

nemes-hazel-2018-10-16.mp4

Hazel Nemes [00:00:10] Oh I'm, I'm not sure, I really am not sure. I spent many- quite a bit of time, just on the bank, reading or whatever, um, not fishing. So I really can't tell you the first time that I attempted to fish. It was probably on one of our trips. We lived in Chicago at that time, I think, and it was possibly one of our trips to Yellowstone, in the autumn, for the Browns running from Hegben up the Madison. I suspect that was the first times I went.

Hazel Nemes [00:00:52] Goodness no, because Syl fished on the Test, and I was, no way they'd let me fish on the Test. The only reason he was fishing there: the Stockbridge Club, I think it was called Stockbridge, I can't remember, um, allowed one serviceman to fish on the Test, a day. And a Syl was probably one of the few American fishermen, uh, fly fisherman, in the UK at that time, so he took advantage of it, as often as he could. By, and transportation was difficult in those days, you took the train, and then had to walk a couple of miles. So, um, we would, had a few dates on, uh, doing that, before we were married. And we would picnic on the bank, with what they called C rations, at that time, army rations. And, no, I didn't even consider fishing, then. So it was many, many years later that I started, and that would have been in Montana. Not when we were living there, but prior. I can't tell you when that was, probably, probably the, possibly the '80s.

Hazel Nemes [00:02:14] I don't know, I probably got tired of sitting on the bank, maybe. Syl was, um, we'd fish in the morning, but rarely in the afternoon, when the sun was out, and then in the evening. But he liked to fish until dark, which I was not so keen on, because, uh, we did fish a few places where there were rattlers, and I wasn't about to get out of the bank when it's dusk or dark, you know, so, um.... I don't know. What else can I say about that?

James Thull [00:02:51] That's okay.

Hazel Nemes [00:02:52] I don't know why.

Hazel Nemes [00:02:59] Um, out the Barne Holes, was probably the Barne Holes, where I first fished. Occasionally, we fished just outside the park, but er, not very often, and we'd fish the Barne Holes. And in those days, there were very few people down there, there were maybe a couple of other persons. And then, uh, we had a good friend who lived in West Yellowstone, Paul Brown, who lived in West, simply to be able to fish anytime he felt like it. And uh, an interesting man and he um, he would often fish with us. Just the three of us, and then uh, of course as it became more popular, more persons were down on the Barne holes and then it just wasn't quite so interesting.

Hazel Nemes [00:03:55] Well, in those days, on the Barne Holes, we had to definitely take turns, you know. You go in, cast and take two steps, and keep moving down. Which was very nice, everybody got to fish, and then you came up on the bank, and chatted, and whatever, waited your turn. But I don't think it's that way, anymore. I don't know if there's etiquette on the river, I don't know. I doubt it.

Hazel Nemes [00:04:30] No. My daughter did some, when she lived in Montana, and she was just recently in the park for two nights, but she didn't have a chance to fish, she had her equipment, but her husband doesn't fish, so she didn't really want to leave him, while she jumped in the river. But now when, they could have. Oh, we had one son, Gregory, our youngest son, he was an ardent fisherman. But we lost him at the age of 26, so he

was the only one, but he loved to fish. He'd stay out as long as his dad. And uh, our middle child, Eric, he, he was, he fished a little bit, but he wasn't too, too anxious.

Hazel Nemes [00:05:22] Well, I only fished in Montana, really, so I mean it was, um, we fished in the, um, we moved to Montana, in, uh, when was it? '87? '87, I think, and at that time, well I mentioned previously, that there were very few persons fishing, and it was just so wonderful, you'd have the whole river to yourself. And, uh, we'd have these, you know, the sun, here I am in Portland, which is frequently gray, but in Montana we had constant sunshine, pretty much, except when it was snowing. And we even fished when it was snowing too, uh, early winter. And our lines would freeze up, and you'd have to melt the ice off the line. That's how ardent we were, I guess. But, um, yeah. Being, having a whole river to yourself, and the quiet, just water moving, and, um, the solitude. And uh, it was just a wonderful time to clear your mind, relax, and if you felt like getting into the river, and you would, and if not, we'd take our lunch and spend, spend many hours there, often returning back at midnight, because I had a husband who liked to fish until dark. Which was kind of nice sometimes, we'd see the northern lights when we were on our way home, depending on the time of the year, I suppose, but, um. Yeah, it was a wonderful time. And then, uh, we fished the um, later on, we started fishing the Missouri, which, there again, it was before it became popular. Where would go up there, and spend a couple of nights, and um, at that time, we had a Volkswagen camper. We would be able to camp and fish, and it was a nice time. I think The Missouri has become very popular now, with the guide boats, which I have to... probably shouldn't say, but they weren't our favorite things.

Hazel Nemes [00:07:39] Oh, well, the popularity that fly fishing must've become. It seems like um, I don't know, what people did before? Golf or whatever? But it was uh, it just seemed to be, become extremely popular, and there were just a lot of other people out there fishing. Which is okay, so long as they have a little etiquette on the river. And, I'm uh, I'm a little fussy I guess.

Hazel Nemes [00:08:13] Yes. We were very lucky, I think that was '95, we exchanged houses with a professor and his wife. We stayed in their house in Aberdeen, and they stayed in our house in Montana, because Alan was going to be a bio- oh, some kind of a biologist, and I can't remember, now. It wasn't... Something to do with rust, and I can't remember exactly what, what his title would be, but um, he owned a house not far from the Tay. So we had a beat on the Tay. So you could use while Alan was gone. And another one on this, another small river, which I can't remember the name of. He never caught anything on the small river, but he did catch a salmon on the Tay. It wasn't the Tay. I'm sorry. I should've, should've been prepared and looked at-.

James Thull [00:09:11] That's okay.

