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This interview was conducted with Walt Walkinshaw on December 3, 2007 at his home in Seattle, Washington. The interviewers are Tamara Belts and Danny Beatty.

TB: Today is Monday, December 3rd, 2007 and I (Tamara Belts) am here with Walt Walkinshaw and Danny Beatty. Mr. Walkinshaw did just sign the Informed Consent Agreement and we're going to proceed with an oral history. Danny will be asking the questions.

DB: Okay, you joined the Washington Fly Fishing Club about 1957, is that right? Do you remember that?

WW: Yes, that would be about right.

DB: And Letcher Lambuth was your sponsor?

WW: That's right.

DB: Okay and so prior to that time, could you give us a little lead-up into your fly-fishing experiences and so forth: where you fished, and were you always from Seattle, and that sort of thing?

WW: Well, I'm a native of Seattle, I was born here, [and] I went to the University of Washington. I graduated from the university as a major in pre-law or political science, and this was in 1939, I guess.

DB: Now was your family involved in fly fishing? Were you involved in fly fishing at that time, in the Thirties and the early Forties?

WW: No, my first fishing was at Lake Riley up in Snohomish County. A client of my father's, who was a lawyer, had homesteaded on Lake Riley. They took me up there to fish one time, and I remember I started off fishing with a salmon egg and a worm, and this was way, way, way back. Then I graduated from that into tying some of my own flies and became converted to catching fish with flies that I tied myself.

DB: Was this about the time you were going to college?

WW: That's right, yes.

DB: Just for curiosity, did you know George McLeod at the University of Washington?

WW: Just by name, I didn't know him personally.

DB: Because he went to the University of Washington about the same time you did.

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WW: Yes.

DB: He was a student there in the late Thirties, early Forties and so forth. That was about the start of WWII, were you involved with that in any way?

WW: I was in the Naval ROTC, and so I graduated from the university with an Ensigns Commission in the Naval Reserve and I went on active duty. I was, at that time, after I had graduated from the university, I went east to Washington D.C. where I was an intern in the government under a Rockefeller Foundation sponsored program. I had a government job, and I was a dollar-a-year man. I was alone back there, and I was working during the day and going to night law school. This was back in the fall of 1939.

DB: After you finished that program, then were you pulled into the military?

WW: I was already an Ensign in the Naval Reserve, and I took on active duty the last reserve battalion in Washington D.C. and we went down to Watergate, and I remember very vividly, all we were doing was going for the night down to Norfolk for boot training of the last reserve battalion of natives of Washington.

DB: So when this all ended, in the mid to late Forties, did you return to Seattle?

WW: No, they had me at Virginia Beach, and at that time I was going to night law school at George Washington University, and I was working in the government during the day and I would go direct from one to the other, and being a bachelor, why then I would have supper and go out on a date, and it was a very strenuous routine. But I got a regular job in the government and I was working in the office of Lowell Mellette, who at that time was a special friend of F.D.R. and I was working in the executive office of the president. It was more important than it sounded.

DB: When did you come back to Seattle?

WW: I didn't come back to Seattle until, I took the last reserve battalion in Washington D.C. down to Watergate, and all that was happening was fortunately there was an old-time quarter master who took charge and I was standing around as sort of as the senior officer but never-the-less absolutely helpless and they sent me to Virginia Beach where I spent the time just reporting in every day, and they would not allow me to come back to Washington D.C. in order to take my exams for my first year of law school. And so in 1945, after I got out of the military, at that time I had to cram and take a course, a cram-course, and I finally passed the Washington D.C. bar.

DB: So you had your law degree about 1945, is that right?

WW: That's right.

DB: And how long after that did you get back to Seattle?

WW: Oh I didn't come back to Seattle until 1950.

DB: And then at that point did you take up fly fishing again in this area?

WW: Yes.

DB: Okay, so moving ahead through the Fifties, how did you come to meet Letcher Lambuth?

WW: He was a friend of my father's and he took me fishing on the Yakima River, he was losing his eyesight. He introduced me to fishing with a fly on the Yakima, before the Yakima was "discovered" as a blue-ribbon stream. I remember his wife would drive us over to a point on the lower river and we would fish all day and I would explain to him where to cast his fly.

