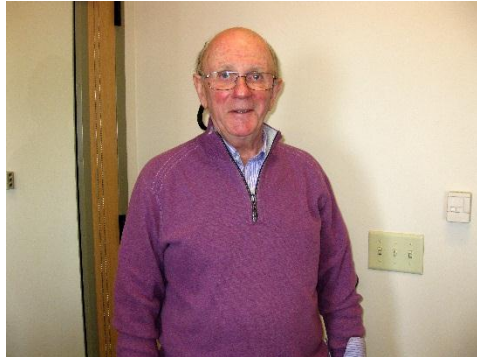




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This interview was conducted with Art Lingren on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, in Western Libraries Special Collections on the campus of Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. The interviewers are Tamara Belts, Danny Beatty and Paul Piper.

TB: Today is Wednesday, March 12, 2014, and I am here with Art Lingren, Danny Beatty, and Paul Piper, and we're going to do an oral history with Mr. Lingren. Our first question is always: How did you get started fly fishing?

AL: Well, I got started fly fishing probably when – it was after I'd gotten married to my wife, and that's 47 ½ years ago now. I did a little fishing before but not to any great extent. My dad died when I was just a little kid, and there were six kids in the family, living in Vancouver, not much opportunity to do anything in the way of outdoor activities, other than just playing around. There wasn't any real fishing in the area that we lived in. When I moved into our apartment there, just after we got married, I met a neighbor across the way who fly fished, and he talked me into going out fishing with him, and we started, I guess, probably fishing the lakes a little bit. And this would have been, well, again, 1966 or 1965, somewhere back there. So the first fly fishing I did was on interior lakes.

I did take a – there was a person in Vancouver, very well-known fly fisherman back in those days, was Earl Anderson. He worked at sporting goods shops in Vancouver, and at that time he was working at Woodward's, and we used to go down to Woodward's to get our groceries and furniture and all that kind of stuff. I would go to the sporting good things and talk to Earl. But he also taught fly casting and fly tying, so it was probably 1966 that I took a fly casting course from him, and then that got me started in lake fly fishing.

I didn't start steelhead fly fishing until 1979, but I went that route because, again, I read books as part of my early learning, and it was Haig-Brown that I was reading back in the Sixties and early Seventies, and all roads, when you read Haig-Brown, lead to fly fishing. And so by 1979 I'd been float fishing for steelhead for a number of years. I was doing alright by it, but, you know, I wanted another challenge, so I decided then in 1979 that once the season came on the Thompson River, I was going to fly fish. It took a few days to manage to get that first one, and when I did I took a week's holiday after and went up the next week, and I managed to hook seven more, so that was my first season fly fishing on the Thompson, and I managed to get eight fish, which was pretty good, back in those days, because all were on a floating line, and again, that *Doc Spratley steelhead fly* was the fly that I used. So it has a special connection to me, and that's one of the reasons I gave you that particular fly.

TB: Did you meet Haig-Brown, then?

AL: No, I didn't.

TB: Okay.

AL: The next best thing to meeting Haig-Brown is meeting Van Egan, and it was very early 1980s that I went over to Campbell River. I'd contacted Mrs. Haig-Brown because I wanted to go over there and take some pictures of Haig-Brown's fishing stuff, and of course they let me do that, okay. But again, Van lived two doors up, and I met him, and he became one of my closest angling friends over the years, until he died, which was about four years ago, I forget, like five years ago maybe. Time goes by so quick, it's hard to remember. But you know, I'd go over there and I'd go fishing with Van on the Campbell, and he'd take me over to the Gold and he'd take me to these places that he fished with Haig-Brown. And you know, that picture of Rod, okay, in the such-and-such-a magazine that's where that came from. And we'd go up to the Nimpkish River and wander around here, and this is where Haig-Brown worked when he first came to British Columbia. Anyway, I learned a lot from Van about Rod, so he kind of enhanced my appreciation of Haig-Brown too.

DB: There were some other Vancouver Island rivers that are kind of special to you too. The Coquihalla is a Vancouver Island river isn't it?

AL: No, Coquihalla is up by Hope, near Vancouver.

DB: Oh, okay.

AL: The Cowichan's a special river.

DB: What's the smaller one in the Cowichan?

AL: In the Cowichan, there's Koksilah down there.

DB: Okay.

AL: The Cowichan's been a favorite river of mine too. I caught my first steelhead out of it in 1967, I think. Okay, it wasn't fly fishing back then, but I still go over there. Actually, I'm heading there this weekend to go fish the Cowichan for a couple days.

PP: It has brown trout.

AL: It has brown trout, yes, yes, which is kind of nice. Not very many opportunities in British Columbia. You know there's the odd place that does have browns, but, you know, they put those things in there in the 1930s, and they took, and so yes, it's kind of neat to go over there and catch that fish.

DB: I mentioned that, but I knew I was wrong when I said the Coquihalla, but you designed a fly specifically for that?

AL: No, no, that's not my fly. Okay, that's a Tommy Brayshaw fly.

DB: Oh.

AL: Okay. The history of that is that Canada Post series, when that came up, that was 1998 that that series came out, and I was sitting in my office at work there and I got the call from reception saying there was this gentleman who wanted to talk to me, and he is one of the old time Vancouver fly fishers that used to go to the Dean, [Cornelius Burke?] was his name. And he wanted to know, because his friend in Montreal was trying to put together a proposal for Canada Post to do a fly fishing fly series, and they needed more than just Eastern Canada flies. They needed things from the west, okay. So it just happened to be when my *Fly patterns of British Columbia* came out, so it was 1996 when this thing first came up, that is when that book came out. So anyway, Corny was asking me about what flies I thought would be typical for BC. I told him, well you know, this book just came out, and I'm not sure if I had a copy there or if I showed him a copy, but anyway, Canada Post bought two copies of the book, and then they gave



it to the people that were putting in proposals for the fly series. So it became the reference for Western Canada, my book, and of course four flies got chosen out of it in the two series.

DB: You want to comment any about what's happened to the Coquihalla over the years since those early days when—

AL: Oh yes, it's gone through all those things, industrial activity, and it was a pipeline corridor, okay, and oh, the railway went up and down – the railway wasn't a bad thing because it gave people access to it in the old days because there was no highway through there. But when they shut the railway down and the steel tracks were there, you could still drive up there. But again, Tommy Braysshaw was one of Haig-Brown's compatriots, and it was his river. He fished it quite a bit, and he's the one that really made it famous to fly fishermen. He had a whole series of flies that he developed for it, *Coquihalla Orange*, *Coquihalla Silver*, *Coquihalla Orange-Dark*, and there were three or four other ones, I just can't remember them all right now. But it's, you know, when they put the freeway through, it's isn't a nice place to go now because you're standing right there and there's these semi-trucks going up and down along the river. You know, I still go there every now and then, but it's not a secluded wilderness spot anymore, even though it's still a fishery – it's still a fishing opportunity for Vancouverites, but certainly not what it used to be like.

