

Lenny & Danny Koch May 6, 1987

004 Relatives were fishermen. Father now works for oil company. Runs yachts up and down coast. Grew up in Baldwin, as did grandparents. Great grandparents too.

018 Farmers originally. Grandfather ran charter and party boats. 60-70 year family tradition

024 Maternal grandparents from Ukraine. No net makers

026 Getting started in net making. Learned from other people. Alter readi-made nets - extends it. Does a lot of work on them.

032 Examples of net problems. Enlarged it.

036 Making a net from scratch. Buy webbing. Nylon dipped in preservative.

042 Traditional materials: nylon, dacron. Doesn't know before. Twine knitted together before 1900. Italians he worked with had wives do it.

049 Can't knit a whole net, but can fill in a hole. Got out of business for a few years "now works on boats mostly.

056 Piecing a net together. Net sizes. Buy webbing by the pound. Design-tapering. Reasons for design.

077 Improper design. Size and how determined. Depends on fish. Whiting - finer mesh. Kinds of fish you can get in a net.

100 Experience and its limitations. Geographical knowledge

111 Wants variety

119 How to fix a net - have to know which way webbing runs. Mistakes he made "how he learned. Cooperation essential with friends

135 Five types of stitches. Ordinary knots

147 Skills needed - good at math. Counting process

161 Learning by observation. Gil Metzer, cousin Elwood, father

179 Types of nets

186 Gil net: stationary

194 Seine: beach. Fine mesh

200 Drag: trolling. Doors made of wood, steel. How doors worked

234 Pound net - staked in ground. One in Robert Moses Park

 Six to eight nets. 10-11 a.m.

259 "Farmers of the sea". How weather affects fishing. Kills algae and other plants that fish feed on.

279 Old boat house, oyster house, inn. How they've changed oyster house. Function of buildings

306 Diversification. Incorporating new things
314 What works best. Being there
319 Fishermen's qualities; hard work, little pay; competition
335 Other net makers in area: Willey, Charlie Conari. Willey's qualities. Value of old men's advice

357 Catching a bombshell
370 Whales & Sharks. Tournament fishing for sharks
379 Scariest thing happened to him: surf fishing, setting nets. Have to time waves. One might break in boat. Hit a few times and knocked out. Wears a special float coat.

402 Getting boat off the beach
413 Getting blown off shore
422 How long they stay out: 4 days drifting in a storm
455 Getting through a storm - don't panic. Courses of action

SIDE B

001 Learning fishing spots. Enjoys talking to people. Shrimping in Florida
014 Area. No harder areas than others
020 Boat, killey boats
024 Father went lobster fishing and made his own traps. Took it home. Decoration in fence.

031 Al Grover. Modeled skiff after Len's father's boat Al has pictures of the boat. Source

050 Rope - he buys through catalogs. Catfish farmers
063 My background. Sailing on L. I. Sound
068 Dragging off Connecticut shore. Sunburns
072 Moods on boat - "get crazy" Swing on ropes kidding around
083 Biggest fish - Danny and Al Grover caught biggest cod fish in New York

088 Len caught a 65 lb. fish. Lost one
090 No bamboo rods
104 end of tape

May 28, 1987

105 Who went to Meadow Island - Scott's Beach and Smith Island is what they called it.
115 Where his bay house was - on the point of West High Meadow
120 Owners were from Freeport, Baldwin, Rockville Center
123 Now people with money live in the towns. No available land. Used to be lots of land near their dock.

130 Built by the owner, lease from town of Hempstead. \$100/yr for property. You only owned house, not the land.
134 Built in 1950's. Only leased on Meadow Island
146 Bay house - bare walls, nothing valuable in them. Used furniture. Vandalism a problem

160 Rooms 1-5. He had a screened in porch. Nice house.
Outdoor deck. Outhouse. Shower. No water heater. 400 gallon tank. Living room, kitchen,
loft bedroom.

179 Used in summer and winter. Friends stopped over. Other bay houses used only in summer.
Went clamming

192 14 more houses on Meadow Island than are there now

197 Passed down through the family, or among friends. Can't get one any other way. Not legal
either to sell it.

207 Typical bay houses were shacks. Small rooms. Dock. Fresh water well.

213 Friend built his house

221 Duck hunting in winter. Lots of hunters-sounded like a war out there. Had a pot belly stove

228 Women would come but stay in the house

235 Cooking duck. Versions. He did a lot of cooking. Lenny studied cooking

262 Learned a lot about nature in the bay house. Ducks came around

270 Clam discussion. Sells them to bait stations. Rigging the boat.

301 Danny went duck hunting. Bobby Mariniaccio makes decoys. Uses them in hunting. Makes
them out of cork. Doesn't have time to make them. Easy to learn. Need time to do it.

339 Stories told. Reminiscence

365 Types of parties. Set meadow on fire by accident. Clam bakes

386 Women did cleaning, and cooking. Men got the firewood

402 Driftwood used in bay house - paneled with it. House lost in June 1986 hurricane

416 Can't build another bay house Goes to Fire Island now

442 Knows everyone around the bay, on islands

456 Loyalty among fishermen, but independent. Secrecy. Some assistance - work weekends.

486 end

Tape 2

001 Photos of bay houses

004 Could only get there by boat. Friend had a sea plane

012 Would visit among bay houses

019 No family conflicts or feuds

023 Some baymen owned houses. Some didn't want one - hard to maintain. Docks needed
replacing often

033 Rugs and carpeting. Called houses, shacks, shanties

041 Everyone built their own house. Houses faced different direction. Lenny's faced south
because there was more sunlight

052 Frame construction, additions. Everyone had an outhouse.

065 Brought girlfriends
070 Got stuck in the mud a lot. Clamming
090 Learning to clam. Wet and dirty business
102 Working inside. Wasn't happy. Had to be outside. Independence
123 Have to love and respect water. Likes the wildlife. Variety on the boat. Photography
138 Pollution. Wiping out the business
155 Getting the business going. Flexibility. Changing equipment
173 Sports fishermen lower prices of fish
187 Kinds of fish they catch. Anchors
200 Has nautical stuff in backyard. Buoys, lobster pots,
channel markers. Nets. Natural sponges. Ad hoc arrangement

240 1826 coin he caught
256 Wreck requests
267 Attitude of some boat owners
276 Sells fish to wholesalers, Fulton market, local guys
298 end