

## faust-john-2018-08-07.mp4

[00:00:10] Well I started fishing because of the fact we need to something to. My folks my debt dad was big game backer and so we weren't overly rich. And so it did boil down to most of the time we we aided or fish or meat. Once in a while we did something different but in them days a lot of people didn't have a lot of money. There was only a few people in town that had it and the rest of the people they lived off of mostly wild game and fish and that tie got deficient.

[00:00:51] And of course like fish quit worms because everybody fish with worms in. And then I had some relatives come from Walla Walla Washington and him. It was my great uncle and his son and. I. They said one day to me they said why don't we go fishing. And I said finding my son I'll dig some worms and they said well we don't use worms show. Well how do you catch fish without worms. And they said well we use flies. And I thought that was quite amusing you know because I wasn't sure what they even meant about flies. And so I went fishing with them and I seen him catch fish on flies. And from that time on. I never dug another worm.

[00:01:45] And the Roosters that were around the farm didn't have any hair on it or any feathers on their nests because I trim them off to make flies. And I thought at the time it was one of the most wonderful things I'd ever seen as a fish come up and eat something that was a natural thing. That's how I got started in it.

[00:02:08] Then.

[00:02:10] And was that here around Hamilton.

[00:02:13] No that was in Stephenville ville where I was born. And. I thought it was quite a deal. I thought it was the greatest thing I'd ever seen that people could catch fish on anything else but worms. And so they kind of helped me. Time flies and then down in Missoula there was a guy named Jack Bull me that worked at that time flies in a turf bar. This was a long time ago and I used to sit in there and watch him and he was like a lot of the other older guys at the time he would stop and help you you know or show you something. And. Then.

[00:03:00] I started tying a little bit better flies and a little bit better. And when I was nine years old I started time flies for Bob Ward's. I started time whitefish fly for him. I tied him and showed him for a dollar and twenty cents a day. But you have to remember that feathers cost Gardner nothing because they come from India and a box of hooks with 53 cents. Always remember that every time I buy a box or hook it down I think Boy if I'd just bought a few thousand boxes at that price I had made a lot of money. But I've always enjoyed.

[00:03:46] Well after I started in the guide business. It was not the money because I just I thought it was a great way to make money do something that you actually love to do. And even if I it wasn't the one doing efficient I. I really like to see a fish car and always it doesn't make a difference to call it.

[00:04:12] You know I've got plenty of fish I I've I fished Alaska all the way to Mexico and I I just like to see somebody the enjoyment they get out of catching a fish.

[00:04:26] You know the quality of a day's fishing isn't always the quality of the quantity of the fish that you caught. I spent some wonderful days that very few fish were caught and I always remember one this this lady is sitting in the front her husband was of great fly fisherman or a good fisherman and he was trying to get her into it and her casting wasn't very well and she didn't know how to man.

[00:04:58] And I spent probably a third of the day stop on the boat and teaching her how to man. And for somebody a dad who just started she got off would be end and slack amendment and towards the end of the day she showed this perfect calf. I mean I couldn't have thrown it any better and it went down and she got a really nice fish and that made my whole day. Now I know what made her and I know what made her husband day because he thought boy she will probably like this so you can get a lot of enjoyment out of it. You know seeing somebody learn something and and maybe they're not gonna do it perfect but you know that they'll continue to work on it and. I after 30 years of guiding I think that a person that pays for a guy trip a person or pays for that trip when they get out of your boat they ought to be a little bit better fisherman than what they got in your boat or as a guide. You probably haven't done your full potential with that person. Maybe Destiny could teach you the way to look at it and I don't know the way I look at it.

[00:06:26] There's a lot of different between men and women learning to fish which is easier to teach women. And the reason for that is it's pretty shameful if you think about it everything a man does he does it with his strength. You know he does a lot of jobs or require a lot more strength. Women do things that have more panache you know and and they don't rely on natural drinking too much and you can't. It's really really hard to get a man to to slow down. It is time. And forget that drink. He thinks it the more the harder he works run. The further that lie is going to go in the first place you don't need to throw it that far in the second place is it's not gonna work. Well if you add a lavish drink to it the rod does the work. You can't speed the rod. You can speed the line but you can't speed round catch it. It's not why they make a lot of it. And different people like different rod but women. They're easier to teach on their timing their day. They're just generally easier and easier to teach.