DB: In your study of history of BC fly fishing, can you tie Ralph Wahl into any of this with Tommy and...

AL: No, I can't, okay. You know, I've met Ralph a few times, down here mostly.

DB: But he did go up there and fish, I think.

AL: Yes, I don't know.

DB: Oh, okay.

PP: I was wondering, a river that I fish a lot that you didn't mention in there is the Chilliwack Vedder.

AL: Yes, you know, it's never really had a fly fishing history, okay. When I put that book together, I was looking more at those rivers where fly fishing really developed and had some roots. Some of them are totally gone. I worked for the Great Vancouver Water District and Sewage Drainage District, and you know there's a chapter on the Capilano River in there, a really good summer steelhead stream. But you know, in 1954 the dam was built for water supply for Vancouver, and, you know, even though they trucked summer runs up above and put them in up there, those fish just didn't survive. But anyhow, from what people tell me, and I still have the odd friend around who fished back in pre-1954 days, that it was probably Dean River quality summer runs that were in it.

TB: What about the Kispiox? You wrote a book about the Kispiox.

AL: Yes, well, the Kispiox – there's three rivers in British Columbia here for steelheaders that I figured if you really want to fish the three historic rivers, okay, then there's the Thompson and the Kispiox and the Dean. Those are the three that are real destination fisheries for me. And the Kispiox, it goes back into the 1950s when it was discovered. They lasted quite a lot of these fish back in those times. They weren't steelhead, okay, they were just big trout, and they just didn't think that the steelhead could travel that far or be that far from the ocean. And the Kispiox, part of it is though that a lot of Washington fishers came up there, okay, George McLeod—

TB: That's what I wanted to ask you about.

AL: --McLeod, okay, you know they really actually probably discovered it more than anybody else.

TB: Okay.

AL: There was bait fishermen from Prince George that came down and fished it when the highway got through and it became accessible, but no, it was George and Ken and a few other Washington state anglers that really, really, made it well known, okay. It's one of those destination fisheries because, again, the fish are a lot bigger than average in that river, you know, 15-16 pounds is probably an average fish, and they go up to about – George had I think a 29 pounds, and then Mausser caught that big 32 ½, I think it was, that was the world record steelhead for quite a while. Bigger ones are caught now, but nobody kills them anymore so other than taking the girth and the length and doing a calculation. But again, it's a real big fish river, and, you know, people like to catch big fish, and that's one of the places you're going to go in British Columbia to do it.

DB: Is there anything between 1966 and 1979 that you'd like to discuss in terms of your development as a fly fisher?

AL: Well again, I think it was Haig-Brown, reading him, and then my neighbor across the way that I talked about, you know he – it was at that time that the Totem Fly Fishers were being thought about, and in 1967 they actually became a club.

DB: The Totems?

AL: Yes, the Totems. Now I didn't get into that. I wasn't fly fishing enough to be in one back then. Although my chum tried to get me in, but, again, it was really small, I think probably fifteen anglers, probably back in those days. The first president of the Totems was Martin Tolley, and Martin used to write articles in a magazine called *British Columbia Sports Fishing*, and it was just a small publication. But you know, back in those days there wasn't much around. Frank Amato started his *Salmon Trout Steelheader*, I would say probably 1966, 1967, somewhere in there. So that and this, *Northwest Sportsman* magazine, and later *Western Fish and Game*, were about the three magazines that you could get Pacific Northwest fishing stuff from. So anyway, Martin wrote about catching steelhead fly fishing, back in the 1960s, *Northwest Sportsman*, and of course I saved all of those articles with magazines, and my, when I wanted to fly fish, that's the stuff I read. It was Martin's and then—

DB: During that time, did you get involved with any of the Caribou Lake fishing?

AL: Nah, you know, you're working, and you have three weeks of holidays a year. I went fishing every weekend, but even to go to the Thompson was a chore. I got to do things with my wife.

DB: Any development in the sea run fishing reel—

AL: No, I didn't do that. There was two things I was interested in back in 1960s, and that was salmon fishing, okay, in the saltwater, and then it was steelhead fishing then. You know, you go through three phases in your fishing life. You just want to catch fish, and then you want to catch big fish, well that would be my salmon and steelhead days, and then you get into that later phase in life where you want to catch them a specific way, and that's the start of fly fishing. And even in the fly fishing thing, you just go through phases where, you know, sunk line, any time of year, to right now it's – I prefer to use a floating line, wading a fly across, and I like to fish for summer run steelhead, and bring them to the surface and catch them that way. But again, the evolution of angling, okay.

DB: About when did the BCFFF get started? It was after the – it was some of the Totems that started it, wasn't it?

AL: Yes, Totems, yes, and the Dogwood Fly Fishers. I got to say, it's probably early 1980s that they got going. I could be wrong in that, okay, but it seems to me that they had cards around, and I probably joined it when it first came out, so yes.

DB: Okay. Over the years—

AL: I wrote a history of BC, but when I write this stuff, I am a great researcher and I can go and I can remember a lot of stuff, but after I've finished writing it, I can read this stuff afterwards, and I say, Gee, did I write that? So

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4

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trying to remember dates and things that happened 30-40 years ago is a-- You know, I remember when I did a history of the British Columbia Federation of Fly Fishers for them, it's on their website.

DB: Oh, okay. During that time, did you meet a man from Trail named John Lynde?

AL: John Lynde, no, I didn't meet John, but I had his book *34 Ways to Cast a Fly*. Some of my Totem friends must have met him because he used to go out to the Morice River every year and fish.

DB: Well, he and his wife did this synchronized [routine] (inaudible, talking over each other)-- and I keep wondering if somebody knows where there might be a film of that.

AL: Hmm, I'd have to check with the guys I know.

DB: It was one of the most unique things I've ever—

AL: Yes, yes, they did travel around and do that, but Vernita I think is her name. Vernita Lynde.

DB: Okay, well, I keep hoping somebody I'll meet will have that.

AL: Yes, well, I need to jog my memory, Danny, when I get home and see whether or not any of these guys that fished Barrett Station or By-Mac, if they remember him coming up there with his wife, and maybe there's something around.

DB: Some of the other folks back in the 1980s time that were very involved with the BCFFF, like Rex, Bob and Bill and those, they started to really expand the things that the BCFFF were trying to do.

AL: Well, Rex Schofield and Bill Yonge were principals in the formation of the federation back then.

