

Earl Anderson--It arrived in the mail

AJL Facebook Post on B. C. Classic Steelhead, Salmon & Trout Anglers December 12, 2015

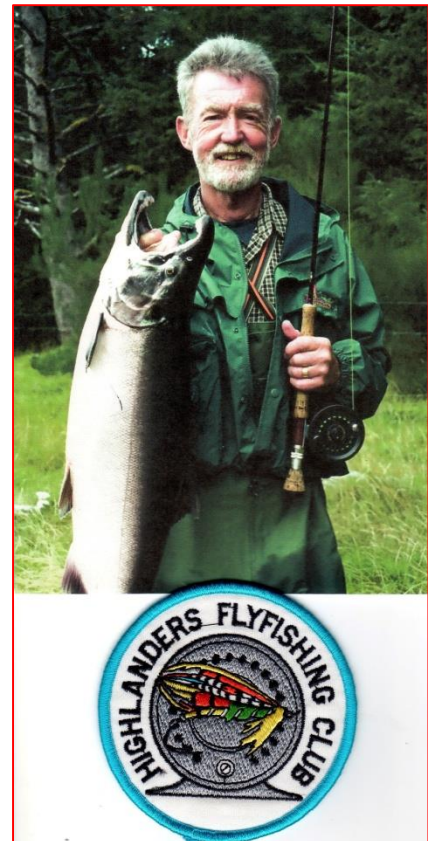


This past week a package arrived in the mail from Larry Lyons. Larry was a Vancouver Police officer and a member of the VPD fly fishing club the Highlanders. Every now and then in years long past I would wake up and when I opened the door to get the paper I would find an exotic fly tying feather at my door. Larry, while on his rounds, had dropped by and left me the feather(s).

Ken Daniels, Earl Anderson, E.D. Smith—Silver Creek near Hope February 1946

Larry Lyons with a Tlell River coho and the Highlanders club patch

During Larry's years as a member of the Highlanders he got to know Earl Anderson quite well and in the package were some old 1940s picture of Earl fishing. I remember Earl well from my early days starting out as a fisherman. Earl and Reg Campbell taught fly casting and fly tying a Vancouver Tech and I took the fly casting course in about 1967. At that time, Earl worked in the sporting goods department at Woodward's department store which was down on Hastings Street in downtown Vancouver. On Friday evening Beverley and I would do our grocery shopping at Woodward's. I would visit Harkley & Haywood and then go to see Earl in Woodward's. I bought my first fiberglass and my first bamboo fly rods from Earl back in the late 1960s and my first Hardy



reel. The Hardy Silex Superba I paid \$40 then and that was a pile of money to spend on a reel. Most on the FB site won't know most of this but there are some older guys who will remember the 1960s who I hope will enjoy this journey down memory lane. Earl Anderson is one of the pioneer anglers featured in my *Famous British Columbia Fly-Fishing Waters* (2002) book.



Earl Anderson fishing the Allouette River, 1946



Earl Anderson with an Allouette River steelhead, 1946



Earl Anderson with Harrison River cutthroat

Some Earl comments from Peter Broomhall, Peter Caverhill, Charlie Brumwell, Blair Thomas and Jim Culp

From: [Pete Broomhall](#)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 11:47 AM
To: '[Art Lingren](#)'; '[Charles Brumwell](#)'; '[Blair Thomas](#)'; '[Al Oloman](#)'; '[Ron Grantham](#)'; '[Peter Caverhill](#)'; '[Jim Culp](#)'
Subject: RE: Earl Anderson

Guys,

First, a thank-you to Art for sharing the Earl Anderson flashback. I can't imagine anyone not liking Earl. Blair is absolutely right about Earl being a gentle soul. My brother Norman and I often fished with Earl one or more of his three brothers—Arne, Frank and Willard, or Earl's nephew Frank Jr.—on the Capilano River in the late 1940s and early 1950s, mainly at the Cable Pool in July. I also fished with Earl several times on the Alouette. To my knowledge, he never owned or drove a car.

As Art confirms, the Totems Fly fishers get the nod as British Columbia's first fly-fishing club only because they were the first officially registered as such. Doubtless someone can also confirm that Coco Berdick (spelling?) and Frank Jansen (Jenson?) were the longtime backbone of the Vancouver Angling and Game's weekly (spring-summer) fly-casting sessions at Lost Lagoon.

Pete, I believe the last split-cane "blanks" Earl imported were two-piece Southwells, which supplanted the lighter-hued three-piece options Earl previously sold. Doubtless one of today's cane-splitters has the full story.

Trout Kings were pretty much the only "hip waders" stocked hereabouts until about 1950. Me oh my, what memories!

Pete B

From: pandcaverhill@shaw.ca
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2015 6:59 PM
To: [Art Lingren](#); [Charles Brumwell](#); [Blair Thomas](#); [Al Oloman](#); [Ron Grantham](#); [Pete Broomhall](#); [Jim Culp](#)
Subject: Re: Earl Anderson

Art – Many thanks for sending this around! It's really nice the way you have written this up and displayed the photos.

Images from the past ---- it would be encouraging to think that these glimpses of past abundance could encourage the young of the BC angling scene to work harder to slow loss.

