and did exactly, took another 17 fish. They were all between 21 and 28 inch, all on dry fly.

DB: Yes. Talk about the shoals of your lake.

BJ: Yes.

DB: About those shoals that are so wonderful.

BJ: Well, that's the big thing. There's a sunken island about halfway down the length of the lake, which was a volcano. In French, it's the lake of rocks. And in the middle, halfway down in the narrows, there's a shallows there that runs from 4 to 15 to 18 feet, and the big trout or sedges hatch on that, and the mayflies, and that's unbelievable fishing, that shoal, that particular one. Then there's another one on the north bank, in front of the old McDonald farm, which is excellent, also great shoal. And then the one off of the Rock Island, on the east end of the Rock Island, there's another good shoal, yes. That's got one of the most famous mayfly hatches in the world on it.

DB: That's for sure. Over the years, you've become a collector of fly fishing items.

BJ: Right.

DB: You've even been in the business of buying and selling –

BJ: Selling, yes, and trade, and still do.

DB: Talk about – your comment a bit ago was rather interesting to me, about how younger people are not picking up on the history.

BJ: No.

DB: But talk about the history of the top end rods and reels.

End of Tape One, Side One

BJ: Well, when I started fishing right after I got away from the Bristol steel rod, the telescoping rods, I started fishing with bamboo. And that's all I fish with, bamboo, and I collect bamboo, high end bamboo and good bamboo, and that's all I fish with. Peter McVey, from Merritt, is one of the best bamboo rod makers around, the very best. I've had him build five rods for us. But the oldest rod makers in America still alive is Winston. They're still building hollow built bamboo, and they started in 1929 in San Francisco, so they're the oldest company that's in the area. Hardy goes back to 1880 and has been making bamboo, and Hardy, I like Hardy rods, but all I've ever used is Hardy reels and fished bamboo. We have a nice collection of antique Hardy reels back to 1922 manufacture. At the Washington State Fly Fishing Show in Ellensburg last year, that's right, I remember you were there, I had a display of bamboo rods. And I'd been – I'd just took, was it, Missoula, with that display. And we're going to do the show in Albany next March. They invited us to display those rods and reels, yes.

DB: There was a certain Hardy Princess that you were involved with some years ago –

BJ: Yes.

DB: --buying and selling. But tell that story.

BJ: It was about 15 years ago, I guess. It was at the Kamloops gun and antique show. And I had a table there, and I was buying and selling Leica and Rolleiflex cameras and some fishing tackle. And a guy came and he said, Did you see that Hardy reel on the table there? And I said, No, where? And he said, The table, right behind you. I said,

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No, I didn't see it. He said, Come on, he said, I'll show you. He took me around and showed me, and there was that Hardy reel, a Princess in the box. And so I said to the guy, I said, How much do you want for it? He said, Oh, I'd go to \$170. I said, No. I said, I'll give you \$150. He said, Alright. He said, Yes, I bought that from a guy about 30 years ago in Kamloops, had a store, and he said, I've never fished it. So I said, Oh, okay. So, I bought it and I went back to the table and I turned it over, and then the price tag on the corner was my handwriting, \$16.50 retail, for the reel.

TB: So he bought it from your store.

BJ: Yes, he bought it from me. So I thought to prove this, I stripped the line and it was my backing, the way I put the backing of fly lines, two backings --

DB: You recognized your attachments.

BJ: That's my splice. So I still have that in the box. But when we had a store under the table at the show and moving it around, I lost the bottom paper. It was all dried and crisp, and it had the price tag, and it disappeared.

DB: Oh, that part wasn't there.

BJ: Yes, it went.

DB: So, what's that Hardy Princess worth today?

BJ: The old Hardy Princesses in that era, retail was \$16.50. I paid \$11 for them wholesale. But that reel today would market at \$395.

DB: On the secondary market.

BJ: Yes, because it's brand new. It's never been fished. But a real good one is still \$350.

DB: Oh, okay. So this one is still --

BJ: Never been fished.

DB: -- oh, this one is still brand new after all these years.

BJ: Never been fished. The guy never used it.

DB: Oh, oh.

BJ: Yes.

DB: Okay. Oh, my gosh.

LJ: You have another story, Bill, you should tell about the fellow that was coming out, and I can't remember the name of the lake, and found the reel.

