

Boyd Senter



Boyd Senter (1898-1982) was born to a Nebraska farmer. At an early age Boyd decided to become a musician. He was a band leader and recording artist in the 1920's having performed on stage in cities like New York, Chicago, San Francisco and others. Although he could play some 33 instruments he was especially accomplished in saxophone and trumpet. But it was his clarinet playing that made him famous.

Boyd's band provided the first musical outlet for Glenn Miller, who at that time could not even read music. Senter also helped to launch the careers of Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey.

He was billed as the "Jazzologist Supreme" and later, having purchased his own airplane was billed at the "Jazz Pilot".

As big bands began to fade and the depression was gripping the nation Boyd retired to Mio, Michigan, where he ran a combined rock, jewelry and sporting goods store. It was a musty, faded, pink log cabin, kitty-corner across the street from the former A&W Drive In. It was here that he lived and tied and sold his flies.

Boyd ended up in Mio because he came to Lupton to perform at the Graceland Ballroom for the Purple Gang. He liked the hunting and fishing in the area so well that he agreed to become the house band and set up permanent residence in Mio. It was during this time that Boyd became an accomplished fly fisherman and fly tier.

In 1959 he came to Detroit to perform and while he was there he was approached by an executive of Ford Motor Company who asked him to tie a series of flies named after models of Fords: and so, the Thunderbird, the Fairlane, the Falcon and the Galaxie were born. Other popular flies to come out of his vice were the Teacher and the Squirrel Back.

Also, while living in Mio, Boyd renovated an old school bus and during the winters would travel around to Northern Michigan schools, repairing band instruments.

Boyd Senter passed away in Oscoda, Michigan in 1982.

Tom Deschaine
~Westland, MI~