

hemingway-carol-2019-03-10.mp4

Carol Hemingway [00:00:10] Well my parents always enjoyed fishing but Midwestern fishing from a boat for Crappy, Blue Gill and that kind of thing.

Jim Thull [00:00:19] Where would have that been?

Carol Hemingway [00:00:21] Well in Kansas but also in Minnesota. So I was aware of their enthusiasm but I did not participate. And then I had relatives here in Bozeman and when I was a little girl we were driving out to Fort Lewis Washington at the beginning of the war and these relatives who lived here were fly fishermen two men father and son. And they had a cabin on the Gallatin where we all stayed. And I was impressed that they would go out in the morning and fish in the Gallatin and bring home fish for breakfast which was delicious. And I thought it looks so pretty too casting was very pretty. Then later it happened so happened that I own the cabin and ended up buying it from the relatives. And so I would come out at the end of the summer, I had summers free because I was a professor, and I decided to do some fishing but with spinning as the quick thing. And that's what my parents did was spinning rods. So I wasn't up to it. I didn't know how to begin with the fly fishing but I saw fly fishermen and again admired how pretty the line was the curve of the line and so catching the light. And so I thought well that's interesting I like to do that. And I inquired about another summer maybe taking going out with a guide and in Ennis and they said there was no real school or course at that time but that there would be guides who could teach me. So that did not happen I didn't get that far because I met Pat in Manhattan and we ended up getting married and I was being favored by him because I knew how to pronounce Bozeman, I was very familiar with the area. So anyway at our wedding dinner his brother Jack was the man of the day he stood up with Pat as his groomsman and so he sat next to me at the dinner and he said, well are you going to take up fly fishing? Because if you don't you're going to miss out on so much fun. And I said, well I've admired it so I really would like to do that and he said fine so I did. We would visit Jack in Idaho and I must say Hemingway men are not the best people to learn fly fishing from. They give you a whole array of flies and say OK just go to it you know and they would be off and gone and not seen until evening. So I was sort of struggling but gradually I just discovered that you just had to keep at it and casting, casting, casting was the way to learn to cast and casting is not easy. And I think it's harder for a woman because we're not as used to throwing balls. So what really cemented my fly fishing was going to Chile for two months at a time in the winter which we did for three years. And there was nothing to do nothing at all except fish and the whole first year I didn't catch a fish. But I would just spend all those hours casting and I learned to cast. So that then became more interesting because I did start to catch fish. And then I enjoyed being back in Montana going to various spots. We used to go to Henry's Fork a great deal in the summer on the weekends and there everything was very intense and serious about the names of the flies and so on. So we are even, Pat and I are even featured in Cast Illusions that book was published there's a photograph at the very end which happened to be, we were caught on this stream near the millionaire's pool at the Henry's Fork. And nobody even noticed or knew who we were and we discovered it ourselves, oh there we are. We had been there on a particular day when there was no one else on the river which was very unusual but needless to say and then we have purchased a lot on the Missouri River and built a little house fishing house. And so we continue to fish more and as Pat says wade the wading is very benign on the Missouri River and so I've enjoyed that and that's helped my fishing a great deal I think. In fact, I became so interested in the whole world of fly fishing that I wrote a play called Catch and Release. And that play has been produced here in Montana and Livingston and in Bozeman at the black box theater. It was 2 years ago in the black

box three years ago in Livingston at the Shane Center. And it's essentially set in the Henrys at the Henry's Fork though I don't spell it out but people recognize some of the details about the cafe.

Carol Hemingway [00:06:26] Well in front of our house is awfully good in sort of a downstream a bit. But wading is a thing and I to with Pat enjoy wading more than fishing from a boat. And I think you'll see much more it isn't just the fishing but you're seeing the wildlife along the bank. You see mink and raccoon and all kinds of beavers, of course, are in the river. And so I've always enjoyed at spotting from the prominent stream itself.

Jim Thull [00:07:04] Are you guys before the dam or?

Carol Hemingway [00:07:08] After the dam. Near Craig. Just a mile from Craig downstream of Craig from the bridge.

Carol Hemingway [00:07:22] Well we believe we like the medium size trout, I do anyway and I think Pat does too, and we did just would keep enough for our own dinner occasionally. And other than that we approve of catch and release. But I'm not averse to having a meal of trout and I think I've perfected a very good way of cooking and so they're delicious.

Carol Hemingway [00:07:56] It's very simple it's coating them in cornmeal and frying them in, sauteing lightly in bacon grease that's it. It's very simple but you know no one sort of does that; they overcoat them or it's a very light coating. And actually, we experienced that in Idaho at a lodge we stayed in at the Henry's Fork, the Elk Creek Lodge. The owner there we once fished I forgotten the name of the river not at the Henry's Fork which is, of course, catch release. But we caught some fish and we brought them back and everyone's scandal but envy that the host cooked them up for our table and everybody was gaping at him. It smelled so good and they were so good.

Carol Hemingway [00:09:06] Well it is just more crowded of course the Missouri River is good because it's so big. But nevertheless it fills up and there are just so many boats coming by constantly in front of our house we're right on the bank. And so they even park they have the audacity to park on our bank and fish there and then picnic and what have you. And it's a bit of an intrusion thing it's unnecessary but anyway that's what's being done. There's too many fishermen too many people.

Carol Hemingway [00:09:46] Well I think Pat's brother put it correctly it's a lot of fun to be with a group and get together at night and talk about the day. And it's just an overall way of life of an experience that's quite intense actually. It seems laid back it isn't really but it's very enjoyable. And from women, it's a privilege to be included in what is quite a masculine world when it's all said and done, to begin with.

Carol Hemingway [00:10:30] You mentioned Haig-Brown. I do like his books, of course, we've paid attention to that because of our time in South America. And we met his wife in British Columbia at one point I believe it was a long time ago now.

Carol Hemingway [00:10:59] Well I just think if this trend continues of this intense number of people coming to the rivers and the places that are good or seem known you know it's hard to keep a secret about anything. I can't see where this will all end I guess it would end in limiting the number of fishermen on the river at any one time. That would work probably might be a good good thing to do.

Carol Hemingway [00:11:37] Oh well it's very much crowded and I'm saying I'm alarmed at Main Street changing so Main Street is very unique. Not really unique but a lovely feature of Bozeman is it's own Main Street is really probably the prettiest in Montana. And now it's being encroached on by strange architecture that doesn't really fit in. And it's still holding its own but I fear for the future.