BJ: Oh, Blue Lake. Many years ago, my friend Roy Scott and I were fishing. We used to fish the Thompson River for trout, big trout. First day of July that river drops one inch. You got to be there and muddler minnow on a wet line. Big fish, and resident fish. So, we just couldn't have a capacity for a reel. We couldn't find a reel that we wanted, so my friend Roy Scott, he got a hold of a guy the name of Gurney Grice in England, and we designed a fly reel and asked Gurney, Could you make this for us? And Gurney said, Yes. So he sent us four, a 4 ¼ and a 3 ¾, and I got one of each, and Roy got one of each. When I left Canada, Roy said, Bill, can I borrow that reel, that

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Jetgo, and I said, Yes, sure. So I loaned him the little one, and I never did get it back. And a guy came into the show in Kamloops one day and said, Have you ever heard of Jetco Reel? I said, Yes. So what do you know about them? And I said, Well, I helped design it, and I'm the only one that's ever had one, Roy Scott and I, there's only four ever been made. They never produced them. And he said, I've got one. I said, Where did you get it? He said, I found it on the lake, on the road, in the snow bank coming out of Blue Lake, north of Peter Hope, Peter Hope Lake. And he brought it in, and the handle had been wood and the handle was gone. So I stripped the line off, my splice, it was my reel.

DB: Wow!

BJ: But now, how, whoever lost it, how they got it, I don't know. Because I was only in the states for a year, and my friend Roy Scott committed suicide. So whether he sold it or the family sold it or somebody stole it, but I have that in my showcase too, in my table.

DB: You've had some interesting experiences with your –

BJ: Stuff coming back to me, yes.

DB: Yes, that's for sure. I think I'm – you've pretty much covered all of your experiences. Are you involved at all in the BCFFF?

BJ: We still are. We were big donors for it, like we do with the Margaree Salmon Association. We're very generous with the fundraising with them. But they've been totally ineffective the last three or four years. They've only had one convention, one AGM. They've done a lot of great things. In fact, we donated a – it was a memorial fund under Bill Nation's name, the William Arthur Nation Fund for projects, and the William Arthur Nation fly fishing trophy, and it's a plaque with enough for 16, I think, 16 names on it, for juniors who are fly tiers and young conservationists. And I think it's only been awarded twice. But they're pretty much ineffective.

DB: Well, I think it's kind of what you say about the younger people just don't take a part in it. And the ones like that have done it year after year, they just get tired.

BJ: Yes, yes. Izaak Walton once said that angling was a study worthy of kings and wise men. But there's nobody interested in the study.

LJ: Those younger people today that are fishing, they have the Internet. They don't need to belong to a club –

BJ: To learn now.

LJ: -- to get their information, to get the patterns or anything. They can get it off the Internet.

BJ: All of – the sad thing – all of the great magazines and periodicals and books written on fly fishing are not selling. They're disappearing because nobody reads, nobody needs the information. They get it from the Internet. But if you're going to be a fly fisherman, and a dedicated fly fisherman, it's a lifetime study, and it's a thing you can never know it all. When you think you got it mastered, it's going to bite you.

DB: Yes. In fact, some years ago I was quite involved in organizational part of fly fishing in this area, and I knew Rex Schofield and Bill Young and those fellows that are from Vancouver.

BJ: Vancouver. I know Bill Young, yes.

DB: I still know a few of them, but I don't as time goes by.

BJ: I talked to Carl Johnson, and he's appointed me to a committee. I haven't heard it from anybody yet of finding a better location or different location for the Washington State fair –

DB: For the show.

BJ: Yes, yes.

DB: Well, it – yes. Personally, I like the shows where it's a convention center, where there's rooms and a hotel sort of thing.

BJ: If you're going to have a business or you're going to have a show or you're going to have, it doesn't matter what it is, you have to be next to centers of population.

DB: Yes, that's true too.

BJ: Now I called Carl and I said, Carl, how many people were there this year? He said, Oh, we were down. And I said, Yes, I can believe that. I said, It's in a terrible place. Well, he said, we tried to split between Seattle and Vancouver. We don't want it to be a Seattle show – or not Vancouver, Spokane. He said, We don't want to be a Seattle show. We don't want it to be a Spokane show. Maybe we'll alternate year to -- I said, You've got to go where the people are. You can't be out there. He said, Well, we're down some. I said, Down what? He said, Fifty. So I said, Well what was the count? He said, Last year 175, this year 125. And for the quality of people and displays and the learning factors there of fly tiers and rod makers and all these people, that show should pull 1250 to at least 2000 people in two days.