DB: So you're saying that your history, it's already written up on that, in the BCFFF—

AL: Yes, the BCFFF website, it would be in there somewhere. (<http://www.bcfff.bc.ca/info/BCFFFhistory.pdf>)

DB: Okay. That's fine.

AL: Yes, you can access it through their website. And if they don't have it, I probably got it on my computer somewhere.

DB: Okay.

AL: But you know, Gil Sage, he was, again, one of the really supportive BCFFF guys too. He devoted a lot of his life to the Federation of Fly Fishers. And Peter Caverhill too. Pete was – he was one of the province's fisheries biologists. He had to – he was always behind the scenes on what was happening within British Columbia.

DB: Pete?

AL: Peter Caverhill.

DB: Yes, I know him.

AL: Yes, yes. Again, he couldn't get too involved in fish politics, but with Gil doing the upfront fish politics stuff, Peter in the background advising them at the Provincial Fisheries branch. It was a good team, those two.

DB: I just remember one of their big projects was those pond mills up in the lakes and the interior lakes and—

Arthur James Lingren Edited Transcript – March 12, 2014

Fly Fishing Collection

5

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AL: Well again, one of the things too they really got into was when the Skagit was going to be flooded for the power for Seattle, it was Gil that was the fly fisher representative on it. But again, Caverhill couldn't get involved in it in any great way, because he worked for the government. But again, with him advising Gill on the branch's position, what we should be doing, we ended up with other people's help, stopping the flooding of that particular river. There's a chapter in that particular book [*Famous British Columbia Fly-Fishing Waters*] on the Skagit and their involvement in it.

DB: Well, I have other things too that I'd like to—I've made some notes. I've read most of the things that you've sent us recently, and the other organization which maybe you've become even more involved in is the BC Steelhead Society.

AL: Yes, oh yes. Well, it goes back into the 1970s, and I was a member of that organization about the time that it formed, and I spent ten years as their membership director. So I was involved quite a bit with it. It was in the early 1990s that I gave that up because I wanted to spend more time, I wanted to write some books, so I couldn't do everything. But yes, they did a lot of good things on steelhead. It was not a total fly fishing only organization. It was all types. But within the board, it was the fly fishers that served many terms as president. I'm talking Lee Straight and Ehor Boyanowsky. I never served as president, but I was, again, was the director of membership. I'm not saying that other guys didn't—sometimes I wondered if maybe they didn't have the skills or the knowledge to do that political fisheries-type stuff, but yes, the Steelhead Society did a lot of good things. At one time or another, the logging companies just had free reign on everything, and they would cut right to the river's edge. Well, it was partly the Steelhead Society that got these setbacks along rivers and protection. It was members of the Steelhead Society that got the strip of land preserved as a park along the Cowichan corridor.

DB: You focused in your journal on the Dean and the rivers in Northern BC, but there was also a very famous river in BC called the Thompson.

AL: Oh yes.

DB: Maybe you could talk a bit about your experience with—I suspect you fished it.

AL: Well, yes, and I've written a book on it.

DB: But it's not what it used to be.

AL: Oh, it's not, no, no. It's gone to—

DB: Do you have any thoughts or ideas on things you'd like to say about that?

AL: Oh, everything that—even though you look at the Thompson, you're driving up and you think, Oh, that's way out in the wilderness and it's remote and how could it be affected that way? But all those things that you get from people living in that—you know, it's semi-desert country, and there's all kinds of farming communities up on tributary streams that have water rights to those small rivers where the steelhead going basically to three streams, okay, the Nicola—the Nicola has the Clearwater tributary. And oh, the Deadman Creek, and the Bonaparte River. And once you get off into those tributaries, there's all kinds of farmland. The water rights, if they took all the water that they were allowed to take out of that, there would be no water left in those streams at all for fish. So it's always a struggle when you have that kind of stuff. And you do have logging on those watersheds, but it's more the water rights, lack of flow. And those small steelhead have to spend three years in those streams before they're big enough to get out into the sea, and this is the worst conditions that you get in that three year period of time, and it's semi-desert country, and—

DB: One of the more famous drifts was where the Nicola came in.

AL: That's right, oh yes. Well again, it was a favorite stream of mine, okay. I used to head up there on – Thanksgiving which is the first Monday in October in Canada, and that would be my first trip up there every year.

DB: Would that be a one day trip for you?

AL: Oh no, no. Well, I have done it though. My younger years when I was really, really, really keen, I was up there by Friday night, I'd sleep in my car on the front seat. I'd wake up the next morning and fish for the day and I'd drive home. There's probably even times I've gotten up at 4:00 o'clock in the morning and driven up there and got home that day. That's some foolish stuff now. I don't do it. But again, I fished the Thompson for 25 years before I did the book on it, and it, again, it was a favorite stream and some really good memories of fish I caught there. I don't go up there very much anymore, just because, again, those rocks are so slippery, and there is not a lot of fish and there's a lot of people that want to fish it, so I've had my time on it. I'm quite content.

PP: I have a friend who fished it for their first time last year and commented on the slipperiness of the rocks. I was wondering if you thought that might be due to the water degradation and the farming over time, or has it always been—

AL: No, it's always been like that, as far as I know. You know at one time or another they blamed it on the pulp mills in Kamloops, but as far as I know, everybody I know says it's been a slippery river always. But it is really, really – it's one of those places that if you haven't got cleats on and you haven't got a wading staff, boy, watch out. Yes, I've been in it a few times.

DB: One of the things in your journals that I noticed right off the bat were all the pictures of your steelhead are extremely bright. There's no, hardly even a glint or bit of red on their cheek or anything. And then as you read through that, you explain why that is true. How far above tidewater are you fishing the Dean? And tell us a little bit about the life cycle of these fish.

AL: Yes, well the Dean River's, again, it's a short, short river, where the steelhead have access to, probably 60 kilometers. Where we're fishing on the Dean, we're maybe four miles above tidewater. And those fish, they're really, really fresh flow through the canyon, but there's a canyon at about two miles, and it's very turbulent, waterfalls, difficult to access, okay. Summer runs would – winter runs don't get through the canyon. The summer runs are there because the water temperatures are good and they can make these physical leaps and get up through that heavy water, with the increased water temperature and physical activity that fish have when water's warmer. So we're at a mile and a half above the canyon there. We rarely ever get a colored fish, unless we're, September maybe you might start to see red on the males, but, you know, the females – while those fish are being in freshwater now for 10-11 months before they spawn, so.

DB: So these fish don't hang out off the mouth of the river very long, you think?

