

Paul H. Young



Paul H. Young (1890-1960) was born in Cherry Valley, Arkansas. As a young man he came to Detroit, Michigan along with his family. He started his career as a taxidermist working for Eppinger's. In 1923 he visited, for the first time, the Au Sable River. His passion for the river was to change his life forever.

Paul and his wife Martha opened a tackle shop in 1926, on Grand River Avenue in Detroit. They specialized in taxidermy and sold light weight fly-fishing rods and tackle that he had designed. They issued their first catalog in 1935 (some researchers claim the catalogs date as far back as 1928). The catalog contained rods, reels, tackle and tying supplies along with innovative fly patterns that he had innovated like the Redhead, the Flying Caddis and the Strawman Nymph. Profits from fly tying

brought his fledgling business through the depression.

Paul Young's lightweight bamboo rods soon developed a cult following. There was no doubt that he was one of the nation's greatest craftsmen of creative bamboo rods and designer of flies. In 1933 he published his first book, "Making and Using the Dry Fly."

In 1956 he moved the company to Eight Mile Road in north Detroit and after his death, in 1960, his son Jack moved the facility to Traverse City, Michigan where it remains today.

Over the years, Paul's love for the Au Sable River resulted in the family owning two homes on the river; the first was on the Holy Waters of the mainstream and later, one on the North Branch.

~ Tom Deschaine ~