

Fishtales, Sunday September 29, 2013
Working Waterfront Festival

Interviewer – Markham Starr
Interviewee – Albert Bruce

MS Alright. So what is your name?

AB Albert Bruce.

MS And are you from New Bedford?

AB I'm actually from Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

MS Ah. And what are you doing up in New Bedford?

AB My school Middlebridge School which is a private boarding school in Narragansett Rhode Island which is were using Hazard's Castle, we came up here, probably about six of us and two staff came up here for the day for about four or five and try and enjoy the festival.

MS Do you have any family in fishing at all or...?

AB My grandfather before he passed away he was in Worcester, he did fishing. My mother loved fishing. And I love fishing from her.

MS Oh yeah.

AB And my dad's father was fishing as well since he, my dad's mother and father were both Guyana which is in South America and fishing was one of the biggest, I guess, economic I don't know how to say...

MS Big industry

AB Yeah big industry there

MS Alright. So what was the story you had today?

AB I think it would be about seven years ago so it would be when I was eleven now. My dad and myself and my sister and brother and my dad's fiancé at the time, we all went up for, we all went up to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. And my dad and I went out on to the pier and we brought a deep sea fishing pole. We brought, I think it was squid and I guess clam or something like that. We just tried fishing off of there for a couple hours. We had heard that there was a giant twelve foot manta ray or sting ray or something that was in the waters at that point because they had tried to catch it the night before and the woman got hurt. So we were told to be looking out for that as well. And I casted down

multiple times and didn't get anything. And my dad's like alright let me try real quick. So he, we put the line with the bait, through it down there. We waited. About two minutes afterwards like my dad, my dad he hit like a tug on the line. So he starts reeling it in, trying to reel it in. And it literally feels like we're stuck on like a stone wall because it's solid. You can't get it out. So at that point it looks like the rod is about to break because it's bent over almost all the way so we let the line out. The line's spinning out and then locking we try to reel it back in again. I'm like, "Dad let me try, let me try!" He's like "Alright we'll both try." We both tried, we still can't get it. And then we look over. We look over the dock onto like where the huge like where the pillars are. We look over and we see the line circle around the pillar like three or four times and then finally we hear a snap. And when we pull up, and then when we're pulling it back up, we see this huge dark figure come out of the water and like almost to the top. And like huge, like and it just went up and then it went back down and swam away. And my dad's like "Albert I think we had the 12 foot manta ray on our line." [laughs] So needless to say when we brought the line back up, we saw that the, that the hook was completely bent the opposite way and that actually the little barb that would catch in the mouth was also, it was kind of weird, the hook was bent one way, the barb was bent the other way. So needless to say that was probably one of the most exciting fishing trips that I ever took. That was actually not on a boat. And I'm still trying to get him into it and it's still a lot of fun, but I just wanted to let you guys in it.

MS Yeah. Well that's great. So that's the big fish that got away.

AB Yup. The big fish that got away.

MS [Laughs] It probably would have been hard to handle if you'd actually gotten him anyway.

AB I don't think I would have been able to pull it up to the dock, at all. I don't think either of them was sort of. But yeah, I liked it. It was fun for the brief three to five minutes that we had trying to reel in something that we had no clue what it was. So yeah.

MS That's great. Thank you.

AB No problem.