[00:07:52] Yeah. When Howard West started 3M Company here started scientific gang years. He worked for 3M and started scientific hangars. We worked on the videos that Swisher made in which. They were called the Mass fisheries it takes and I got into building a fish that raised basically to show people the difference. The. Fish were taken the insect in a certain stage of the of the metamorphosis like if they were taken or mergers if they were taken dry flies and no difference in arise that you've seen him do so that that was originally done for the 3M company and then when Redford went to make. That was filmed by John Fabian which is one or Redford. He Hammond Redford worked a lot together. They made a lot of movies. Fabian did and.

[00:09:02] So when Fabian come to film that we done a lot of work on that. And then when we went when Redford decided to make River Run does he. He called Fabian to film that too. Only Fabian was working in Italy. So we got a photographer out of France to do that which he got the synergy Academy Award for cinematography a very nice man. Little hard to understand but a very nice man and a real easy person to work with. But that's how Redford got a hold of me as he talked to Fabian Fabian Dolan. If you want if you're going to make a movie on fishing then he should talk. Call me and talk to me and of course I was on a river and an.

[00:10:01] Elmer run the store. We run a store here for 14 years. And he called up and he said this is Robert Redford and. I thought somebody would try to play a joke on her. But anyway Redford got a hold of me and that's how I got involved in that. And it worked out pretty good.

[00:10:30] When I started 30 years ago Swisher ran. I worked for Swisher my son worked for Swisher and a guy by the name of Darryl Osborne and then Doug floated to show there was a few fishermen besides us that was working the river. And so there you it. You'd only see a couple of boats a day now the other day when me and Barrett was fishing up there we must we must have seen at least 20 boats and then probably another twelve to 15 wait fishermen up there. The pressure on the rivers increased tremendously and they've changed the rules a lot. In the old days we used to catch a third Rainbow's a third rounds and a third cut. Now you can kill the rainbows and the brown. But of course you can't kill them. Cut throat. It's a strict it's state fish. And so this would change it considerably. You don't catch as many big fish as you used to of course because most of your big fish really browns are rainbows.

[00:11:48] There used to be a lot of 20 plus fish. Now you know a good fish here a good fish here. Good average fish. Very you know a bigger fish. Yes. Probably 18 19 inches and a lot of adoption due to pressure. You know that's how I feel about I think a lot of it kept due to the pressure. When they came out with the movie we made. We worked on a movie in 91 and came up in 92. We were running a retail shop. We run that shop for 14 years. But. When that movie came out it jumped our business 40 percent okay. No business in the world can stand a 40 percent gain. At that time you couldn't order lines you couldn't order leaders all of you'd get us an invoice back with maybe a third of your order on. Everybody that was getting off in the Missoula airport had a brand new fly based on and applied to it. It was just like magic to business. But in the long run it created a lot of heavy pressure on efficient and.

[00:13:07] Rounds were a rigid plan to data Scotland out of the launch in Scotland and that's why they were content to call loft Lehmann if they were referred to as brown trout. The brown trout actually came from Germany about eight eight to 10 years later when they figured out that that the locks weren't worth go they they wouldn't adapt to living here. The last block made an icon.

[00:13:35] I was guiding the guy the president Phil dodge company and he caught the last lock leaving. Yeah I've seen and that was in 1986 so but Terry you can be a member of my Cuban friend Woody. The water was warmer.

[00:13:52] What about the health of the cutthroats. How are those looking and how is that changed over the years.

[00:13:59] You know most of the cut throat that we catch are in good shape. A lot of them have hooked Marciano because they're a little easier to fool than rainbows and browns. They they cut and they get cut more often and then Marine more brown. But now that they've got.