AL: Oh no, no, no. They come in and their timing is to be there late June through July, they're in from tidewater into the lower river, and then they got to get up to through that canyon. They got to get up to other places in the river too, because that's not the only obstacle. If you're looking at *Thirty Seasons on the Dean River*, there's fish around Salmon House Falls, and that's way up river, and they've got to get, some of them have got to above that. It's a real obstacle for them. Once the river starts to get cold, which happens probably late September, it just keeps on getting colder and colder and colder, and it ends up being frozen over in a lot of places, and the fish can't do much in the way of physical activity when it gets down to around freezing.

DB: So now, have you fished for the steelhead up in the, after they've been traveling for—

AL: Well, the highest I've gone—

DB: --in November or—

AL: The Dean closes at the end of September. I'm pretty sure it's the end of September. I've been there – the latest I've been there is September 13, yes.

DB: So, are there any other openings farther up—

AL: No, no, no. They've—

DB: I was going to try to at least have one of the people we interviewed has caught Atlantic salmon and he's caught steelhead, and I asked him if he could tell the difference. Over the years there's this kind of controversy over which one's the most powerful fish and so forth.

AL: Yes, well I've fished Atlantic salmon too, in Newfoundland. I've made four or five trips back there. And I think that taking conditions into consideration, a lot of the fishing for Atlantic salmon is in really warm waters, okay, 65 degree Fahrenheit to the low 70s, and those are not uncommon temperatures on those streams back there. And there's even times when they can get up to 75, and Fisheries and Oceans will – they look at closing the rivers to angling when it starts to get into more than 72 degrees. That's not uncommon temperatures for those Eastern Canadian rivers. Whereas on the Dean, let's say, even the Skeena in September and early October, you're getting water temperatures that are 50 to 60, and that's prime temperatures for getting good activity out of fish. When I look at the Atlantic salmon I've caught and the steelhead I've caught out of the Dean and the Copper, I think the steelhead's a better fish.

DB: Okay.

AL: But you know, Atlantic salmon grow bigger, a lot bigger, okay. But they both are good fish for surface fly fishing techniques, you know if you like to fish flies just underneath the surface or on the surface, they're both good takers.

DB: Your general thought that you write quite a bit about how the fish from the lower Dean are prime fish, but they don't eat through until March?

AL: Yes, they don't eat at all.

DB: And so, their body – they absorb their body—?

AL: That's right, yes. The body fat, yes, yes, nature insures those fish come back, so they can live for up to 10 months, 11 months actually, in fresh water, below ...

DB: So, do you have any opinions about fishing for steelhead late in the season? Like we see these people fishing the Upper Columbia when the fish are totally red stripes, and ...

AL: Yes.

DB: They've gone through the same process—

AL: They have, okay. Yes, yes, they have. In BC, we close all the rivers, like the Thompson which are summer runs—

DB: Yes.

AL: --December 31 it's closed, and all the main rivers on the Skeena system, December 31st they're closed, and you can't go and fish them. They're left to do their development for sexual organs so they can do their spawning thing.

DB: Is this something like the society promoted, to save the fish—

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8

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AL: Yes, yes, yes. It was partly the society, but also it was, Bob Wooten, you know. He was one of our steelhead biologists in the upper part of the province on the Skeena system, and he figured that once those fish got up there and – you know, anglers have had August, September, October, November and December. Usually winter’s harsh up there anyway. The rivers get frozen over, and there’s not much in the way of angling opportunities after December, so he figures that once, if you just leave them alone underneath the ice there and let them do their thing and not bother them. So Bob was more responsible for that December 31st closure in BC than anybody else.

DB: Talk a bit about your friends over 30 years that you went fishing with, and some that perhaps a little more times than others.

AL: Yes, I do have a few. Believe it or not, my fishing partner right now that I started working with me back in 1971, I guess it probably was. It’s kind of neat, you know, a Japanese-Canadian, but he came from Japan back in 1969. He learned English in Japan, but when he got to Canada at the border, not the border but to the immigration thing, he wondered what language these people were talking, because it was that bad. Anyway, he had a really difficult – he still has a difficult time with the English language. But we became friends back when he started working at the regional district where I worked, and, you know, he liked to go fishing. He’d been out a little bit by himself, didn’t catch much, so anyway, it was another fellow and I and this new fellow, Kami, is what we call him. His last name was Kamizawa. His first name Hisaichi. We called him Kami for short. Anyway, he started fishing salmon with me, and I showed him how to catch cohos and spring salmon, and then we started steelhead back in 1971-1972. We made a trip in February 1972 over to the Gold River. Again, his English was really, really poor. We stopped off at the Campbell River because we wanted to fish it on our way through. Telling Kami, like watch out, because talking about the Thompson being slippery, the Campbell is slippery too, okay. You’d get on that old moss, and it’s not as bad as the Thompson. But anyway, we walked to the river, and then I told Kami, these rocks are really, really slippery, so be careful, okay? Even to this day, he only understands half of what I say. So I really got to be careful what I say to him. Anyway, he walks and steps on this rock and the next thing I know he’s up to his neck in the water, okay, before he even starts fishing. Anyway, he’s a neat guy to be with. We had went up and over to the Gold the next day. We got into a snowstorm that night and just managed to get through the mountain pass – we couldn’t turn around, okay, we were pulling this trailer over there, so we had to keep going. We got into the Gold River and just over a bridge and found a little place to pull over to the side and parked the trailer, slept there for the night, got up the next morning. And of course the bridge pools right there, so we went down and fished. He caught his first steelhead that morning. You know, it’s one of those things I’ll remember forever, and he does too, because he got that fish into shore and I looked at him, and he says, “You know, I could kiss this fish.” So those are the kind of stories that, you know, the same thing, we learned fly fishing back then. But when he did start fly fishing with me back in, oh, 1990s, somewhere along there, we went out Lac Le Jeune, and Walloper lakes. I asked him, “What flies do you want to use?” I had a *Black Carey fly* that I tied back in those days. And he says, “No, that’s the one I want right there.” So we put it on. He couldn’t cast, so I just rowed him around, he trailed the fly in his side of the boat. He got two nice trout, one of them was three pounds at Lac Le Jeune that day, and then we went down to Walloper Lake, which is just a few miles down below Lac Le Jeune. I taught him the basics of fly casting. So he managed to catch his first trout fly fishing there. So he has been a neat guy to fish with, and I still fish with him.

But Bob Taylor’s another one in the Totems that I fish with, from the early 1980s, once I became a member. Bob and I’ve made many, many trips to the Dean River together. He was one of those guys that, you know, I could go with – and there’s not many people that you can go away for a week with, okay. Well, Bob and I could go away for a month, and we’d still be talking to each other at the end of a month, living in my camper, which is a very restricted space. And Bob, he was just one of these –especially on the Dean, did he ever devote a lot of his time to making sure that the regulations were suitable to just the average person, and that the fish were protected. You’ll see in that *Thirty Seasons on the Dean*, after he died, all the effort that he put in, that the government put a plaque on – they call it Taylor’s Rock now, okay, because it’s dedicated to him for all that work he did on the Dean River. So that’s another chum of mine.

