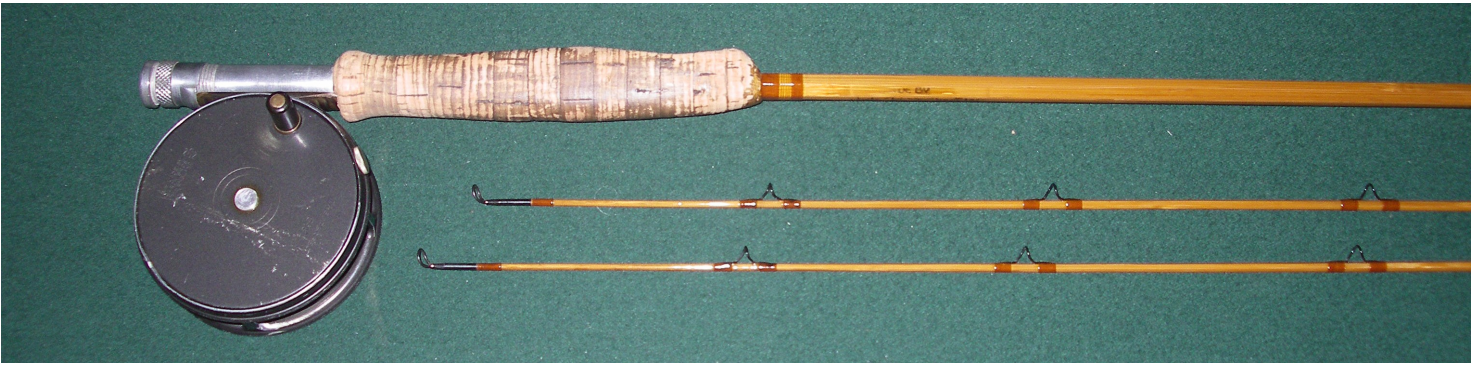


How I came to like Carrots, Bamboo, and Fishing.



I set my rod in the river cobbles and placed a rock on top so that a fish couldn't pull it into the creek. After returning from the house I had caught my first fish. Naturally I took it dangling from the line to show mom, she had baited the hook. I was four, maybe five. This was not an accidental launch of my fishing passion. Mom and dad were experienced fly fishers, and we had just spent two weeks at Wade Lake in Montana.

You should know that we lived outside of San Jose, California, and in 1951 you could wonder how dad ever found a little lake several states away. I suspect it had to do with Jack Schneider and Jimmy Golden. Now, 62 years later, I have acquired a bamboo rod made by Jack and owned by Jimmy. In the telling of the family ties to that rod you will see how its value far exceeds its workmanship in bamboo and guide wrapping.



Jimmy, Jack, Dad (Fred)

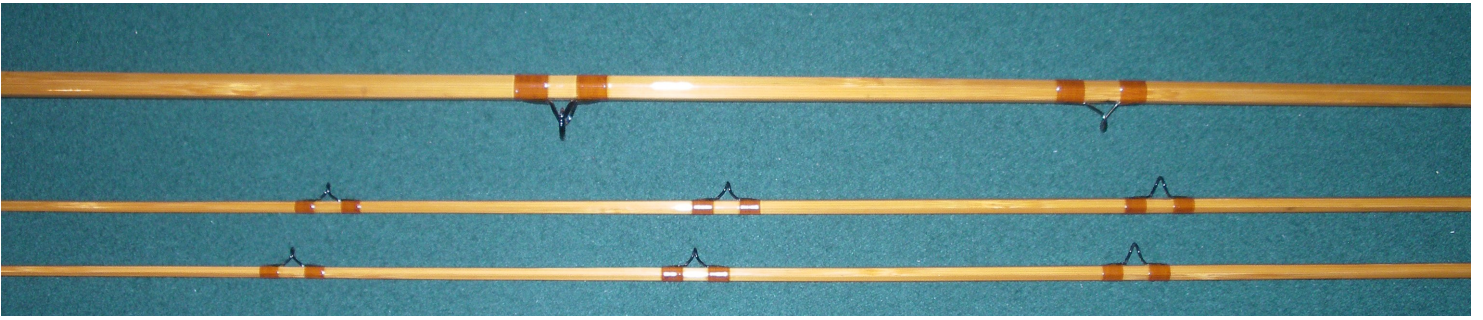
The rod is in flawless condition. It was built to cast an HCH line (7 weight by today's standards) and will throw an 80 foot cast with ease. This is as it should be, as Jack Schneider scored 199 of 200 points in Wet and Dry Fly Accuracy competition at the National Casting Tournament in 1950. I will bring forward more detail later, but let me go back to the beginning.