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DB: So your father was a good friend of his and through your father, you became a good friend of Letcher's.

WW: That's right, yes.

DB: And so did you fish with his special rods?

WW: I have one of his rods.

DB: You do? You have a spiral rod?

WW: I did have one, yes. And I have a number of fishing-related boxes and other things that Letcher made...

DB: Other things that he hand-crafted...

WW: ...and gave to me.

DB: So did you spend time in his shop or basement or wherever; where did he actually make these things? Was it in his home?

WW: He made these things in his home, and I was a beneficiary of a lot of them. And I still have some of them.

DB: Okay, good.

WW: He was a great mentor. We fly fished in the Yakima before it was "discovered" and we would fish through the day and we would meet his wife who had driven us over and dropped us off. We would fish upstream to where she was waiting for us and we would have a bourbon martini that he used to make and then we would drop down on the river again and fish up the stream, and his wife picked us up in the evening. We would spend the weekend over there.

DB: And during this time you were setting up your law practice in Seattle?

WW: That's right, yes.

DB: And did you go in to an established firm or did you start your own?

WW: I started my own. I shared offices, my father was an attorney and he officed with an old-time attorney in the city named Lou Steadman. They found a space available for me and I made use of their library and I paid a certain amount a month for their library. I had offices right next door and so I was fed some odds and ends of business by my father and by Steadman.

DB: So eventually, Letcher Lambuth introduced you to the Washington Fly Fishing Club, which had been in existence...

WW: Well, he introduced me to Enos Bradner.

DB: Enos Bradner, okay.

WW: At that time Bradner had a book shop, as I remember it was on East John, and he took me in there and introduced me to Bradner. Bradner had a stuffed fish up on his wall, and I remember that so well. And at that time, Dawn Holbrook was tying flies in the back part of a barber shop on, I think it was on Broadway.

DB: And Dawn was selling flies, and selling fly-tying materials all over the area?

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WW: That's right, yes.

DB: And so you knew both of those men at that time who were already established in the Washington Fly Fishing Club.

WW: Well, and then Bradner and I fished together a number of times and I remember vividly we'd read about shad fishing down in the southwest, and we decided to try it. I never forget that we were trolling back and forth in the Wynoochee Slough, I think it was, and we were trolling back and forth and all of a sudden I heard this great clatter and crashing and excitement and Bradner thought he had a fish on, and he'd just hooked my line. I gave him a great deal of excitement and he was so mad that he wouldn't speak to me until the next day.

DB: Oh gosh, that's good. So after you joined the Washington Fly Fishing Club, how did you get involved with that organization in terms of were you an officer, or worked with committees or outings or anything you'd like to tell us about that time?

WW: Well, I was unmarried at the time and I went to all of their social gatherings and I went to their family meetings, they would have family meetings, and entire families would turn out, and it was a much more... It was meeting in the Arctic Club at the time that I was being proposed, and I remember they asked me to leave the room while they voted on me, and then they forgot about me and I waited and waited and waited outside and finally in frustration, I protested and somebody came out and rescued me.

DB: I understand that sometime along the way with the club, there was another protest that you got involved with when the club had a Christmas party and the food, some of you got food poisoning, and you took them to court or something? Do you want to tell that story?

WW: I just don't remember about that.

DB: Okay, well, I understand that you were at the Swedish Club and the food was tainted in some way and people got sick from it. Okay, I understand that over the years you liked to fish the small streams along the west side of the Cascade Mountains.

WW: I used to, I loved fishing the small streams without a trail up above high where there were native cutthroat and it was entirely exploration.

DB: And so did you get up to the Bellingham area to do that? Up in Whatcom County?

WW: No it was pretty much east of here in the Duvall area.

DB: Oh that way, including Snohomish County.

WW: That's right, in Snohomish County.

DB: You don't have any stories about up east of Bellingham, up in the Nooksack Drainage?