[00:14:25] I don't know why some of the regulations are made the way they are but they're they're making some of these regulations and they just keep adding more. You know now they've got the West Fork the West Fork. They've got regulations on air that makes absolutely no sense at all. But that's you know that's the way the world runs though. You know the fishing as far as the regulations is run by the minorities. Because they got some

time machine you know just sit there write all the letters knew all the scream and it basically boils down to the squeaky wheel gets the oil. It's the same thing as they've done or you know the timber industry. So. That's the way it's going to be I mean you're not going to change it.

[00:15:26] The biggest drama drama got down here on the river is I was 17 1/2 inches long. Now if you get up on the black the black Blackfoot have some big bowl trout and also below Westport Lake or painted rocks reservoir. There are some quite large bull traps that live right under the dam but in a stream in general you know 17 age group trumps pretty good time. Most summer you know eight to 10 inches and I don't know why that is. I guess I just don't like the habitat but I'm not black but there they catch him pretty good sizable.

[00:16:14] Well I think a lot of it's a same. You know if if you get up on the porch or shopping it's a really pretty river. We would have to compare it to something I fish in the month of October for 18 years. I fished with my clients on the Missouri. Well the Missouri issue is like a big big to really you know tear water. There are not any obstacles in it except the bridges where I'm standing there snags the trees. There's there virtually you can't cross. You know there's a little more excitement and there's a little more scenery and I think that's why a lot of people come here the same reason they go to the Blackfoot. There's some wonderful fishing on the part for it but it's more like the Missouri. But as far as your patient goes personal wonderful fishing near to. Well the difference is now in my day. You know when when you when. You had the older tires they would no matter what they were doing that they would drop what they were doing and they'd. You'd ask imply they did something. They had an answer for everything they did. And they'd stop and they'd help you. Yeah no you don't have that type of tire anymore.

[00:18:05] I did not say and there isn't any but there's very few of them like or poorly road with Berlin and stuff like that. Dan Bailey Dan Bailey showed me a hat. Well he had his people should show me a lot of things. We started a company and and flies in Red Lodge Montana sometime in the early 60s. And Dan would help Bush out with you know what we were using for material. I mean we knew how to tie flies the shit. We didn't know how to get Judge good material. And Dan spent a lot of time on the phone and a lot of time in his shop having his head tire red. Monaco was like I think her name was Helen. Help us you know with what kind of I I care and dear air to use and how to handle that hair. And there was an old guy down at anglers roost here. You just drove by the place. Come to my place and his name would change Snider. And Jean it always shop and he'd help you you know tie most of the old tires always kind of felt like it was approved reach out to help somebody out. And I don't think there's ever been a kid that came to my door or somebody father and said Will you help my son Ty. You know he's having trouble tying this or that or divided wings or or getting his tail on straight or keep any drives together. Something like that. I don't think there's ever been anybody to ask me that. I haven't taken the time to stop and help them but they're still a few people like that. Gary lawful obtained was like Dad. Charlie Brooks.

[00:20:01] Was like Dad. I. Can't think the guy's name now. Oh. Steps in my mind. I got his picture out there. Pop policy road bro. You know 80 times in 20 place tie shop tackle and the thing about Dad is like we done a lot of time at the International Women was still up in West Yellowstone. That was years ago and they invited a certain amount of tires and they always invited me. Now I was invited Polly.

[00:20:40] And the thing I remember most about him. He carried all his dubbing and added Eddie's bread wrappers in a shop so soft sided shoot case. That kind of unzipped on the

side and even Japan scuse me and there'd be all these at each trip and he'd go to draw your shirt and patter and he reach in there and grab it. And I never did figure out a filing system because everything was in Eddie bread wrappers. But here is another one here. Each stop and show you you know anything.

[00:21:24] Well I suppose the most amusing thing was when I was on to Missouri the month of October I'd have a day off once in a while. You know I wouldn't.

