Subject: : Gear Talk
Topic: : Old South Bend bamboo fly rod
Re: Old South Bend bamboo fly rod
Author: : Fredlay
Date: : 2013/6/26 1:30:13
URL:

I would like to reply on this Southbend topic.
I hear many people putting down Southbend rods all the time.
Half the time I don't think they have a clue on what they are all talking about.
I would agree that a few Southbend rods are cheaply made.But,I would go as far as saying Southbends are all junk as most I hear do.

Let's take a Orvis rod for an example.The only thing a Orvis rod has going for it is the Impregnated process.Other then that nothing more unless we include the rare super z ferrules that's rarely found on Orvis rods anymore. cheap aluminum reel seats,same color wraps and no tipping what so ever.With about the same winding checks that's found on Montague's and H-I's.

With Southbend rods they offer solid bamboo and many varurations of color/style wraps and tipping as including jaspers. And stayed with the same ferrules thru out the yrs.I see not a thing wrong with a example #290.
Let me ask you all how you feel about Heddon rods?Most would say great rods as the example #35,#20 or the #17 & others example.
Compare Heddon's to Southbends ?Most will say no compare correct?
Do you know the history of the South bend rod company?
Did you know that during WWII while the dollar started to tumble from war. Southbend found a better bamboo to work with.Less knots and stems.During that time all rod companies was tumbling with poor sales as employees went to join to fight of war.Yes,it's true Southbend decided to build with cheaper hardware to attempt to gain sales.Bad idea I agree and Southbend would agree today if they was still in business today.After WWII SouthBend went out of business from lack of sales.Take a wild guess you all bought out Southbend's bamboo?Wright & McGill & Heddon did that's who.
Get a copy of Michael Sinclair's yellow rod restoration hand book and read up what this man stated in his book.You will find this information as i stated.

So,for all you Heddon and Wright & McGill lovers,little you all know your fishing with a Southbend and don't even know it!
What do you all think rod companies did during WWII for business?Think about it for a moment?Who do you think built those Orvis's,Leonard's,Payne's,Heddon's,Granger's,W/M and so on while us men was fighting war?Women!During that period of time "War" and after rods wouldn't sell if men found women built those rods.During that time/era that's how it was.
Example, Varney rods and tapers you may as well say Varney's wife's rods & tapers example.

What I don't understand is Orvis rods.There's a book to buy for every brand rod but, Orvis.

I hear people all the time stating that all Orvis rods are serial numbered.Where do they all get that information

from I ask?Sure not from any book that's for sure.There's a website database created by a man names Dave???? about Heddon's rods.And Michael Sinclair created a hand book about Heddon's rods.I see a man named Greg??? created a database about Orvis rods.No book was ever created todate for Orvis rods to identify them.

Keep in mind,

That gregsmyfair??????? database website only indicates rods that have been reported by owners.That database does not hold every rod Orvis ever made.Ask any top collector they will agree.

Even on Greg's database show's rods "Not Numbered" have a look and see for your self.Also,look at the last time that database was updated.If I recall 2005 or 2006 was that last update I could be wrong give or take two or so yrs.Orvis made mas production as the same with Southbend and many other rod companies.As student rods,rod kits,Test rods.Few was serial numbered and if so was lettered not numbered.

I told this story many times to people,

A few yrs ago I inquired a Orvis Battenkill rod.The reel seat was smashed by a car tire running it over.I contacted orvis on the phone asking if I can order a replacement reel seat for it and how much will it cost.Orvis agent replied to me stating Orvis does not sell reel seats to customers.Requires sending the complete rod into Orvis for repair.My point in this story is,

If you can't buy a reel seat from Orvis. How in the world would one inquire a rod blank from Orvis.If their not giving out their reel seats then,their sure not giving their rod blanks other then buying a rod kit.I see so many sellers selling custom rods built from a Orvis rod blank.Copying a Orvis taper isn't the same as a original Orvis blank.And in fact,wouldn't that copy taper blank be a fake Orvis blank or how am I rod on this thinking?Copy/fake?What's the difference?There is none!Many websites as Clark's and many others are giving out taper exchange.I feel this is where all the fake rods has started is from these taper exchange websites.Taper exchange should not be allowed.I hear people saying I want a rod with a Payne taper example.Well,go buy from Payne no reason to build a copy/fake.This bamboo world is corrupted by builders coping rods and tapers for profit.In fact,if a true collector was seeking to buy a Original vintage rod.They sure wouldn't be looking at 7-8 ft rods.During the vintage era 7-8 ft rods was frowned upon and never was.So,many people are cutting rods down for profit ripping the buyers off for gain. 9 ft or above would be the best buy for originality.