WW: No. My experience with that has been through my oldest son who now has a home and an office he's built at the base of Sumas Mountain.

DB: Oh, okay. So you do know the country up there?

WW: Oh yes, yes. But it's post-war that I've learned about that country.

DB: How about the North Fork of the Stillaguamish, did you fish that with any of your friends from the Washington Fly Fishing Club?

WW: Well, I was not a steelhead fisherman, but I knew all of the old-timers who ultimately succeeded in naming the North Fork of the Stillaguamish a protected stream and I have a bunch of the memorabilia, flies tied by people who were the founders of the fly club and stuff of that sort.

DB: You mentioned fishing with Enos Bradner, and I know back in those days he liked to fish the Skagit River up above Sedro Woolley, up between Sedro Woolley and Concrete and on up there.

WW: Yes; I was not a steelhead fisherman.

DB: You just never got into that.

WW: I never got into that.

DB: How about streams like the little Pilchuck Creek that drains out of Cavanaugh Lake, it used to have the cutthroat, did you ever go up in there?

WW: I fished it in the early days and caught some small steelhead. I thought they were very large rainbow. I caught them on the fly. And up the Wallace River.

DB: Yes, and how about like, is there a Canyon Creek off the South Fork of the Stillaguamish up by Granite Falls?

WW: Yes, I fished that.

DB: And it was areas where you could go to the end of the logging road and then have to hike on in.

WW: That's right. As an undergraduate in high school, I went to Lakeside School; I was in the first graduating class to go entirely through the new location to the North of the city. My mentor in that school was Fred Bleakney, he could catch fish anywhere, and with a fly and he introduced me to...

Interruption

DB: Up in the Snohomish County, East Snohomish County area, I understand that somehow you got involved with a bootlegger, or a fellow that ran a still up there.

WW: My wife did a show on the people in Darrington; they were a very closely knit group of individuals from pretty much a small town in the Appalachians. As a result of that why, we got to know, very well, a great big, heavy built guy. He had a falling out with some of his so-called friends in Darrington, and he said maybe one day he'd need me to help him. I got a call one night, it was in the early morning, and it was to say that he needed help. Apparently he had been turned in by a competitor of his. He had bought some distilling equipment, used equipment, from Swedish Hospital, and he was making moonshine in the back woods. Somebody had turned him in and he was arrested in a raid by the State authorities. He wanted help and I referred him to a former prosecuting attorney in Snohomish County to defend him. I think he was very successful in that. But he was complaining about the inadequate quality of the roast pigs that he would roast, he had outdoor roasting equipment, and he would roast a pig and he was complaining that the pigs would never taste the same because he couldn't feed them the sour mash that was left over from his bootlegging. At the same time, he was being consulted by the Washington State Liquor Board, they were using him as an example for the quality of the moonshine that they were selling in the State liquor stores, and they relied on his recommendation as to what would be the best brand to buy.

DB: You didn't get involved in the trial or any part of that?

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WW: No, no.

DB: You just knew all of the side-lights of the story.

WW: That's right, yes.

DB: Okay, do you want to tell us the story about the time you were fishing up [there] [at] Rattlesnake Creek and I guess you fell or you did something and hurt yourself and you kept right on fishing?

WW: Well, actually I was fishing up in northeastern Oregon on one of the rivers there, and I crossed the river and stood on a high place where I could take a look at the river. The log rolled underneath me and I fell down and I got a very severe wound in my leg, a puncture in my leg, and I bandaged that up. But we fished the next day and then we back packed back out five miles up a hill, and I went into the emergency room at the hospital.

DB: A day later or so!

WW: Well, once we got back up out of the valley. I insisted upon carrying all of my pack back up out of there, I was too cheap to leave everything down there, and it was a long hike back.

DB: Five miles you said or so?

WW: It was five miles, yes.

DB: So that makes me wonder then, over the years, the Washington Fly Fishing Club had outings, annual outings into the high lakes into the mountains. We're going to interview Fran Wood this afternoon and he was the leader of many of those, did you go on those?

