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[00:00:10] Yeah. My first trout I ever caught was in Mount Larson National Park. And I was 5 years old. And so may be 85 now that means long back. Anyway along the side of the road going into Mount Larson from Southern California. My family and I stop. And my father was back in Pennsylvania where he fish as a boy in streams where there were no other men. Or persons fishing except for Indians previously. Anyway. At Mount Larson the stream was no more than 6 feet wide. And it was just a flowing stream. On the West side of Mount Larson. And. My dad got out and he looked at the stream and said That looks like there's trout there. We actually. Cut a willow out a piece of string. Band look. Out of a pin. And dug a worm. We dropped into this frothy little place. And immediately there was a tug on the line. And. I pulled out about a six inch. Brook trout. And it was magic and it has been ever since. That's wonderful and that was about 1930s 1940s. This would have been unless I was born in 32 so that was forty five thirty six. Thirty seven.

[00:01:53] Yeah my the major part of my fishing or trout in national park has been Sequoia National Park. And. When I used to fish there as a young kid when we went there on vacation. We would. Actually catch. The. Both Brown and brook and Also the rainbows. But. At that time. They were stocking it with all three of those types of fish. And. Later on I understood that they no longer stocked trout in national parks. Because they wanted to get back to the native fish if they could. And I used to fish at a place called on the career river called Cook called top couple of falls.

[00:02:57] And we would go up during the day and hardly anybody else would be by but we would just have a wonderful time. And you had to really be smart to catch that fish there because a lot of them were Nader. But you know my feeling is. Whatever they can do to. Reintroduce native fish. To some areas have been depleted from the state park. Would be the best bet to go. Always. And the coloration. Of the trout. Is the thing. Who gives it away as far as being a native trout. And it's always a thrill. To catch a native regardless of size. I like catching Kraut to do five to seven inches long. But. They're beautiful fish. I've been up near Mount Whitney went back into one area where. We caught in. A lake that gold owns up to 12 inches. And my friend caught one up to 18 inches. But I believe it was a hybrid. Yeah. You. Do you remember what your fishing radio dry flies wet flies. Salmon eggs salmon eggs. Yeah you know. Here in Southern California there aren't a lot of place. Places to fish for trout especially stream fishing. Because. There's not that much water. One area particularly good here in Southern California is South Fork of the Santa Ana River comes down off the north side. Months ago near the highest mountain here in Southern California. And. There. The fishing. For natives has virtually. Been depleted because it's all stopped. But. It's a dream that has year round fishing. And the stream is generally almost the same amount of volume. Year because of the highest mountain. Nearby. But. You know. I. Have had wonderful fishing over a period of time. Up on a little stream. Called. Arroyo a sequel is just above the Rose Bowl. And. My family and I used to fish that are. And. Hardly anybody else. But it was a stream that flowed year round and so it had native trout in it.

[00:06:03] But most of the murder was stock fish. As far as. When. I really. Am. Out to Enjoy to fishing for trout. The Sierra Nevada mountains. Are the main tribe area and there are so many places there to fish. But again they are mostly stock British. Because of so many of the fish are stocked it's up to the hatchery as to what size the fish are. But there was some. Question. By the anglers in Southern California about fishing catching. Larger fish and so they. Basically. Provided input to this. California Fish and Game. Department. To increase the size and cut down on the numbers. And they did that for quite a while. And

to my knowledge it's still in effect. Well This this is probably a good illustration. A friend of mine who died about. 10 years ago. He finished up in to all major Meadows when he was a kid. London was twenty five trout a day. And then it went from the left to twenty and then down to fifteen and ten and now five. And that's understandable because. population is about 20 million people. You can't have. That. The number of fishermen. Fishing. And catching fish without some means of. Producing a larger number of fish in the stream. But there are few places around that. Native fish and the most dominant one and I can think of because it's. Difficult to get into. If you go up the San Gabriel can into the East port. And park you can go up a stream called Cattle Creek. And it basically has no flow during summer into East port because it goes underground. But if you hike up there by five miles. You'll get into the native trout fishing. And. The. Pressure there is very light because it's so far and. Difficult for people to get to. But. I just want to say that. From being a kid fishing in Southern California. And. When the lemon used to be 15 fish a day. We. Had a greater emphasis upon catching.