Hazel Nemes [00:09:11] Looked at a map. It's, it's some river that runs through Aberdeen, and we'll have to look at a map afterwards.

Hazel Nemes [00:09:23] No, not at all. Not at all. Mainly, because, um, having to join a club or whatever, and they did- most towns had a public area, close to town, but it wasn't really too desirable, because it was well fished, and the salmon are few and far between in Scotland. At that time they were, so. And Syl did take a couple of other trips, he went to, up to um, way up to the top, Sutherland, to fish one week, when we lived in Chicago. And uh, he fished on, he did fish on the Tay, we took a trip, a couple of weeks through Scotland, and we stayed in, um, oh, um, some cute little country hotels that had fishing rights, and he did actually catch a small salmon on that one too, which, we had no way to

use it. I knew, in England, you had to keep the fish, they didn't believe in catch and release, at that time. And maybe, I hope they do now, I don't know. So he just gave the salmon to somebody, who was really, very pleased. And um, it was nice. There's some beautiful rivers in Scotland, but they're so private, you know, that you have to join somehow, or somehow, I don't know, quite. We were just lucky we had that connection.

Hazel Nemes [00:10:58] Always, always. We've done that for years, and years, and years. I must admit, my first fish that I caught in the park, I kept it, and we took it into West, and to one of the restaurants and uh, cooked it. I don't know, if there's something primeval came out there; 'I caught this fish, and I'm going to eat it!'

James Thull [00:11:22] Do you remember what it was?

Hazel Nemes [00:11:24] Oh, it was a trout, of course.

James Thull [00:11:25] Was it a cutthroat or a rainbow or...

Hazel Nemes [00:11:28] Oh, I can't tell you now, I really don't know. And it wasn't that big, probably about, what's that, 14, 16 inches? 16.

James Thull [00:11:34] Yeah, seems like, it's a decent fish.

Hazel Nemes [00:11:35] Yeah, and it was delicious. But um, West was funny in those days, it was uh, everything, it was very few restaurants, anyway, and they closed up very, very early. So we had a hard time finding something to eat, at the time of night when my husband finished fishing, which was kind of the same on the Missouri, too. There was a little town that we stayed in, on the Missouri, called Craig. And uh, in those days, there were very, very, very few restaurants. There was one bar, we used to have hamburgers frequently, be- a hamburger diet kind of thing, for a couple of days. Called the Frenchman and Me. And I hope it's still going, it was uh, quaint.

Hazel Nemes [00:12:27] Well yeah, yeah, I came as a young, very young person, actually, with a, with a child. And, um. Well, that's very difficult, I'm quite aged now. I'm 91, so I can't really go through all the changes I've seen in, um, from '46 to now. All I can say is, to me, and that's probably possible, possibly, the same for older persons, but life used to be so much more enjoyable. We, we didn't feel stressed. I feel stressed most of the time now, with.... With what's going on in the world etc, etc, you know. And um, it was a much more peaceful time. And, um, not quite so um, commercialized. And, you know, we just didn't have to have everything in those days. We were just sort of satisfied with very little. And um, I don't know, I think it was, for me, it was a better time. However, this is a good time too, so. It's hard to, very hard to explain.

James Thull [00:13:47] Sure.

Hazel Nemes [00:13:47] That's a long span of years. From '46 to '18 that's. Fif- that's, that's too long, that's 70 years.

Hazel Nemes [00:14:01] I can't say I have personally, I know it's happening. It's happening in the rivers. There's a river in not, not too far from here, in the band area I think, that's become very low, and the fish are stressed. And you'd know the name of the river, I can't remember, at the moment. But um, I'm so removed from fly fishing now, or fishing, and I really don't have a lot of information, on that. So, I really don't know how the uh... Well I

think I've heard in Montana too, about the low, the low flow, very low rivers, and they've had to close rivers up many times because of this. And uh, oh yes, it definitely climate change, I think. Very much so. Hurricanes, storms. Things that we didn't have before, but however, I'm sure this is sort of a, partly the way, things evolve. But I do think, yeah, there's definitely a change in climate. And the heat in the summer is unbelievable. This used to be reasonably moderate, I think, in the summer, but we're having 90, high-90s some of days, now, it's just not, uh, not a good thing, for many. For growing crops, and too much air conditioning being used, and, y'know, you can go on and on.

Hazel Nemes [00:15:35] Well, he researched by going to libraries. At one time, his first book, I think, we lived in Chicago, so he used a... can't remember the name, but it's a private library. You would know it. You had-

James Thull [00:15:51] Newbury or?

Hazel Nemes [00:15:52] You couldn't take books out, you had to-.

James Thull [00:15:53] Okay, like a special collections library.

Hazel Nemes [00:15:56] Yes, special collections. And I think they even had a dame, Juliana, was it Burnet?

James Thull [00:16:02] Mhmm.

Hazel Nemes [00:16:02] Book there, I think. I'm not sure, but I think so. Of course you couldn't- you could just look at it, it was probably in a glass case. And um, he did get some help from Vernon Gallup, who owned, had an extensive collection. And at one time, he was thinking of doing a lending library. So Syl used him a little bit, but uh, um, buying books and just, just, um- because he really mopes... wrote mostly about the history of the soft-hackle, I would say. And uh, you know. I mean, I don't know.

Hazel Nemes [00:16:49] Well, we didn't see them a great deal. And I'm sure there were, um, there were, um, other writers in, uh, in Bozeman. But there's only one I can think of, um, Proper. Davis Proper. Yeah. We saw him occasionally, but not a lot. And Syl, I think preferred to fish alone, as much as anything. Didn't like a crowd, you know, sort of thing. And um, of course, then I became his partner, so, and I prefer to fish just two persons, I don't really want that lot of, lot of party.