WW: I didn't go on any of the trips. He and I fished together a lot, and we fished some of the lakes in Eastern Washington and some of the smaller streams on this side of the mountains. I remember fishing once with his father, we took his father, who I think was the dean of the medical school I think it was in Rochester.

DB: One of the members of the Washington Fly Club, I remember was Al Pratt, were you ever the recipient of any of his Goofus Awards, or anything?

WW: I was a recipient, and I still have it [down in my basement], a recipient of [one] his Goofus awards. I had been fishing the Yakima with Fran Wood. He claimed that he had a great deal of experience (and you can ask him about this), he claimed that he had a great deal of experience fishing in the Maine woods and poling the rivers up in the northeast. So I was in the bow of his canoe and we were poling down the river and all of a sudden I noticed that I was up high and I looked behind me and here Fran Wood was with the river around his neck. The canoe had sunk in the process while he was holding the canoe to ease the river ahead. I think that the current caught the canoe sideways and swung it over, and I looked back, and here Fran was sitting in the middle of the river with water up around his neck. And I jumped out into the middle of the river immediately to hold the canoe while we resurrected him.

End of Side One

DB: Okay, I remember the parties when your fly club was over at the officer's club on Sand Point, the old Navy base there, and I always remember Al Pratt's getting up with the Goofus Awards, he always got a chuckle from everybody. Did you know Ed Foss very well?

WW: Yes.

DB: You know Ed was the one who came up and really got our club in Anacortes started. I always think of Ed as my mentor in terms of the organization.

WW: Well, I knew Ed very well. He was married to a Mormon, and what broke up that marriage was his wife insisting that the church had priority for him, who was not a Mormon, and they had had a falling out because of that. But I represented him in his divorce and I remember so vividly the conflict I had because the lawyer here in town who was his wife's attorney, turned out to be, himself, a member of the Mormon Church, and to be an official in the church, so I had to deal with [that].

DB: When I knew Ed, he was with Millie.

WW: Yes.

DB: I didn't know that. And Errol Champion, do you remember Errol?

WW: Oh, very well, yes.

DB: He was the other one that came to Anacortes and helped. That was in 1974-75, over thirty years ago now. That's how I got started in this whole thing with fly clubs and so forth.

WW: And Western [Washington] University has become a collector of various categories of books.

DB: Yes, I keep in-touch with Chuck Ballard, and he was the president of your club about twenty years ago.

WW: That's right, yes.

DB: And I keep in-touch with him and he has told me that much of the Washington Fly Fishing Club memorabilia will eventually be going to Western.

WW: That's right.

DB: There used to be Wednesday luncheons at the Camlin Hotel, years ago, did you attend those ever?

WW: I did yes. And prior to that the luncheons were down on East John, I forget there's a restaurant down on East John, and those ended up by being very much a discussion of hunting, and I just wasn't interested in hunting, so I stopped attending those.

DB: The fellows that met at the Camlin Hotel, they were fly fishers.

WW: That's right, yes.

DB: And their visiting was about where they had been fly fishing and that sort of thing.

WW: That's right.

DB: Gordy Young, another friend of mine, he really enjoyed those Wednesday luncheons.

WW: Well, Gordy was so deeply involved with the Federation. He was always pushing the Federation.

DB: Yes, I know he felt very bad when they changed the regulations and the gender-club situation, that it became kind of an issue of the law. I was very involved in that.

WW: I was too.

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DB: Were you? Oh, you were the one then that worked with the club here to decide which way to go.

WW: That's right.

DB: And I know it was a tough vote for you to decide.

WW: Well, at that time, the thing was there were a multiplicity of other clubs. There was a husband/wife club, an all-women's club, and since the other opportunities existed, I didn't see any reason why the club should change. The dynamics of a bunch of guys getting together is very different from the dynamics of a mixed-gender club.

DB: Well, you mentioned a bit ago about Dawn Holbrook, and it was my understanding that somewhere along the way he decided he wanted his family involved, so they formed a new club.

WW: I think that was true.

DB: He and some others formed a family club, and so he could belong to the Washington Fly Fishing Club and the other club.

WW: That's right.