Van Egan, I mentioned him before, you know Van and I were friends from the early 1980s up until when he died, probably around 25 plus years of friendship, and we did as much as we could together, you know, him on

Arthur James Lingren Edited Transcript – March 12, 2014

Fly Fishing Collection

9

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Vancouver Island on the Campbell River, and me in the Vancouver area -- you know, writing letters is a craft most people don't do nowadays. Well, when Van died, I had a file that thick (about three inches) of letters from him for all those years of corresponding.

TB: Oh, nice.

PP: That's great.

AL: And he had my letters, I had his, so yes, it was kind of a neat thing. I gave them to, all those letters, to one of his friends at Campbell River to look over and maybe we could put something together.

DB: We're kind of bouncing around here, but that's fine. You mentioned you went to the Gold River, and it's known for its large king salmon, isn't it?

AL: No, I didn't fish for King salmon. Again, it was just steelhead I was there for.

DB: Okay. So in these camps up on the Dean, did you have your own fly tying gear and work on developing flies at all?

AL: No.

DB: Or were you pretty well ready to go?

AL: Yes. You know, I did take fly tying stuff when I probably first went there for the first couple years. But I was tying so many flies back then, I would only use a fly once if I caught a fish on it and that was it, I'm finished with that fly and I'd put another one. So again, I tied a lot back in those days, so I had lots of flies to use.

DB: So in your journal, you discussed the different flies, *Bombers* and – What is a *Bomber fly*? What is the design of that and maybe some others that you were using?

AL: Yes, well again, the Bomber was something that was developed in Eastern Canada. I'm not sure if it was in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. I think it was New Brunswick. A Reverend Elmer Smith, he developed it for a natural drift, dry fly fishing for Atlantic salmon. And you know, it's an iconic fly for the east. So when I started to fly fish for steelhead, I tied up Haig-Brown's Steelhead Bee and used it. I didn't catch very much on it. But when I wanted to do the waking of the fly for steelhead I thought, I might as well use a Canadian classic, okay. So I simplified the *Bomber* down to what I call a *Simplified Bomber*. It's just a deer haired body with a deer hair or a fox squirrel tail, half a wind around it, and half-hitch it at the front, so it stays on the top of the surface and it chugs across, and it drives steelhead nuts.

DB: You're describing the waking fly with your hand. Now describe it – can you describe the waking fly—

AL: Well again, you cast it out at a 45 degree angle, and you put tension onto it, and when you half-hitch it, it won't sink. And when it doesn't sink, it works its way across and it causes this little wake behind the fly, and the steelhead really are attracted to that wake, okay, and they'll come up and smash at it.

DB: Did you use the riffling hitch to get—

AL: Yes, it's a riffling hitch. It's a half-hitch is what I call it. It's the riffling hitch. Riffling hitch is again another Atlantic salmon thing that they used in Newfoundland for wet flies okay, where they put the half-hitch on and it is the same thing. It comes across just at the surface there, and it causes a wake in it. It's the same type of thing.

PP: Can I ask a quick question? Haig-Brown talks about fishing dries without waking quite a bit, and he seemed to indicate that for him anyway in the rivers he fished that worked better than waking. You don't find that to be the case though.

AL: No I don't find it to be the case. It's really easy to take a steelhead on a waked fly. Doing it Haig-Brown's way is a lot more difficult. But you know, he had a place along the Campbell there. The Heber River was another small stream that's a tributary of the Gold that he managed to get into these places, and, you know, he perfected that technique, okay, of upstream dry fly fishing for steelhead. The only time, I probably could count maybe less than ten fish, you know, and most of them have been on the Copper River when-- The Copper's got kind of a unique thing. They have that big western drape mayfly, and in September and October, on some certain days, it comes off, and it's one of the few times I see steelhead coming up and taking an actual bug off the surface. And when that happens, you can do the natural drift thing and do all right on it, okay. But most rivers it's not productive. The Dean it isn't productive, but a wake fly is really productive.

DB: From 1966 until today, there have been many changes in the equipment that fly fishers use, from the time you started, the rods and the lines especially. Would you talk a little about your transition through that time and—

AL: Well yes, again, when I started to fly fish the rivers there were two rods, you know. Still bamboo was around a lot, and all those tributary Totem fly fishers I saw in the 1960s were using bamboo. Fiberglass had just come in, and I guess the first rod I did buy was after I took that Earl Anderson casting course. And Earl, being in the sporting goods business, and well known he had the Anderson rod, so I bought one of those from him and used that for quite a number of years. And I guess the next one I bought was probably in the late 1970s, and it was when graphite came out and I bought one of the Fenwick's. It was a seven weight, I remember that. It was the rod I was going to use to try and catch a Thompson River steelhead, so it's the one I did use and managed to get my first steelhead on it. The big change in the past fifteen, you know, twenty years now, because it was 1984, it was the return of the two-handers to the west coast. I caught my first steelhead probably in 1983; 1983, on the Thompson using a two-handed rod. It was one of those Jim Green ones that they made for -- when he was experimenting with two-handed rods back in those days, and he gave Jerry one to try okay. I was at the Thompson and I saw the thing, and Jerry says, "Well, do you want to try it? Take it." So anyway, the next morning I went out with that rod and put one of my flies on and threw it out, and managed to hook a fish. I didn't land it, but after that I was interested in the two-handed rod. Jerry had bought an Orvis 15-footer from Ruddick's Fly Shop, and he didn't like it, and he sold it to me for half price.

DB: One of your pictures shows what my friend -- I'm not a steelhead fly fisher, but my friends say, was the classic was a big Hardy reel, Hardy Perfect with a bit of a butt below it.

AL: Yes, yes, oh yes. Well again, Hardy reels and the Hardy Perfect is my favorite steelhead reel, okay, especially the 3 ¾ inch. I got a couple of those ones. The line capacity to take a 9, 10, the bigger ones 11, weight line if you want to use it, and you'll still have a couple hundred yards on it if you get that real monster fish on a place like the Thompson, it takes out tons and tons of backing. And of course the Spey casting is another thing -- it's new in a lot of places in the Pacific Northwest, but it's not something new to British Columbia. General Money, which was Haig-Brown's-- Roderick Haig-Brown fished with Money back in the 1930s on the Stamp River. The General used to use two-handed rods and Spey cast on that river.

DB: As did John Lynde.

AL: That's right, yes that's right. Well again, he was British, and he came and that was part of the British angling thing, was the two-handed rods for salmon fishing.

DB: Were you involved with Mike Maxwell?