[00:09:18] Your limit. Whereas now you catch and release. And I think that's a better way to go. So that's gained a lot of popularity here in California catch and release. Yeah it has. And you know out of necessity. Yeah I. I think you know that. At Let me put it this fiscal. I have five grandchildren. And I had a little pond that I made in Fallbrook. And I put blue gill in it mainly. And I introduced them. To fishing. Well. To to give them a little deference I took each of them to different places here in Southern California fish. And got them started. And when that didn't work. Because he wrote catching anything I took them to a little place where you pay to fish. And. As. It. Developed why each of them would catch some theater show their catfish to child. But. I wanted to give them an opportunity to do it and see if they would like to go fishing. And out of the five. Two of them. Are Definitely trout version. I would have to say definitely. You know. If you. Have an experience which is. Different than what your normal living is like. And that. Reverts back to nature. There is almost a magnetic field there in terms of those young people. Enjoying that type of activity. And my daughter's Girl Scout troop used to backpack and I introduced them to some fishing up to the Sierras. And. The whole thing was. They. Didn't know. How to Function Out in the wild. They literally had to be shown and. Experience and in order to appreciate it. I can't help but. Retain some of my wonderful experiences up to write a sequel. Where. The net national setting was so desirable. And one time in particular I was fishing along. The stream stopped for lunch on the. Shaded side of the stream. And as I was sitting there. Down from the mountain. Came a. A wildcat. Got. Up during. Looked around and went back up and I just so thoroughly enjoyed. Watching. That. Wild Cat be able to. Not. Know I Was There. Well I've been retired now since 1988. So I've had more time to do things that I like to do and I. Did quite a bit of. Wood carving of trout. Made out a password which has no not set it so you don't have to trouble trouble. Working with it. But. I thoroughly enjoyed. Recreating. Wooden trout. That were as big as 30 inches and as. Small. As.

[00:13:41] 12 inches. But. I had one in the other room I'd like to show you because it's my favorite. I'd love to see. Yeah. So what about what about your writing. What about your books. Can you tell me a little bit about those. Yeah. After I retired Why. I started. My wife. Encouraged me to put together. Some stories because I had a large background in fishing. And. So. I. Literally. Recreate in my mind's eye. Many of the times that I had gone fishing in the past. And it was a real pleasure. To get them down on paper. And. I self published my first book hooked on job. And. Then I had the second one that I had published called trout tales. And. The whole process of writing I had never been a writer. But the whole process of. Recalling. Experiences. That were so pleasurable. It was just the joy in writing it was the main outcome. Someone who has a good sense of humor. I put that number

one on the lowest because the. Well for 20 years my. Three other friends and I backpacked in the Sierras. Each time to a different location. And. Living with them for 10 days at a time. Each of them. Had this quality of being good natured. And also. Being a lot of fun. In terms of joking and in effect. Being. Away from it all so that you had a special type of experience. Well. I'd like to just share this. When I lived in Fallbrook I built a fish pond and had. Mainly blue Gillan. And I. Would have. The children from the neighborhood. Who wanted to come out. And. Could go fishing in the pond. Of course. The blue gill were just a wonderful target for her. And so I like to think about introducing. Children. To fishing. As big a real important part. When they're young. They're very adaptable to to fishing and have a high interest in it.

[00:17:02] Yeah. To. The degree to which we can maintain our. Freshwater streams. Because that tends to be the one of my favorite. Fishing in the lake is fine. But lakes are far more susceptible to being polluted than a stream is because a stream is kind of self-cleaning. But. I would have personally have to say that. No question about climate change being a factor. And especially for trout. But I would have to say that. The main thing is maintain The environment where the streams flow. The. Continuation of. Planting trees along streams in order to sustain the coolness of the water. And. I have. Had concerns about pollution. And. I have to say that. I think that. There is an awareness on the part of young people. About pollution. Because. They've had some opportunities to learn about it. And have it be presented to them in terms of not only. The parks national parks but also the classrooms. As far as I'm concerned. There should be. A type of. Lesson. That. Every child is. Learning about from about their environment. And about the consequences for what we do. Yeah I think by the time that. A student gets out of high school throughout the country. They should be made aware of the changes that are coming on to our lives as a result of the change requirement. Not. That. The climate isn't a reality because. They should be taught that it is a reality. And regardless what the politicians want to say. Preparation for that needs to be built into our whole society. I think. There are. Definitely. Times. When. The way we look at a new development. That has. A consequence in terms of our environment and our. Climate change. I think it tends to get. Mixed reviews in terms of governments. And. Most of it is definitely associated with a dollar. I. I participated with my daughter and Girl Scout backpack chirps. And. Then I introduced the girls in the backpack with trips. In the Sierras into fishing and in terms of not only. Catching trout but. Preparing them. And they you know most of them had never even seen a traffic.

