



True Mistress of the Vise



Stream Blazer Bernice Allene DeHart Hall

1918-1995

Bryson City, North Carolina

Allene was half of an innovative fly tying couple credited with originating a number of fly patterns. Her husband Fred is generally credited with having originated the Thunderhead and the Adams Variant, two popular patterns which now enjoy widespread popularity. They were both accomplished fly tyers when it came to turning bits of fur, feather, and thread into trout-fooling creations which were as functional as they were beautiful. We believe that Allene's role was bigger than most folks imagined.

Unquestionably she produced more flies than her husband. Allene was always in the background, usually busy at her vise as Fred talked. She just smiled, added an occasional comment, and kept on working. Most impressive was the big boxes of flies, hundreds upon hundreds of them, which would be close at hand. She would whip out another fly in what seemed like mere moments and add it to an open box.

Their banner years in producing flies were the 1950s and 1960s, with weekly shipments going out to individual anglers and fly shops all over the country.

Her grave marker in Swain Memorial Park indicates she saw military service in some capacity, almost certainly as part of America's all-out effort in World War II.



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