Jack B Schneider, a bamboo rod maker, caster, and fisher lived in San Jose. His mother and my grandmother were friends. Mom was living in the "City", San Francisco when dad, a submarine sailor soon to leave the Navy after WWII, found her in 1946. Jimmy Golden was a printing press operator in the area and would have known my uncles, who owned a printing shop. They came together to become fishing buddies.

Jack is said to have made over 100 rods. They are rare, and those who cast one today agree that they are "cannons" when it comes to putting out line. He made rods for Dad, Mom and Jimmy. Jack taught Mom to cast and likely Dad too. He had a casting pool in his back yard that I remember playing in when adults weren't casting. His shop, separate from the house contained bamboo leaning against the wall. It was dry and bigger than the bamboo growing in Grandma's yard. I now know from experience that they talked about rods, fishing, and planned steelhead trips up the coast. At some point Jack suggested Wade Lake and they all went in 50 and 51. I was old enough to go on the second trip.

I wish I had personal stories of Jack like I do of Jimmy, but sadly he died of a heart attack climbing a hillside near the lake in 52. You see his rods in pictures from Wade Lake. Note the notched, "hammer," grip. In addition to hand made fly rods, they tied their own flies, made leaders from Spanish silk gut, and spliced their

How I came to like Carrots, Bamboo, and Fishing.



Fish, Gear, and Mom's Rod

own tapered fly lines. Of this I was taught two things; don't touch a rod and don't step on a line. The fly line was a big deal. Today we think a double taper line provides a new end after the other end wears out. Actually it provided a dry end after the other was water logged. Each evening the lines were strung between trees to dry, be cleaned, and recoated with Mucilin. They had more personal attachment to their equipment then we do today. But, it worked.

Mom caught the fifth largest German Brown in the US with that gear including the old Flugger reel pictured. Dad said he worried it would come apart before Mom had it netted. The reel didn't, and as a result Field and Stream issued her an award pin engraved 6 lb. 6 oz. I still have the pin and reel.

Her rod would be a real treasure. Most of Jack's rods were intended for steelhead, but Mom's was made for her and most likely a 5 or 6 weight. Where is it now along with the two that dad used? He sold them in the early 70's to a rod maker, Mid Laperia, in trade for fiberglass rods. I should be upset, but at the time I would have wanted a new high tech rod just like dad. In fact, I still fish with a Mid rod occasionally. It is the loss of these rods that inspired me to begin a six year search for a Schneider rod.