DB: So there were options, and that issue of gender, whether you could belong to the Federation or not, is still an issue, I can assure you, it comes up every so often.

WW: Well, the interesting thing in that was, as I understand it, was that the women were even more adamant than the men; they didn't want any men in their club.

DB: Yes. Did you know Dan Callaghan from Salem, Oregon?

WW: No, no.

DB: He was an attorney for the Federation and lived in Salem.

WW: No. I was a fishing buddy of John Callahan.

DB: Oh, yes, here in Seattle.

WW: Here in Seattle. He and I used to fish together a lot.

DB: I haven't seen John for a long time, I used to see him every once in a while. He was very active in the Federation too, at the state level.

WW: Yes.

DB: Yes, I haven't seen him for some time. Did you ever get involved with the outings they called "The Wet Buns"? Wasn't it Dick Sterns who organized that sort of outing?

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WW: I went to some of those.

DB: Down at Penrose Park?

WW: That's right, yes.

DB: Al Pratt loved that sort of thing. I keep going back to him, he had so many stories, he just went on and on into the night of all his stories.

WW: Al and I used to fish together, and we fished the tributaries of the Snohomish, the Wallace River, and some of the streams and some of the beaver ponds in the Duvall area.

DB: Did you attend any of the outings when your club would come up to Pass Lake every opening day?

WW: Oh yes. And I took my daughter on one of those, and I think she caught her first trout on one of those outings and Enos put her picture in the newspaper.

DB: Oh, okay. You always had your steak fry down at the Bowman Bay camp at the park down there.

WW: That's right. Yes.

DB: Were you ever involved in that part of the club's outings, actually preparing any of the food?

WW: No, but I attended their get-togethers.

DB: I'm trying to think of the man's name that was so well known for the Bouillabaisse he made a big [batch] at that outing.

WW: Was it Boyd Aigner?

DB: No, that doesn't sound quite right, but yes, I knew Boyd, I remember Boyd. He was another that always attended the Federation conclave and was a master fly tier.

WW: Yes.

I remember fishing once over in a lake in Eastern Washington and how the people in this boat kept avoiding me and not recognizing me and it turned out that it was Enos and Ralph Wahl from Bellingham, they used to fish together. And they were being very protective of this hot spot they had found, which was very good fishing for eastern brook and big rainbows in Eastern Washington, and they kept avoiding me.

DB: I've heard those kinds of stories from others. I've even heard that Ralph Wahl would be on the river and if someone came up to him he'd grab the fly and hold it in his hand so they couldn't see what he was using.

WW: And you probably are familiar with his book, *Come wade the river*, which is beautiful, he was a beautiful photographer. I remember he gave me a bunch of leads, I took a lot of pictures, and he gave me leads on what camera he had and what techniques he used.

DB: Yes, I talked to Ralph about some of that, he said he took many, many of his pictures with just a fairly simple 35 mm camera.

WW: That's right, yes.

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DB: And it was his presentation that was important to him.

WW: Have you ever run into Jack De Young?

DB: Oh, De Young, yes.

WW: Who has a place up on the Skagit.

DB: Yes.

WW: Well, he and I are great friends and actually, the best legal secretary I ever had was the woman who later became his wife.

DB: Yes, Jack has always been involved in writing articles, conservation kinds of things, and...

WW: I think he was a conservation advisor to Mike Lowery, [Governor Lowery].

DB: Let's see, okay, some other of your fishing experiences, do you remember going into the upper Elwha River?

WW: Oh very well.

DB: And this was above both dams?

WW: That was above both dams. I remember fishing the Elwha with some of my friends and also with my son, my younger son, and I remember we fished way up into the headwaters, and we came back down because it was raining and it was a very temperamental stream. It would rise and fall and discolor very quickly, and we backpacked down to the lower river, to get away from the milky quality of the stream, and we ended up by backpacking out the entire 23 miles in one day.

DB: Oh wow. So you went up to the very headwaters of the river?

WW: That's right, yes. We had just superb rainbow fishing up in the headwaters.

DB: Now when you say superb fishing in that area...

