

## LONG ISLAND MARITIME MUSEUM

### Baymen's Oral History Group

#### • Walter Budd •

In many ways, Walter Budd's life was typical of the men who worked the Great South Bay in the early-to-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. While they may have begun their careers farming oysters, by the early 1940's all had found that the declining fertility of the Bay's oyster beds necessitated either career changes or supplemental jobs. Many switched to harvesting clams or charter fishing, and market gunning in the off-season.

However, Walter Budd did this and more. In the 1950's he began wintering his boat in Florida. There he would skipper charters — to the Keys from November to February, and Bimini from March through May — before returning to the east end of Long Island for the summer season. It was while he was working out of Miami that he was "discovered" by Procter & Gamble. He was tapped to film a commercial for *Ivory Snow*, which he describes with the great good humor found throughout his interviews.

Walter Budd, born in 1909, was 72 years old when he recorded these interviews with LIMM Research Associate John Kochiss in February, 1981.

*Photos, clockwise from right: Walter in uniform, shortly after Marjorie Budd had been commandeered by the US Coast Guard during WWII. With wife Jessie in Florida, c. 1948. Bill Shenn, Walter & Walter Jr., with their world-record broadbill swordfish, 1957. With Walter Jr.— Miami, in 1960 and Hampton Bays, c. 1965.*

#### TAPE: Walter Budd-1A

##### Contents:

- Growing up in West Sayville, starting work at 15,
- Life aboard his boat,
- Earning a living on the Bay, including: hunting, battery shooting, market gunning in scooters, fishing charters, etc. (0:00-15:00).
- His life on the Bay (15:00-25:00).

#### TAPE: Walter Budd-1B

##### Contents:

- Continuation of life on the Great South Bay, his first boat, *Finn* (0:00-7:00).
- Out of Greenport on *Marjorie Budd* bringing seed oysters to the West Sayville beds and the evolution of his career as a charter boat captain on the Bay (7:00-17:00).
- Transporting charters to Florida and his experiences there and in Cuba (17:00-25:00).

#### TAPE: Walter Budd-2

##### Contents:

- *Ivory Snow* commercial (0:00-4:00).

All times are approximate indications of subject/topic areas.