Mom (Betty) with 6 lb. 6 oz. Brown



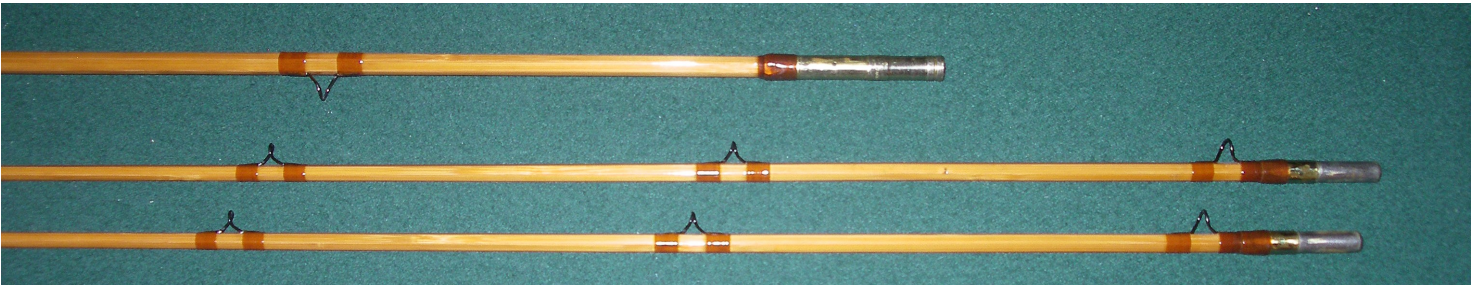
Coming back to Mom's record catch, she hooked it on a Fledermouse, a fly developed by Jack Schneider at Wade Lake. Ted Trueblood mentioned the fly and Jack in a 1951 article for Sports Afield magazine. I fish it from time to time. By the way, Dad never caught a record in his life, and Mom wore her pin in her fishing hat until she could no longer fish.



It is strange what I remember from the age of four or five. I don't remember snow on the Fourth of July, but I remember learning to like carrots. Mom and Jimmy were headed to West Yellowstone for supplies when Jimmy told me that I would eat carrots when they returned or he would hang me from the nail on a tree where they often hung fish. Perhaps it was thinking about this for several hours that made me like carrots ever since.

After Jack's death, we never returned to Wade Lake, but Jimmy often did. He stopped at our house on a return trip when I was about eleven. Jimmy left me four flies called Goofus Bugs, today's Humpy, saying

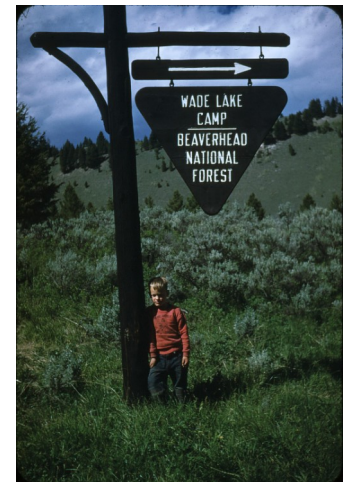
How I came to like Carrots, Bamboo, and Fishing.



they were the best. They were, and when I lost the last one in a tree, I went back the next day to cut down the tree and retrieve my fly. Jimmy meant a lot to me. Before my first deer season he presented me with a Winchester 30/30 saying a man needed a good deer rifle. He was like that. At Wade Lake Dad wouldn't leave the lake long enough to explore the area, so Jimmy arranged a bus tour for he and Mom. Along the Madison River Mom convinced the driver to stop long enough for her to catch a fish. Jimmy got her out to see the area, but she still had a fly rod at hand. James F Golden passed 57 years and one day after Jack.

In 1950 Mom was a fly fisher and became the best small stream fisher I've known. Jimmy, a bachelor, was so passionate that he often quit work in the summer to fish. Dad, raised in the Depression, advanced from bamboo to fiberglass to graphite, and was an early adopter of spin casting. I doubt he ever released a fish. The truth is, I didn't know you could eat fresh fish. I often brought trout home so mom could freeze them, and we would eat last year's fish. Jack Schneider pulled these three together to become lifelong friends. And you have wonder where he, like Jim Crose in music, would have taken us had he lived a full life.

It is these connections that caused me to search for a Schneider rod. A gentleman named James Taylor placed one on the market, and Google alerted me. His location prompted me to ask if he had known Jimmy. His neighbor, whom he had gotten the rod from, had gotten it from Jimmy. It has James Golden inscribed on the rod. I purchased it. No doubt Dad would have cast this rod. Don't fishermen get together and try each other's rods?