WW: Big fish.

DB: ...you were talking about 16 inch fish I imagine.

WW: Oh 16 to 18 inch fish.

DB: Yes, okay. That's why I asked you if you had ever fished up in Whatcom County years and years ago, because there were some good places to fish for...

WW: I've been introduced to them by my son who's living up there now but that was another era.

DB: The good places are no longer there, they're closed waters, like the south fork of the Nooksack and some of those were wonderful 30 years ago, 40 years ago, it's all closed waters now.

WW: Or else they are recession waters.

DB: Were there any other outings that you enjoyed with the Washington Fly Fishing Club, like over at Dry Falls Lake? Did you usually attend those?

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WW: I used to go regularly to those, and I took my kids over there, fishing with me. I remember, in the early days, at Dry Falls, we wouldn't get beyond 100 yards from where we launched our boats before we had a three-pound fish on.

DB: Wow. How about Chopaka? Did you like that outing?

WW: I used to go to that, there was a point of land on which we could [camp?] [and] I'd take my wife. At an auction for one of the charitable organizations in town, I gave a trip to Chopaka as a auction item and it turned out the auction item was won by [a] man's wife and he was dragged along kicking and he did not have a good time at all.

DB: Oh dear.

WW: And I decided I would never again offer a fishing trip.

DB: Okay. One of the people involved in our group at Western is Steve Raymond. Do you have any stories or any comments you'd like to make about Steve and his illustrious life with writing?

WW: No, but I know of all his books and I've always been a great admirer of his books, but I have never fished with Steve.

DB: Okay. I've pretty much run out of things that I have information about. You knew the people though of the Northwest, we already mentioned Lambuth, and Enos Bradner, and you knew Walt Johnson, I'm sure.

WW: Yes, very well.

DB: These were all people you knew pretty well.

WW: I used to go up and fish with Walt on the Stillaguamish.

DB: Wes Drain, does that name ring a bell?

WW: Oh yes, I have some of his flies.

DB: You do?

WW: That I was going to turn over to the Western [Washington University] collection.

DB: Now where did he live, he was from the Seattle area wasn't he?

WW: I think so, yes.

DB: But there was another fellow that was also well-known in the steelhead part was Syd Glasso.

WW: I knew of him by name, but I never knew him personally.

DB: I wondered if he was a member of your club here.

WW: I think so.

DB: But he lived way out in Forks or somewhere, it was quite a drive.

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WW: That's right.

DB: He probably didn't get to your meetings very often.

WW: No.

DB: Okay. Do you have any other stories you can think of about Bradner or Lambuth or those that you'd like to relate?

WW: Well, as Lambuth lost his eyesight, I would go with him to some private lakes, to which he had access, and we'd be in the boat together, and I'd tell him where to cast.

DB: Isn't that something, alright. I have a name here that I wondered if you knew: Worthington? Does that name, Richard Worthington, Dick Worthington, ring a bell?

WW: No.

DB: This is an old Patrick's fly pattern book.

WW: I have a copy of that.

DB: Yes, this is from back in the early Sixties.

WW: Yes.

DB: I'm sure you knew Roy Patrick too, of course.

WW: Yes.

DB: Who taught you how to tie flies? Were you self-taught?

WW: I taught myself.

DB: Were you involved with any lessons?

WW: Well, when I was quite young, my father and I and a group of other people, we took Winthrop's, *The canoe and the saddle* and we re-traced the wagon trail up the Green Water River and tried to locate [their] campsites and we would sit around the fire and read from the account of [their journey]. In this group was the man who led the fight for Mount Rainier to be named Mount Tacoma, and he was a prominent Tacoma photographer (? A. H. Barnes?). We took Winthrop's book who followed the trail blazers across the mountains, and we sat around the campfire each night trying to read the account of Winthrop, of the trail blazers, and among others, we came to an account where it was referred to [as] the "jumping off" place, where they came to a precipitous and they had to kill a couple of their oxen and cut their hides into strips and lower the wagons down over the precipitous, and that was referred to the "jumping off" place. We located that and we found some old broken wagon wheels down there.