[00:21:35] Bishop Drake about I'd probably fished 22 days in the month of October there and the days I had off I would tell Gary and Gary come over and we'd fish out the one man boat which at that time the only one out there was totally float and Chester love love this boat. He right. He was a big German shepherd dog. He loved the boats and should get a ride in the back of the boat and he put his head right on Gary's shoulder so Gary could catch. He knew where we were supposed to be a lean his head right on Gary's shoulder and we'd go down a river fishing. Well one time we wonder fish and tide seem so we shocked our boat up above and walked down to the way fish. So we didn't cut it up and we walked down there and we fish for quite a little while. And when we started back Chester ran ahead of us. We didn't think much of that. We probably talking fliers or water or something about the fishing or something and all of a sudden I look up and we just pulled our boats up on the gravel just a little way. You know they weren't going anywhere. The wind wasn't blown or anything. And oh. Growing up and he jumped in the boat when he jumped in a boat and went out in the water. So pretty soon I mean Gary looked up here comes Cheshire. And I was quite a ways from my boat. Mike Boettcher. I ran as fast I could slam my fins on and started kicking down the river in this right. Right in. California island. And there's our inside sheet there and just as bad as soon as I got caught up to check to chapter he was making this corner. Well this guy was standing there cash and he made a cashed up to over you know like you would work. And he looked up there and he seen it down coming down on a one man boat. And I'll never forget the look on that guy's face like the world's come to an end. I should have quit drinking last night for nice I should and shouldn't even drink cos he said I'm seeing dogs on total both patient and. And we had a good laugh about that. And the guy we met we betting later in town and he said boy that's one of the funniest things I've ever seen back. He was havin fun.

[00:24:28] If you look at it I think there are several things that contribute to how this is gonna end up and what is all this noxious weed stuff you know for any other better word I'd have to say the do gooders they're worried about all the noxious weeds they're spray and all that they're spraying the Forest Service road to spray Navarro pitch and all this stuff eventually go cooler in the river. And I don't notice it much much with the fish as I do with the amount of bugs is on the bottom and our hatches in our hatcheries are getting less and less and less.

[00:25:13] And you know maybe the FDA says that's completely harmless. Well the FDA said DDT was perfectly harmless too. And you know I go back into place. You know a lot of people can't remember what happened during when they sprayed all the DDT. You know. That. It it pretty much took care of a lot of birds. A lot of you know a lot of skunks a lot of pork. You know it it took a long time for some of that stuff to come back and some of it never came back. You know you don't you don't see the amount of some things that you used to see. Like when I was a kid endeavors or a lot more small animals. And there was a lot more birds. So I don't I don't know how that's going to work out. And then we get the pressure. Everybody gets tired of living in a state where you know all I have is fly fires and floods and so all the backcountry around here filled up with houses a lot of those people that liked to fish there come up here and they fish that down there by hand boats. You're

seeing more boats that aren't guides. And this is this is the first year that we've never grounded anybody on the Bitterroot so far. Rashmi you know we've dumped a lot of boats and we've lost a lot of gear but we haven't grounded anybody which you know they've grounded people on the Missouri and they've drowned or people under Yellowstone even Rock Creek just there's a bit there's been a lot of people drowned this year and some of that is people that don't know what they're doing.

[00:27:12] And that's that's kind of a hazard in that. No no. Kind of a sport that there's a certain amount of danger in the fact that people don't realize the part of the forest at Water has you know. You know even on the Dearborn they drowned or somebody this year that wasn't a guide. I don't believe that was a guide. And people. People shouldn't read it and they'll say I've done it for a while. They shouldn't throw boats in Dearborn nor should they throw a patrol boat in this river. High water but there's people doing it. And of course there are allusions to boats and they're losing some gear. It's just lucky that you know everybody's major data. Those crashes which event probably in the neighborhood of at least 10 or 12 or somebody could've drowned you know really easily they could have drowned. But like look took care of.

[00:28:27] You know it it's like a log. It was down to just like to mark here's a perfect example of protecting something. No I agree. You know we had to have a departure. It depends on how much of it you try trying to do something with you know it it's in the 60s in Derby. They had they had five Shaw males two players and applying male. They had the first bar mining which was up right quick. They had seven or eight trucks run out of there. There was a lot of industry and had industrial when those camera sales come up that they wouldn't. The loggers paid for a certain amount of money went into your schools. OK now you got to think about it economically too. Now some of the teachers are having to take their own money to buy pamphlets for the kids in these schools. You know they can say that's not true. That is true. You know also when we got forest fires there was there was roads that were built back in the mountains so forest fire would start. You had trained people that worked in the woods every day. OK. You didn't have the helicopters you know towards the end you had a few helicopters but basically they plot those fires from the ground but they could build that if a fire broke out. It was a small fire. They could have a dozer on that. It started at night. They could have a dozer on it. And next morning there'd be a D.A. from some logging company cut fire and they shot a backfire put the fires out. And so instead of the fires you know instead of the log and go around the neck they stopped all that then no. And I'm not for clear cut log in clear cut logging is a terrible way to log but it beats having a pine beetle see. We had the pine tree trunk.