I certainly remember Earl Anderson the Woodward's and Two Skiers days. I think that my second fly rod (hardy Koh-i-noor) came from Earl at Woodward's. I had a cane blank (c/w cork handle and nickel silver ferrules) that I think came from Earl at the Two Skiers shop. I spent time adding guides and varnish on this when I was supposed to be studying for honors exams at the end of grade 12 (don't know how I made it!?).

Did you scan these photos or just re-photograph them?
All the best for Christmas and a very good 2016!

Pete

From: [Charles Brumwell](#)
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2015 5:22 PM
To: [Art Lingren](#)
Subject: Re: Earl Anderson

Art I took some fly casting lessons at Lost Lagoon fly float with Earl in the 1960's sponsored, I think, by the Van. Angling and Game and attended a few sessions at night school fly tying at John Oliver with Earl. He was very kind and helpful at Woodward's, tied me some flies for the Charlottes { General Money # 1 and 2}. I bought a fibreglass Fenwick model 108 5 1/8 oz. rod which I used for years. When he left Woodward's I used to see him at home and he did some reel Hardy reel repairs at times. He was high on his "gob fly" which was tied with polar bear hair hackle {he had part of a polar bear pelt up in the rafters in his workshop} and small red plastic beads threaded on the shanks and welded together with acetone. It was great for both coho and steelhead up North and in the Harrison. In later years I used to drive him to the cancer agency at VGH for his appointments as he wasn't driving. Always a gentleman, courteous, free with any fishing or tackle information. In later year he only fished for cuts in the Harrison. He said that steelhead were too easy !! He and his brother used to go to Dragon Lake at Quesnel for a week for years. Charlie B

From: [Sjican](#)
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2015 3:57 PM
To: [Art Lingren](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: Earl Anderson

One night at A and N my buddy and I asked the manager what they would be doing with all the Mustad hooks that were lying loose on the bottom of the display he said that if we filled up the boxes that were obviously short of hooks we could clean up the rest and have them for 5 dollars I do not remember the exact number but several thousand hooks each. I still have a ball that I never sorted it is almost the size of a Racquet ball and the hooks are mostly 16 and smaller. What a prize that was.

Blair

On Dec 13, 2015 3:35 PM, Art Lingren <art.lingren@telus.net> wrote:
Blair, should have added Army & Navy to my piece as that was on our route as well. Only went to Sissons a couple of times.

Art

From: [Sjican](#)
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2015 3:08 PM
To: [Art Lingren](#)

Cc: [Jim Culp](#) ; [Pete Broomhall](#) ; [Peter Caverhill](#) ; [Charles Brumwell](#) ; [Ron Grantham](#) ; [Al Oloman](#)
Subject: Re: Earl Anderson

Art

We have spoken in the past about doing the Harkley and Haywood and Woodward's tour on Friday nights but my buddies and I added Sissons and Army and Navy. I have wonderful memories of Earl both in the store and on the Harrison. What a good soul.

Blair

From: [Jim Culp](#)

Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 9:59 PM

To: '[Art Lingren](#)' ; '[Charles Brumwell](#)' ; '[Blair Thomas](#)' ; '[Al Oloman](#)' ; '[Ron Grantham](#)' ; '[Peter Caverhill](#)' ; '[Pete Broomhall](#)'

Subject: RE: Earl Anderson

Hi Art,

It is amazing that a person such as Earl Anderson can leave such long and lingering memories with so many people. It is so many years ago when I found my way to the Two Skiers Sport shop where Earl worked. I lived in Coquitlam and I have no memory over who told me about Earl and the shop he worked at.

I have four stories, the first was my purchase of my first Hardy Silex reel that was a Jewel. I do not remember if I purchased it from Earl or not but I do remember working during my summer holidays in high school in the mid 1950's and saving \$30, which was a lot of money at that time. I paid about that amount for the reel which I still have. One thing for sure that I do remember is that I lost one of the two screws that holds the reel spool lock in place, and Earl repaired it. He installed a screw with the same thread but with a bigger head, along with a second matching screw that did not look as good as the original matching pair that were on the reel.

My third story was the purchase of a second Hardy Silex, this time a 3 1/2" Major which I still have that I purchased from Earl.

My last substantive purchase from Earl at Two Skiers was a 10' cane steelhead fly rod that I also still have in its original bag. The metal ferrule has a light dent in it which makes it difficult to take apart so my plan is get Bob Clay in the Kispiox Valley to install a new ferrule if he has a matching one.

I never fished with Earl but we did have some interesting conversations and of course I was a much younger than he and had no association with him outside of the tackle business.

I found it hard to believe that he did not drive a car or have one of his own. He obviously had some good buddies who shared his fishing passion.

Pete's mention of Trout King hip boot waders is very interesting. I used them from time to time as late as the 1990's. They were so handy and easy to put on when a person was in a hurry. If I could get a pair with felt soles to-day I would still use them where deep wading was not necessary. One problem was that short rain coat was no good because the top of one's legs would get wet in a good rain. I sold long rain coats and Trout King Waders in my small tackle shop in Terrace when I closed it in 1984.

Jim Culp



Anderson Stone Nymph

Dressed by Art Lingren for *Fly Patterns of British Columbia* (1996)

Charlie Brumwell's Earl Anderson-dressed flies



What Else (Wool Bodied Professor)



Anderson Stonefly



Gob Fly