DB: Yes, it's a –

BJ: So, I haven't heard from anybody yet, but you've got to be where people are.

DB: Yes.

TB: I have a question for you about your philosophy of flies. Do you have a philosophy about whether you're doing an imitation with your flies or if you're trying to do a more artistic aspect of it?

BJ: I do both.

TB: Okay.

BJ: I tie the original, classic Atlantic salmon flies, the Victorian type with the very rare pheasant. In fact, the *Jock Scott* has feathers from 33 different birds. And of course now you can't get the material. You substitute. But I don't use any artificial material, holographed, fakey plastic, tin foil, glues, Zap-a-Gap, artificial fur. I use all natural materials, except for the hook, the nylon thread, and the metal tinsel. I still use metallic tinsel. That Mylar is terrible stuff. But I do both. Now, what you need, what flies are based on for fishing, Nation described it very, very well, and it's the same reasons that things are seen, size, shape, color, silhouette. And most people tie a fly and it looks good from the side, it doesn't mean anything, because the fish see it from underneath. What does it look like against the sky? I met a fly tier I knew who used to put his flies in the bath tub and get under the water and look up at them to see what they looked like.

TB: We've heard that from a couple people.

BJ: Have you? Alright. Well, that's a factor. But that's what it takes. Size and color and presentation and movement is more important than anything. Yes. There are copies of real flies, and I can tie them very, very close to the original, but it's all in profile. And there's attractor flies, which are bright and gaudy, which have a flash factor. And there are flies that, they just are big, and there are some smalls, flies that are small. The Atlantic salmon

flies, the classics, came from the land of gentry, the very, very rich people, and they originally came from the millinery trade. Hooks came from the needle trade, the British making sewing needles. And that's how the hooks got started. And the first hooks didn't have any eyes. And what they would do, they had twisted gut, which is like nylon but it's cat gut, and it was twisted, and then they tie it to the hook shank, and when that broke, then they'd tie it up under the tail and bring it back and put a hitch on it to keep the line in line, and that's how we got the ruffling hitch for to make a fly wake sideways on the surface for Atlantic salmon. The colors in the flies, the original Atlantic salmon flies, the Victorian area flies we talk about, that came from the wealthy people who didn't want poachers on their private waters. So they told them, they told the peasants that the salmon ate bright colored butterflies, and they were the only ones who could afford to bring these materials, these feathers, from around the world with their merchant ships, so that nobody could poach. They couldn't have the same fly as the -- Those flies, the colors do not mean anything. The fish cannot see color. They see shades and tones of grey. So it's, again, size, profile. But that red and yellow and blue in there appear as shades of grey, so that had maybe some appeal. So they just don't catch any fish, any more fish than any other fish.

TB: And what about photography?

BJ: I started taking pictures -- I had an uncle from Germany who was very, very, very wealthy. In fact, today, his hay farm is where the Audi car factory is. They bought his hay farm, or his folk and parents' and relatives' hay farm. And he came to Canada in 1924, and he spent 52 years butchering for Canada Packers. Great guy, great guy. He started me in photography in 1944. I'll have 70 years at it next year. And film was really hard to get during the war. He said to me, he said, Bill, he said, maybe someday you get money, you buy Leica and Rolleiflex cameras, two best cameras in the world. I bought my first Leica in 1950, and that's all I've ever used. And at 10:15 on the 30th September, my wife and I will be touring the Leica camera factory in Wetzlar, Germany.

TB: Very good.

DB: Yes, I was wondering why you were going.

BJ: So, I took a lot of pictures. I've won several prizes in Europe for photography, and we do slide shows, we travel and we take pictures and do slide shows. They're called Travel Sundays at Briggs Lake that the school, they have a Sunday and everybody brings programs. I'm the only one to use film. Everybody else is all digital. I don't do digital.

TB: You're still doing film.

BJ: Still film.

LJ: He's a dinosaur.

TB: No, that's terrific. I was very late to switch to digital. And then have you documented fly fishing very much with your photography, or that's just a totally --

BJ: Just pictures of Nation's flies, I did an article for the Canadian Fly Fishing Magazine, and I photographed Nation's flies and the flies of -- that was the article, Flies of Bill Nation, the Flies of Joe Aucoin. But I've taken pictures of fishing trips or with salmon on and hooking salmon and salmon jumping, things like that, but that's the extent of it, yes.