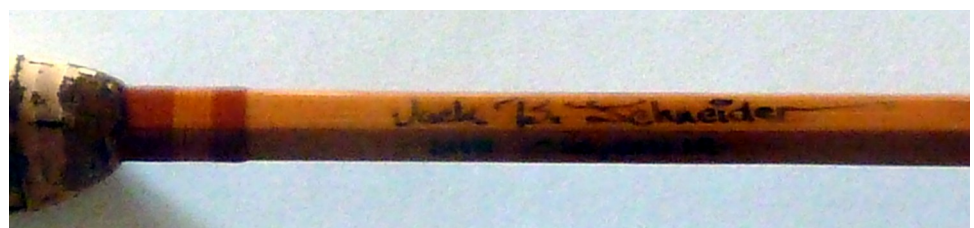


Schneider Rod (HCH, 8ft 10in)

Station	Short	Long
5	0.120	0.103
10	0.140	0.128
15	0.156	0.146
20	0.172	0.162
25	0.193	0.190
30	0.216	0.207
35	0.218	0.223
40	0.239	0.240
45	0.250	0.251
50	0.256	0.256
56	0.285	0.285
60	0.295	0.295
65	0.303	0.303
70	0.316	0.316
75	0.352	0.352
80	0.356	0.356
85	0.362	0.362
90	0.363	0.363
95	0.379	0.379

Wade Lake waits me, and I will take Dad's creel, landing net, and Hardy reel along with Mom's pin and Jimmy's rod back to Wade Lake and fish the Fledermouse in honor of Jack Schneider and his fishing friends.

Finally, lets look at the details. The Schneider rod is a 8 foot 10 inch HCH with two tips. It was refurbished by Glen Bracket several years ago. One tip is 1/2 inch shorter and stiffer, likely for streamer fishing while the other would be for dry flies. Jack is said to have built his own reel seats, and the ferrules are marked "Springrip Seattle". The taper measured, with varnish, every five inches from the tip is shown at the left. Note the tip difference.



How I came to like Carrots, Bamboo, and Fishing.

San Jose
Mercury
News, Sept
21, 1952

Sept 1952 Heart Attack Claims Life Of Fly Caster, Jack Schneider

BILL KNUDTSON
(Fish & Game Writer)

Jack Schneider, San Jose sportsman and nationally famous fly caster, died last Thursday from a heart attack. Jack was returning to San Jose from Montana.

Two years ago Jack won the fly casting championship of the world, scoring 199 of 200. He scored a perfect 100 in the dry fly accuracy event, second man to post a perfect score in 42 years of competition, and the first professional to ever do it.

Services will be held at Darling & Fischer Garden Chapel tomorrow, Monday, Sept. 22.



JACK SCHNEIDER
(His Passing Mourned)

Jack weighs Mom's record Brown in 1951



Fly Fisherman,
Aug-Sept 2013

An American Master

The Montana Arts Council in April 2013 awarded Glenn Brackett of Butte with its prestigious Montana's Circle of American Masters Award. The distinction is given to artists working in traditional crafts such as leather work, saddle making, weaving, beading, silversmithing, and other artistic trades. Brackett's 2013 recognition is the first time the award has gone to a craftsman in the hunting and fishing world, and is an acknowledgment from the Montana Arts Council that bamboo rodmaking is indeed an art form.

Brackett is co-owner (with Jerry Kustich) of Sweetgrass Rods in Twin Bridges, Montana, and one of the former owners (with Tom Morgan) of the R. L. Winston Rod Company. Brackett was mentored and influenced by craftsmen Lew Stoner, Doug Merrick, and Gary Howells, and has a worldwide reputation as a master rodbuilder. He has also dedicated much of his career to repairing and restoring heritage rods from the great builders of up to 100 years ago. For more on the Montana Arts Council see art.mt.gov/pdfsoa/marapr13/12.pdf.

