

Dear Tim,

With reference to your original letter, some answers. There was no prior fly club in Pullman. The reference to 'lotus blossom juice' I'm pretty sure referred to cost of a bar setup at the very first meeting which Steve, Ben and I arranged for in the old Pullman Country Club, a building used for various club meetings and dances, located near where the cut-off meets W. Grand Ave, probably no longer existing. I had advertised an organizational meeting, inviting interested fly fishers to attend, and had persuaded Enos Bradner, Outdoors Editor of the Seattle Times, and Ralph Wahl, a very well known photographer, writer, and fisherman to talk about starting a fly club. (They were charter members of the Washington Fly Fishing Club, to which I also belonged.) About 20 people showed up. They included the seven you listed at the end of your letter of 7/17; of the first group, most were there, but not all. Claude Irwin, a well-known attorney in Pullman, agreed to draw up the necessary Articles of Incorporation. Although he's passed on, perhaps Ken Myklebus may know where they are, if Dave Tharp does not have them. At the time it was very difficult to find a suitable place to meet and there was nowhere then that you could have a dinner meeting! At that first meeting Myron Mickey was appointed secretary and I believe Chuck Fredericksen became treasurer. Of course not all who came to the first meeting came to subsequent meetings, for, truthfully, not all were fly fishers, but we did pick up some other members, and had easily good turn-outs when we had speakers like Dave Whitlock, Dan Bailey, Gary LaFontaine, etc. The choice of meeting night was chosen to be the night after the Inland Empire Club met, so that we could share expenses of some speakers. Throughout the early days that club was most supportive. Still there were lots of difficulties, mostly connected with the difficulty in finding a meeting place and getting speakers. I edited a newsletter, which, in my innocence, I called the Creel Notes, same as that of the WFFC newsletter. Later, when Dave Engerbretsen arrived at WSU, he took over and wisely changed the name to the Fly Tippet. I will take credit for naming the Club, however, against the wishes of some, who wanted to call it the Palouse Fishing Club or some other name. To me, the Clear Water Fly Casters had a symbolic as well as regional meaning. Steve Allured created the first club patch and the Royal Coachman Fanwing logo as well as the certificates, which were presented to visiting speakers. During the third year of my presidency, I think I got kind of burned out, and the club went into decline. But Chuck and Ben, especially, were instrumental in pulling it out of the doldrums and Ben agreed to be the second president. Steve Allured was adamant from the beginning that he would not accept any office, though he contributed greatly to the Club.

Steve Allured grew up around Sandpoint, Idaho. He tied flies professionally for many years, but eventually became a graphic artist at WSU. He was one of only two tiers I know of who had such wonderful eyesight and steady hands that he could tie a beautiful mosquito or royal coachman on a size 32 hook. Eventually he became interested also in scrimshaw carving and made some amazing pieces, like the bolo tie, which the club now owns. Unfortunately, he was a chain smoker unable to kick the habit and he eventually died of lung cancer.

Sherman Lowell

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Ben Collins farmed a beautiful ranch near Kamiak Butte. His heart was as big as the Palouse. Ben was rather retiring, but he could be counted on to do anything and he made a fine president, when he was finally persuaded to take over. He also was a very fine fly fisherman with a remarkable knowledge of all the best fishing spots. He died while fishing for salmon near Vancouver Island of a heart attack.

Some others who were involved in the Club from very early days: Bayard Milne, Kate and Harry Batey, Andy Tidrich, and Ivan Sayles. Ivan lives in Pullman and probably would attend. The Bateys live now at Priest Lake (check with Jim Short), but I'll bet they'd like to be at the Anniversary party.

I hope these rather inchoate recollections will be of some use to you. Good luck in your endeavors.

Sherm Lowell