

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Richardson Chest Fly Boxes

Re: Richardson Chest Fly Boxes

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URL:

I grew up in Osceola Mills, PA, the town where the Richardson chest fly box originated. The guy who invented it was Rex "Chirp" Richardson. He and his wife, Clara, had what passed for an "outdoor" shop in those days (wayyyyyyyy back in the day) on Front St. He carried guns, ammunition, fishing gear, model airplanes, camping gear, traps, snow shoes, canoes, etc. His major passion was fly fishing, however, and he and his wife tied and sold flies there in his store as well as tying supplies. He designed and built the original chest boxes right there in the store. I remember going in there many times with my dad when I was growing up to buy various fishing stuff including fly tying supplies. We both salivated over the chest boxes but dad never had the spare money to buy one. I lost track of the store when I went off to the service and to college. I remember my Dad telling me that Chirp had passed on to the great catch-n-release stretch in the sky. Shortly thereafter the building that was the store was torn down. It's now a parking lot.