► Glenn Brackett (left, with Sweetgrass Rods partner Jerry Kustich) has been given the Montana Circle of American Masters Award.



Photo Courtesy of Glenn Brackett

How I came to like Carrots, Bamboo, and Fishing.

Jack Schneider's Tying Instructions for the Fledermouse

A classic example of the fur-bodied fly, and one that is most effective on big trout, is the Fledermouse. This pattern is literally tied with clumps of muskrat fur using both the underfur and guard hairs, and the result is a tufted, mousy-looking fly with a sparse gray squirrel wing. The late Jack B. Schneider of San Jose, California, originated this pattern in 1949, and since that time we've put the Fledermouse to many a test; in my own experience, the fly scored a good 40 per cent when used under appropriate conditions. Here's what Jack had to report:

The Fledermouse is mainly a late evening and night fly. It is at its best from the time the bats put in their first appearance over the water and on into the night. That is how it received the name "Fledermouse." The pattern was conceived one rainy morning in August at Wade Lake, Montana. In its first season it was used over a period of six weeks for about three hours every evening. It proved to be a knockout.

[Two paragraphs omitted.]

Now for the tying of the Fledermouse. I doubt if there is a more simple pattern to make. Try hook sizes one, two, or three, standard length and wire. I have even used No. 4 in 4X long shank, which really makes a mouthful. Secure your thread to the hook shank at the start of the bend. There is no tail so that eliminates all chance of fouling up that part of the fly. The body is muskrat fur, under hair and guard hairs combined. It is the guard hairs sticking out from the body that give it that tufted appearance. Don't pull them out.

It takes about three clumps of hair to make a body. To define a clump of hair? It's roughly the amount you can get hold of between thumb and index finger. Next, cut three clumps of muskrat fur off the piece of skin and lay them on your tying table, or on your leg, as I prefer to do it.

The fly is now as good as tied. Take hold of the tying silk you have already secured to the hook; lay the left index finger across the silk about four inches from the hook; then carry the silk around and over the finger back to the bend of the hook, and spiral the silk forward to within one-eighth inch of the eye of the hook. Make half hitch. You now have a four inch loop of tying silk attached to the hook just at the bend where you would tie on the tail if the pattern called for one. Your left index finger is still in the loop, holding it taut. Pick up the first clump of hair, holding it by the butts, and center it in the open end of the loop, then slide it down through the loop to the shank of the hook.

Take the second clump, insert in loop as before and slide down to within half an inch of the first clump. Now space the third and last clump of hair half an inch from the second clump. Now, with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand, take hold of the open end of the loop bringing the two strands of silk together. With the left hand attach hackle pliers to loose end of loop.

Keeping the loop taut, spread the hair evenly for about two inches between the strands of silk. Revolve the hackle pliers until you twist what resembles a rough, furry strand of chenille about two inches long. Wrap this around the shank of the hook almost to the eye, and tie it off. Tie on a grey squirrel tail wing, and you have a Fledermouse. Tying time approximately two to three minutes.

Credits: From A.J. McClane, *The Practical Fly Fisherman* 1975, 1953; Prentice Hall, Inc.; Englewood Cliffs, NJ; pp 208-210

Jack Schneider's 1950 National Casting Tournament Results

- Dry Fly Accuracy: 100/100 (2 non-professionals scored 100/100, only one other 100/100 in history)
- Wet Fly Accuracy: 99/100 (2 non-professionals scored 100/100)
- Fishermen's Combination Fly: 88 (1st in Professional)
- Fishermen's Distance Fly: 108-1/3 (2nd in Professional) (131-1/3 won non-professional)
- Trout Fly Distance: 115.2 (2nd in Professional) (160.1 won non-professional)

Records from National Association of Angling and Casting Clubs (provided by Dale Lanser). Tournament took place at the Golden Gate club in San Francisco, CA. 657 casters participated among all events.