AL: I knew Mike, okay, back in those days, yes. Actually, he taught my son to fly cast. But Mike was a really grumpy guy, okay. One of my fishing partners, Charlie Brumwell okay. Charlie was never a good caster. Well

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Fly Fishing Collection

11

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anyway Mike said that he ought to take some lessons from Mike, so he bought one of Mike's rods and took some instruction.

DB: He had the sweetest wife.

AL: Yes, yes. Denise, you're talking Denise, yes, really nice lady. Anyway, after Mike had tried to teach Charlie, he wrote in his book, "Don't admit to anybody that I taught you to Spey cast." But Mike, he was one of these guys if you weren't getting it right, he would say to you, you know, "Dumb, dumb, you are dumber than a fish, what's the matter, why can't you do that?" But I've got to say, when my son was about 11 years old and I thought I'll try and teach him, I'm not that patient either, because you know how to do it, you just do this and this, and it does it, but I didn't want to get mad at my kid, so I asked Mike to give him lessons – You know Mike was really, really, really good with him. After a couple lessons, he had that kid casting 60-70 feet, okay, and he's a good caster to this day, my boy.

DB: Started out like a Steve Rajef.

AL: Yes, yes.

DB: One other person you mentioned in the journal that I was curious about, Lee Straight, wasn't he a journalist or a writer—

AL: Yes, yes, he was the outdoor editor for the *Vancouver Sun* for probably, just, 1946. It was after the Second World War that he got that job, and it was 1976 I think that he left the *Sun*. So yes, he did all the outdoor articles, fishing reports—

DB: Did he write some outdoor articles along with—

AL: He had just a column, just the column, okay. As far as I know, he never wrote for magazines or anything like that.

DB: Was he ever on TV?

AL: Not like Ted Peck was.

DB: Okay.

AL: Yes.

DB: I thought that-- One other person you mentioned a while ago, Lac Le Jeune, and a fellow that I ran into, Jim Kilburn.

AL: Oh, yes, yes, Jim.

DB: Jim, he worked probably in a similar area of Vancouver. Was he in the water department?

AL: No, he was with the City of Vancouver. I worked for what they call Metro Vancouver now. Back in the days when I was there, there were two entities, the Greater Vancouver Water District and the Greater Vancouver Sewage and Drainage District. And there's 20 municipalities that make up Metro Vancouver, and rather than all of them trying to get water from some place, we supplied the bulk water to the municipalities as part of our natural function. Jim worked for the actual City of Vancouver.

DB: He was a member of the Totems.

AL: Yes, he was one of the founding members.

DB: And he also wrote in the *BC Outdoor Journal*.

AL: Yes, yes, no, he wrote articles for the *Western Fish and Game* magazine. He's kind of another guy that influenced me because, you know, back in those 1960s and 1970s, we used flies like Bill Nation's flies. They didn't really represent insects at all, so it was Kilburn actually that started this, the looking at the insects and trying to make better representative flies like chironomids, caddis pupas and sedges, and of course the articles that he wrote on the insects of interior lakes where it's really, really good stuff, okay. I think he was a – what do they call a scientist that do that insect stuff, but you know—

TB: Entomology?

AL: Entomology. You're looking at details of the wings, the drawings, really, really good stuff. The BC Federation of Fly Fishers actually probably about ten years ago, Jim put all his stuff together, all those articles, and we had to publish them in a book.

DB: Do you keep in touch with him—

AL: Yes, Jim's in his early '80s now, and he's got dementia.

DB: Oh, okay.

AL: But I did see him, I saw him last year at the BC Federation of Fly Fishers AGM.

DB: We camped together or nearby up in Le Jeune years ago, after he retired, and he was putting all this stuff together. What he was working on was the dragonfly, a booklet on dragonflies, and I wondered if he ever finished it.

AL: Well again, all that stuff is in the thing that was published by the BCFFF. Jim never got anything published other than BC and *Western Fish and Game*, until we decided that, you know, he wanted to put this stuff together, and we said okay we would do it if he did it, and I can't remember how many copies we did.

DB: I keep picking your brain about this because you know this stuff, and these poor people we'll never hear from them again.

AL: Oh yes, well Kilburn was really influential back in the 1960s and 1970s as a British Columbia fly fisher, and it was him and Martin Tolley and five other guys that formed the Totem Fly Fishers, and, you know, it's BC's oldest fly fishing club. It was a social club, which, you know, Haig-Brown was our advisor when the club was being formed. He said, "Keep it social," but there's nothing wrong with being involved individually. And as a group of fly fishers, you know, we were involved in the Steelhead Society, BC Federation of Fly Fishers, and even the club itself occasionally there's conservation issues that needed attending. You know, we went at it full bore. So we've done a lot of stuff.

Another guy that I probably might want to mention too, in fisheries for BC, was Dave Narver. Dave came up to Canada from Oregon back in the early 1960s. Anyway, a fisheries biologist, he ends up being director of fisheries for the Fish and Wildlife branch, and, again, ardent fly fisherman. But Dave was one of those guys that could – fisheries environment is never really a strong portfolio of any government, okay. They just don't have the money, and the industrial activities take priority. Anyway, Dave would always advise us on, the sly. Telling us that he thought that maybe the Steelhead Society needed to know something, okay, and maybe some letters need to be written to politicians on one of these issues. So anyway, he was a good guy and helped fisheries a lot, and fly fishing too. Some of the regulations that we do have, like the Dean's fly fishing only regulations, and there are some others in the provinces, partly as result of Narver.

Arthur James Lingren Edited Transcript – March 12, 2014
Fly Fishing Collection

13

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DB: You've been recognized for your work by a number of organizations, the Letcher Lambuth Award from the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Have you ever had one of Lambuth's rods in your hand?

AL: Yes, actually, I had one of Haig-Brown's spiral Lambuth rods in my hand.

DB: Oh, okay.

AL: Is that a spiral?

TB: Yes.

AL: Yes. It's one of those things when I told you I went over to Haig-Brown's house in the early 1980s and looked at his tackle, and that Letcher Lambuth spiral rod was one of the ones I looked at, and actually I took pictures of it, and yes, yes.

Actually, you talk about awards, you know, I really appreciate them, but you ask for two things, well three things I guess because you've bought a lot of my books, but the Federation of Fly Fishers gave me the Roderick Haig-Brown Award to recognize my writing. That was in 1999, and that Letcher Lambuth award is a real prize too, okay.

DB: Well that's what I was wondering about.

AL: I really appreciate getting that as recognition for stuff done. If you look at the names on that list of people that have received it over the years, well that puts me in real stead with really, really good company, and of course Haig-Brown.

DB: Steve Raymond's on that group and some others.

AL: Yes, he is.

DB: I'll save you the story behind this one, but Steve Raymond received all of Lambuth's material when he died, and Steve found the sheet that explains this rod—

AL: I have it.