DB: Could you give us an approximate date what year that might have been?

WW: It was probably in the 1930s.

DB: Thirties, okay. You were a young teenager?

WW: That's right, yes.

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DB: We're trying to just get a reference to a time frame. I've heard different stories about how people that are self-taught fly tiers, how they learn to do it, I've heard some, they buy a fly and take it apart and work backwards to see how it went forwards, I was wondering how you...

WW: Mine was not that sophisticated. A group of us retraced the old wagon trail over the Naches Pass and we came down to the Naches River, it was called the Little Naches and right across the river, it was a wade-able small stream, right across the river was a beautiful meadow where we camped and we went back over a number of years and it was there that I tied my first dry fly.

DB: Okay, and did it catch a fish?

WW: It did.

DB: Alright, that's the main thing. Okay, do you have anything that you'd like to add?

TB: That we haven't asked yet?

DB: Do you want to say anything about what your plans are; I understand you're going to give the university some of your memorabilia.

WW: I've had quite a collection of nature writing books, and I turned those over to Western, and I have a collection of maybe almost 500 fishing books and I'm turning that over to Western. I'm trying to get it clarified, some of the details on how I do this.

DB: Okay. I'm going to tell you a story, you knew Letcher Lambuth really well.

WW: Yes.

DB: He was a good friend of yours, and you went fishing with him, and you own one of his spiral rods. I don't think I ever him; I read *Backcasts* and tried to get a feel for when I would have visited your club occasionally, [that] he might have been there, but I never met him. But I knew about his rods, I knew about the spiral rods and I knew he only built a few. Up in Anacortes, quite a few years ago now, I got a blind call from a woman that lived out in the Skyline area, I don't know if you know Anacortes, but, anyway, she called me up and she said, "I understand you know some things about fishing, I'm going to have a garage sale, and I'd like you to come out to my house and give me some idea of what my rods are worth." So I said, "Okay, I'll [come] out." She had quite a nice display, of quite nice rods. She had a Hardy, and some other American-made rods from the 1940s, but amongst all this, I saw this strange looking rod that spiraled, and I looked at it a little closer, and it was a Lambuth rod and it had been hanging in a garage for years and years and years. Her husband had died, and she was getting rid of all his stuff. I was pretty sure it was a Lambuth rod, so I told her, "Don't put that in the garage sale, just hang on to it. That stuff isn't 5, 10 dollar rods that you put in a garage sale!" So I got to know her, we communicated a bit, and so she trusted me. I took all those rods down to Dawn Holbrook, and we went through them, and he kind of gave an indication of their value, and of course he recognized the Lambuth rod. So anyway, I talked her out of it and the Washington Fly Club got involved and we sent it down to Powell's in Northern California, Powell Rod Company, and they restored it and now it's in the Federation Discovery Center. I understand that money to do that sort of thing, to restore and keep some of this old stuff, was paid for through the Washington Fly Fishing Club; you have a separate...

WW: We have a foundation.

DB: ... and I understand you were the one that set that up.

WW: That's right, yes.

DB: Do you want to give us a little insight on that?

Walter Walkinshaw – December 3, 2007
Fly Fishing Collection

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WW: Well, I felt that there was the need for a tax exempt organization to which contributions could be made and to which a charitable deduction could be made by the individual who gave the material, this is books and rods, or bequests, what have you, and so I set that up and I was the first president of the organization. It's been passed on; I think Don Simonson is the current president.

DB: I know Don, he's very involved with the casting business, and he's one of the founders of that whole business.

WW: That's right, yes.

DB: Ever fish with him?

WW: I don't think I've ever fished with him, but I've back stopped him on a lot of the battles he's fought.

DB: Okay. Okay um, how do you think Tamara?

TB: It's good.

DB: Think that's a go on it?

TB: If that's good, we're at the end of a tape, if it's not good, I'm ready to pop in a new tape. I'm happy with what we've heard.

DB: You feel comfortable with what we've done Walt?

WW: Oh yes.

DB: Okay, good, that's the main thing.

TB: Okay, we're good.