

Fishtales, Sunday September 29, 2013
Working Waterfront Festival

Interviewer – Markham Starr
Interviewee – Pat Hubright

MS Ok. Alright so, what is your name?

PH Pat Hubright

MS And where are you from?

PH I'm from New Bedford, Mass. born and raised here

MS And was your family in fishing?

PH My father was a commercial fisherman all his life. Since a 1939 maybe to when he passed away in '55.

MS And you were one of how many brothers and sisters?

PH I had, there was six girls. I was the baby.

MS And do you remember your father being at sea?

PH Oh all the time. Yup. They'd go out for seven days, they might, I think they had to stay in three, I'm not sure.

MS And were they, you said they were at home, guaranteed one day of the year anyway

PH Christmas they were home. The whole fleet was in at Christmas. No other holiday mattered. But Christmas did. Yup

MS Was it, do you remember it being pretty hard on your mother?

PH Oh terrible. She raised us by herself you might as well say. We were spoiled. 'Cause when my father came in he'd spoil us all, but yeah.

MS Yeah. Huh. So what did your father do on...

PH He was a cook. He was a cook. He cooked right where in the front of the boat and they slept in the bunks while he was cooking. The table came down from the pole in the middle.

MS Do you remember what they cooked? Did he ever talk about that?

PH Um he used to order what they called "grub" and they delivered it, no freezers like they have today, no nothing, no facilities, no anything. And yeah no, he cooked steak and eggs for breakfast and things, big meals, big meals. [laughs]

MS Did he ever cook at home when he got home?

PH Oh he cooked. If he was in for Thanksgiving, he did the cooking. When he was in, he did the cooking, yes. I mean, I never hear of any fathers cooking, but he did a lot of it at home. Yeah.

MS And then you had the story about World War II.

PH Yes. When he was out there fishing, a German sub came up and asked them for their food and they said they wouldn't blow 'em out of the water if they gave them the food so they gave 'em most of the food on board and then they came in. He was on the ADVENTURER, the ADVENTURER.

MS And did he ever tell your mother these things?

PH No, he didn't tell her anything till everything was safe and sound when he got in. He'd never tell her how bad the weather was or how thick the fog was or anything out there. No.

MS And when did your father stop fishing?

PH He probably, no he didn't stop, he came in on Saint Patrick's Day with his Irish hat on and dropped dead in the house of a heart attack. He was, he was only 54.

MS Wow. And you had mentioned something about his gear on the boat.

PH Yes. It was an omen that they, that nobody, no crew member would take the gear off the boat because it was bad luck. So, somebody in the family had to go down and get all his gear as they called it off the boat.

MS Hmm. So you remember any other superstitions they had?

PH No, I can't. When I leave here, I'll probably think of them, but I can't think of them right now.

MS Ok well great. Well thank you very much.

PH You're welcome.

MS I appreciate it.

PH Thank you for asking.

MS Yeah.