DB: --kind of interesting.

TB: So how did you get started writing? Was it a passion that you had for it, or was it just something you felt the story had to be told?

AL: Well, yes, partly that. Again, I'm not – I'm a fisherman that writes.

TB: But you are pretty prolific.

AL: Yes, oh yes, but Haig-Brown was a writer that fished.

TB: Okay.

AL: You know there's a big difference. Yes, I started just writing the odd article, and I just probably when I joined the Totems, I was pretty soon the editor of the newsletter. And again, you start to piddle a little bit then, and you know your job is to put together a newsletter for the club members, and, you know, I saw – Again, I started probably doing little bits and stuff there, and then it expanded to do stuff in some magazines, maybe with the idea I might be able to do something. I guess the thing that really got me started trying to do something was when Haig-Brown died, and that was the tenth anniversary of his death, and we put together, the Haig-Brown pattern book. Well that

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Fly Fishing Collection

14

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(pointing to *Fly patterns of Roderick Haig-Brown*) was the result in 1993. But before that, I did a little publication called *The Haig-Brown Patterns*.

TB: Okay.

AL: It was the forerunner of this. And we did it and presented it to Ann Haig-Brown, okay, and I tied all the flies, and we made a – mounted the flies and had a picture of rods, and it still sits in Haig-Brown's house as far as I know. But we had that book specially bound and boxed for Mrs. Haig-Brown. A few years later, I said, Oh, maybe I can send this to a publisher and see, so I tried Nick Lyons, and he wasn't interested. Then I sent it to Frank Amato, and Frank is a real dedicated Haig-Brown guy too. Yes, he said, "Yes, I'll do it," so that started my book writing.

In a few months I had that done, this was in 1993, I had the idea well maybe I should do a book on the Thompson. I'd been on it 25 years and knew it pretty good, and really kept a lot of records, you know, my diaries on fish I've caught and things I've learned over the years. So I asked Frank if he was interested in that, and he says, yes, he'd take three journals from me, okay, is what he said at the time. So anyway, that was 1994 I put the *Thompson River Journal* out. And we didn't do another journal for quite a while, but then I had the idea about the *Fly patterns of British Columbia*, and I wanted to get on a place where Haig-Brown's stuff was, but also Tommy Brayshaw's and Bill Nation's and Arthur Bryan Williams, who even predates General Money and Haig-Brown. Williams was back in the early 20th century. He wrote a book in 1919 called *Rod and Creel in British Columbia*, which was one of the very, very first BC books on where to go fishing and flies to use and equipment and all that kind of stuff. And there was other people too that I thought could be in that book, so I divided it into four sections, interior trout fishing, cutthroat for trout fishing, saltwater salmon fishing, and steelhead patterns. Through that I recorded all the early BC fly fishing history through the flies that were developed in the Province for those different types of fish, and I followed it up since with that *Contemporary Patterns of British Columbia* book.

So I just started small and expanded to ten books that are now published. I've done a lot of other stuff from the history of the Federation of Fly Fishers too, you know. I've got a 53-page thing on the history of Spey casting and its reintroduction to North America. I did that for the BC Federation of Fly Fishers, which is on their website. But other things, the thing on Vancouver Island, and the books – I, again, was really interested in the history of fly fishing and fishing in BC, so I started going to libraries, special collections, out at UBC, and the Vancouver Public Library had a special collection that I'd thumb through, those old books back in the 1800s. Usually when you open up the chapter, it had all these little subheadings. Well you could see by searching them whether or not there was any fishing. You didn't have to read the whole book. And if I found something that I recorded the titles, probably as early as the 1850s up until – I just revised this and it is 48 pages long now and it contains a record of all of the books that had fishing related stuff for British Columbia in there, okay.

PP: Is that on the fly fishing website also?

AL: It could be on the BCFFF. Again, I just put the last couple of books in it in last week and sent a copy to them last week.

TB: Now, did you ever get involved in the tyee fishing?

AL: No. I did it a couple of times, again with Van. Van loved to do that stuff. Van's wife, Maxine Egan, she just loved that tyee fishing. So Van had a boat and he would take her out and they would do that. Van was a – he guided for the Tyee Club back in his early days, went to Campbell before he became a teacher.

TB: Okay. Because he wrote a book on it, I think.

AL: Yes, he did, yes, yes.

TB: Yes. And then, because I was also wondering then did you ever know Bill Nelson?

AL: Yes, I knew Bill briefly, okay. I met him a couple of times over the years at Campbell River.

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15

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TB: Okay.

AL: Yes, yes.

TB: Okay.

DB: Do you communicate any with Valerie?

AL: I haven't seen her for a bit. The last time I saw her was in 2008, when they had that Haig-Brown Centenary celebration in Campbell River. I may have had emails back and forth from her since then, but not too much.

DB: Ralph Wahl interviewed or had a visit with him and the tape is here at the university. All of Ralph's materials have been donated here, and that's one of the tapes that has been transcribed online.

AL: Oh yes, yes. This is with Rod, with Haig-Brown?

DB: Yes.

AL: Yes, yes, that's good.

DB: Well...

TB: Anybody else have any more questions?

DB: I pretty much—

PP: I actually have one more. You talked about the Copper and you've written about the Kispiox. Is there any other Skeena drainage river that has really attracted you or that you fished a lot?



AL: Well, I fished Bulkley quite a bit too, okay. And I fished the Skeena a fair amount. Since 1998, I've been going up there for a month. Again, it was one of these places I started going to in the Seventies. But, again, working, you only had certain holidays, and it's a long ways to drive up there. You know, maybe take a week, a few times I did go up for a week. Often as not, you get there and you get a couple of days fishing in, and the rains come, and, you know, a whole week's gone. I stopped going for a number of years in the 1980s. Again, I started going to the Dean River, and, you know, I spent my, what time I could going fishing somewhere once there. And of course my son, too, was born in 1977, so, you know, he was young and I wanted to spend as much time as I could with him, so it wasn't until 1998 that I started going back up there. But since then, I've spent a month there, and, you know, the Kispiox, the Bulkley, Morice – I wasn't happy if I didn't get fish out of a half a dozen rivers on a trip up there, so, you know, I fished all around a lot. But my friends that I have up here, they're Terrace based, okay, Rob Brown, Andrew Williams, both teachers that are off in the summertime, so you know, you just get there late August and get to fish with those guys. So I fished a lot of those streams. I like the Kispiox just because again, it's that big fish place. Although, I never got a fish – I got a 20 pounder, but even my friend Bob Clay there, who's been guiding on that river for, since the 1970s, he has not broken 20 pounds personally himself on that river. Although he's had clients get fish up around the 30s and maybe over 30, but Bob hasn't done it himself either, so you know.