TB: Are you a member of -- Harry Lemire belonged to a group that tied flies --

BJ: Yes, he belonged to the Northwest Atlantic Salmon Fly Tying Guild.

DB: He did.

BJ: I don't. Jack Berryman belongs to it. There is about 40 people that belong to it. Now, a project I've got going now, at 2015, with the Margaree Salmon Association and a river conservation group in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, we're trying to put together an Atlantic salmon fly tying, fly fishing symposium in the Margaree. We're looking to do 42 tiers and 37 industry people, tackle manufacturers. We're looking at the Department of Federal Fisheries, DFO, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and conservationists to do some talks, and something like they do in Ellensburg and Albany, the big fly fishing shows here, in the Margaree, on the Atlantic salmon, for the Atlantic salmon flies.

TB: One more question, just about the whole evolution of the sport and how you see the future of the sport. And then be ready (to Lori) because I'm going to ask you about the evolution in terms of as a woman, the evolution and equipment that you've experienced.

BJ: I can tell you a few things that she probably doesn't know about it, but it's her department. There's only one company that makes tackle and clothing for fly fishing for women and that's Orvis. And that's unfortunate. Fly fishing is 8% of the total fishing market, right now, the fishing tackle industry. It's 8%. And it's declining, it's declining. It's gotten so because the economy, that even the high end manufacturers are bringing out bottom end, cheaper versions of their product, made offshore, primarily, to try to introduce people to fly fishing, to get them fishing. It's a dying sport. There's people out there with flies that are trolling them around, sitting in float tubes and boats. They're fishing, but that's not fly fishing. Fly fishing is casting, and fly fishing is a contemplative sport. It's not a competition between fishermen, it's between the fisherman and fish. And that's disappearing. People don't have the ethics, the patience, the desire, the time.

I see people come to our lake, and there's trout like this rising. They're taking chironomids at the subsurface, just sucking them in, and they drive through them with gang trolls as long as this table, with – I call them garbage can covers for blades, and a big worm, and those fish won't take it. They're selective feeders. They drive with a motor with a prop. The vibration of a prop puts fish down. So, it's a declining, declining market, declining sport, and it's unfortunate. But it's just the market use.

TB: Can I ask the same question then of you and your thoughts about the evolution and the equipment maybe, since you started doing this?

LJ: Well Bill's in charge of the equipment.

TB: Well for women [clothing, etc.], are there differences?

LJ: I don't think so. There shouldn't be.

TB: Okay.

LJ: But I do – I'm encouraged, I think, when I go to a show, I see more women almost every year. It seems like there's a bigger population of women who are either involved in one way or another, and that hopefully will pass on to their children, you know, because a woman is a teacher. They're born teachers. That's part of our gender. And so maybe we can pick up a little bit where the clubs and the gathering of the good guys that go out and, you know, have a good man time, maybe the women can step up to the plate a little bit and get more of the younger people involved.

TB: Is there anything we haven't asked you that we should ask you; that we might not know that's important?

LJ: No, but would you please ask Bill before he goes, I mean his final leaving of this earth, to teach me how to tie my own tippet on so I can fish!

TB: Alright. And what about it? Do you do very much fly tying?

LJ: Oh no, no, I don't.

TB: So he ties all your flies for you.

LJ: Yes, yes.

TB: Okay.

LJ: I can't tie, my hands won't do it.

DB: Any last comments, Bill?

BJ: I'm tickled to death –

DB: Do you feel like we've covered your fly fishing history pretty good?

BJ: I think, pardon me, I think it's been very, very well done and covered, and I don't think there's much missing. The only thing, one thing I would add, is that I appreciate your interest and inviting us to do this, and coming to us in Ellensburg, and wanting that information. You know, you just don't know where or when somebody might want to hear the story told, you know.

DB: Isn't that true.

BJ: Or may not be ever important to anybody, but one day I'll be gone. I'll be 80 next year, the first of the year, and we don't know how long, when you get to that age, how long you are going to be around. So, it's nice to have that written down, or marked down, or recorded somehow. And I want to thank you for the hospitality and the use of your home to do this. I'm very pleased with the fact that we're getting some historical points recorded.

TB: Terrific! Well, if we think that's it. Is there anything –

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