[00:30:46] A log one nation could take and mature trees out. You know the trees that were going to die in order to shake that it. You don't have to be a mental giant to understand that's part of the problem. I'm not saying. I'm just saying that's part of what you know. So every time they have a timber sale they come up for appeal. We have the fringe of the Bitter Root. We. Had everyone on a farm and there was battle after battle. Finally the industry quit. So now we have an economy where. Most of our Social Security. Except for the people that moved in with money you know that that probably is a bigger boost to this this valley than anything. It also means more people. It also means more people are efficient because a lot of those people that have money have big pay jobs and a lot of those big paying jobs those people the people that invest money ambition and patient trips and stuff like that they may also come here and they build big houses you know and they use up a certain amount of water and it just grows. You have all the trouble with the world because there's too many people. But you know I've talked to my French and nobody wants to volunteer to leave. So I guess we're going to I guess we're going to have growth

but that's part of it. You know and as far as the question you first answered I don't think the Adam Mesh with the parts OK. There is crisis on the Western Front where to drill an oil well wouldn't be the biggest thing in the world. Now to open up an open pit gold mine. Yeah no that'd be just some different.

[00:32:58] But you know it's just basically using your head. It's the impact for the exact area you're talking about. I don't think they can lob it all together. I don't think we can say well this is going to damage Jeff but there are some places that that to me it would it wouldn't it would not be that big a deal. So while was down to common sense and you want to remember become a chance they come that day. There Anymore. I you know there certainly there's one little thing about Flatiron that might be mentioned you know there are flashing last people taken a lifetime. That's because you can get on the Internet now you can buy a dozen flies for eight dollars. And I think really. If we could get people interested in time flies they would get more enjoyment out of out of their fishing if they could. The people who you see die that fly you know the younger people and then there's still some of them start now and when they time flies and then go catch a fish on their own fly it seems to mean more to them. Now when we were running my shop we had seven tires we were one of the last shops to sell American five Ash a crate fly shop and maybe a couple other made maybe blue ribbon had tires. I don't know. I can't remember that but I I'm sure that a lot of their flies were American made flying. But we had seven tires tied all the time and then me and Rick our son when he he he would be tied in a shop and we tie all year and we tie probably somewhere around 30000 flights a year because we don't have a lot of business.

[00:35:16] You know we we had most of the business in this family because of the fact that there was much competition and so I my wife used to tie some patterns to flash and she could tie it and so one time when we were going fishing or we were sitting in my shop confirmation you know I think she'd like some particular fly call large Polish. That's your favorite flight. OK. Also Craig Barrett Craig reflect that natural setting out there on the table right now. But anyway I should admit don't you think you feel better about it if you tied your own flight don't you think you get by and efficient. And she said no. She said I I just love patience with the flash my husband. It's pretty good. Excellent. Well thanks so much. Who are you to meet with me and on your birthday I appreciate that and thank you for contributing to them as you and Glenn oral history project.

[00:36:23] Yeah I will say you know in ending all this when we started that fly shop we both had real jobs and when we started that fly shop she run the fly shop. I worked for another year to make sure everything was going. And we run that shop and then we'd done shows in California we'd done professional fly shows for the two clubs in the international and we've done fly shows in Golden Gate Park for the Golden Gate AME and casting and some of the bigger clubs in Reno and Tom. And that poor woman there you know she'd not only run the store she is swept up but dirt and hair you know to probably fill up a good sized dump truck. And she's always remember you know so that was that was good. She was my business partner you know my best friend my fishing partner. So a lot of credit got to be given to her a lot of credit got to be given Doura for just living with.