TB: You mentioned Harry Lemire. Have you fished with him up there?

AL: No, I didn't fish with Harry yet, but, you know, again, he was on the Dean quite often when we were there. I guess the closest I came to fishing with him was up in Corbett Lake because he used to go up and fish with Peter McVey up at the lake, you know. He'd go up there to help Peter put the fish in the lake, and that kind of stuff. So, Harry would be there and I'd be there, and often we had dinner together. So yes, I know him really well. Because

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16

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again he was on the Thompson a lot too. He probably fished British Columbia more than most dedicated BC anglers fished British Columbia, as he was up there a lot, did a lot. And again, a real prominent fly fisher in his own right, though. A really good fly tier, great angler, great gentleman, Harry.

PP: Actually, this is kind of a silly question almost, but I know so many Americans who go up and fish in Canada. Do you feel like a lot of Canadians come down and fish in the US, for steelhead let's say?

AL: No, not too many. You know, I've been down here and I've fished with Frank Amato and did Deschutes and the John Day, and Frank's got his little place on the Nasalle River down there on the Lower Columbia, that area there. But some guys come fishing to the Skagit and stuff like that. You know, we've got that wild steelhead policy in British Columbia. We've only got very few places where there's hatchery fish, and, you know, I'm a wild fish guy. Nature's fish over something man has produced a lot, and we're lucky that way. If you want to travel, you know, we have really, really good fishing there.

TB: Have you done any what they call destination fishing?

AL: Like going to Christmas Island for bonefishing? The only times I've been to areas that were faraway is Newfoundland, that's to fish Atlantic salmon.

TB: Okay.

AL: So, it's interesting. But again, I have better fishing in British Columbia than I find there.

TB: So you never went to Nova Scotia then?

AL: No, no. I toured Nova Scotia, looked at the Margaree River and stuff like that, but Nova Scotia's, it doesn't – that acid rain really affected the Atlantic salmon runs, and it's, again, another one of these places where you can go and if you buy a fishing licenses you can fish, where the rest of the Atlantic Canadian Provinces you can't, you have to have a guide, okay. So, the Margaree is really crowded. Any good fishing place on the Margaree has a bench on the pools, where you sit and you wait your turn.

TB: Oh, wow.

AL: That's not my kind of fishing, okay.

TB: Okay.

AL: Whereas Newfoundland is – well, there's a lot of remote fishing there, but, again, you have to have a guide, okay. You can't-- it's not expensive to fish. A good guide's only \$150 a day, probably, for two guys sharing, which isn't a heck of a lot. But compared to here on the west coast, you know, doing that thing with Kenzie Cuthbert on drift fishing on the Cowichan River, its \$560 a day for the two of us, okay. But you know, we have accommodation, in his little lodge there, but you know, you're getting up there in \$\$\$\$. But you know, Dean River and those highly sought after river fisheries on the Skeena, they're a \$1000 a day for fishing, you know.

PP: I never fished the Dean River, never even been near it. Is it the type of thing that a guy can go to in a pick-up and a camper and fish?

AL: No.

PP: It's all guide.

AL: No, no. Again, it's remote. You know, we used to fly in when we were working, okay. We'd fly into Bella Coola, and then we'd take the helicopter in. But it's a half hour helicopter ride out of Bella Coola, you know. So you can drive to Bella Coola, but you can't drive to the Dean River.

PP: And then they just drop you somewhere?

AL: Well, we have a – the Totems have had a camp, what we call 4 ½ mile, since 1976.

PP: Okay.

AL: That's how long we've been going there. I started it in 1983 that was my first year. But BC residence and Canadians, there's no restrictions on them, but its limited access water, and it's a draw fishery for all non-Canadians, okay. You got to apply to go, and you're only allowed eight days if you get in the draw, yes. And it's to keep the pressure down. There's a maximum of 50-52 anglers per day, I think, allowed on that river, and 24 of them are guided anglers so that leaves, about 28 spots for non-guided fly fishers.

PP: To your mind, does the fishery maintain?

AL: Again, most steelhead runs are very dependent upon ocean conditions. Habitat in the Dean is still good, okay. The fish get back, they do their spawning, and usually there's enough fry and parr and smolts to get out, but we've had really bad ocean conditions on some years, you know. Back in the early 1980s and the 1990s, if you told me I'd go to the Dean River ever and I would not catch a fish, I could tell you were nuts. Because, you know, I was used to it back in those early trips of having multiple fish in a day. Well, there was one year, I can't remember which one it is there, it's in the journal, that I was zero for zero, for ten days of fishing. Yes, that's how bad the fishing was. And you're there, there's nothing you can do, because the Totems put the camp in, and I'm usually there in that first group that put the camp in, but you've got to wait for ten days for the next group to come. Because they're going to use the camp, okay, and you go out. And you can't call the helicopter in to get out early because those guys aren't there. Helicopters cost \$1900 an hour, I guess, okay. But it's a neat thing to do, okay. It's still the highlight of the year for me.

TB: Well, this was awesome.

PP: Yes, I feel honored.

TB: Yes, yes.

AL: Well good. Glad to do it and be a part of your special collections here at the university.

DB: Do you recognize the pictures of—

AL: Yes, the Ralph Wahl stuff.

DB: Ralph Wahl's *Come Wade the River*?

AL: Yes, yes. I got his book here, his limited edition of – I've got both his books there.

DB: A northwest fly fisher that was winding up his career at home.

AL: Al Knudson?

DB: When you were just starting, these are some of his – he tied these for me one time, about 1979.

AL: Yes, that's good. Yeah, I recognize his Spider fly there. I can't remember whose book it was in. Was it Trey Comb's book?

DB: As you came in, did you see the big mounted steelhead, or did you have a chance?

AL: No, I didn't notice it.

DB: It was a Skagit, one of the biggest ever caught in the Skagit.

AL: Oh right, yes, 28 pounds, wasn't it?

DB: A few ounces under 20 pound (Note: 19 pounds, 10 ounces).

AL: Oh, okay.

DB: This was Russ Willis. Ralph Wahl caught one over 20 pounds.

AL: Yes, yes.

DB: But this was the Skagit Chief, not the fly, but a copy of the fly they used to catch that—
And you mentioned you like saltwater fly fishing.

AL: Oh yes, right, oh yes. I got his book, okay. Yes, yes. (Note: referring to Bruce Ferguson's, *Fly fishing for Pacific Salmon*).

DB: My friend Bruce tied these up years ago. That's just kind of show-n-tell from some of the things I have around.

AL: Yes, yes.

TB: Alright. Well, I'll shut the tape off, then. Thank you.

AL: Yes, okay.

PP: Thanks again.