[00:21:04] Good question. There was a long time. I was hoping to catch a rainbow trout or trout of 24 inches or greater. And when we went to Alaska. And we went fishing with a guide. I did catch a twenty four and a half inch trout but she caught a 31. 30 inches and she returned it to the water. I had mine mounted above my office. That's great that's great so she liked to fish as well. She did. In fact I have pictures on my nightstand. But a year after we were married with. Her holding her string of trout from a public Bridge Port Roosevelt area. Did she fish before you were married or did you introduce her to it. No she never did. But One did. One summer were back in. Yellowstone National Park. And we were out in this beautiful little. Meadow with a small stream running. And. Her mother had never fished in her life. So. We were after cut several brook trout. I went to her car and come down here you'll be interested in seeing what we're doing. I handed over a pole. She fish and she caught it. Talk about it. Six. And. Gave me back the pole. Thank you. And she went back to the car. But she was back in Nebraska and had never had any experience of that type at all. The one that hits me in the face is. The. Population. Increase in this country. From. The time that I was born. To the present. Put such extra burden. On the environment. And so. It's important. For. Starting with the very young. To be made aware. Of. What the environment has been like. And.

[00:23:26] What we need to do in order to preserve it. So I think it has a great deal of impact. And I would have to say it. Is. Is Really. A quality of life. That will change to the. Poor unless we do something to make it better. Which is so close to the urban area. It was always a treat. To have such a short distance to go. To find a place. Where the fishing was good and where the environment was unspoiled. Is this a lake a stream. It was a stream. And. It. There's even an area above Arroyo Saeko where there was an old dam that was. Completely built in wood. Sediment. Above. They're called Schweitzer's camp and up in that area. Separated from the areas where they stock it. Were you if you finished up there. You caught native rainbow trout. And it literally was. Avoided in terms of any stocking and therefore this native fish were sustained. That's right. But yeah I'd have to say since I. Had a number of years of fishing and or Saeko. It still. Holds a special feeling because I had the opportunity to go there so often. But a secondary place would be the upper area above. Queer river and Sequoia National Park. And. That again was no stream that. You had to be. A really good fisherman in order to have any luck.

[00:25:47] There were those native rainbow Zander there were. There were no need as the brook trout were neither were the Browns. But yeah the Rainbows had a special. Coloration. That you normally find in. Tot. Mom's. Stocked fish. This sounds impossible but I'm ready to share it with you anyway. When you were growing up the coast of Santa Barbara. And Garvey on a Have you had a creek below it. Came down to the ocean. Well I always carried. A hook line and. Salmon eggs with me to test. How things were going. And I dropped into this one place. Not wider than two feet. And. I saw. Steelhead traveling in there. And I. Decided that. I wouldn't try to catch that fish because. I didn't want to hurt it. And but I didn't drop drop in a few salmon eggs and it did take the salmon. Oh nice. Nice. Yeah. Still that are certainly interesting fish. You know the idea that they you know Senator. I haven't had the experience of fishing for any others. In California. Except well I guess I'd better tell the truth. When I was in the army. And I've just come back from leave. Up there. Ford. And. I. Stopped by. To look at this stream. And. Went out onto a log that was down. And dropped some sandbags. And here there was a whole school Southwest. Of steelhead trout. Most of them were about that size. Anyway I decided to see if I could catch. And I did with my line and my. Salmon eggs and I did. Catch one immediately. The problem was getting it up to the river there. So this was just a hand liner to jam with his hand line. Now. And. Of course it did. It. That was not open to fishing. But. Once I got it out there was about 30 inches long. And. I. Removed the hook and turned the fish to the water. And. I gave myself credit for not taking the fish and keeping the fish because it was too beautiful. To not allowed in the.

[00:28:56] The fish that I had mounted was a rainbow. No wonder my wife. Put back Was also a rainbow. But mainly we were fishing for king salmon. And that was because they were running at that time. And of course also the silver salmon. Ran for. That time which we got. I kind of 52 pound. King Salmon. And. That's. What might be called. The. Biggest fish I ever caught. Well. I would like to say. That. Here in California. To miss. Going up into the Sierras backpacking. Is to. Miss out on. One of the most. Exhilarating experiences there can be as far as getting back to. Nature to becoming a part of nature. Because you're. Your whole. Being is subject to your destination where you're going. In your backpack. But. That. I think. Is. Fundamental. Towards. Experiencing what California has to offer. Wonderful acts and also even including what Hill High hides or does in terms of his programs on television. He's on each evening and his are. Very you. Know. Throughout the state. But he doesn't get up into the Sierras.