

WINFIELD LASH

Interviewers: Shawn and Steven

Date: October 12, 2003

Place: Winnie Lash's workshop

Transcriber: Peggy Simmons



Winnie Lash was born on July 5, 1918, and has lived in Friendship nearly all of his life. He and his wife Barbara have been married for 63 years and have seven children, 17 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren. After working at the Camden Shipbuilding Company and Bath Ironworks, he worked at the W. S. Carter Boat Yard, which was owned by his uncle, Scott Carter. When his uncle died in 1946, he and Charles Sylvester bought the yard. Two years later, Sylvester sold his share to Winnie's brother Douglas, and the yard became known as Lash Brothers. At one time or another, all of Winnie's brothers worked there. The original boat shop burned down in 1987 and was replaced by a building on Route 97, where his son Wesley continues the Lash Brothers tradition.

Q: When did you start building boats?

A: I started building boats about 1946.

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Q: Why did you decide to build boats

A: I like to build them; the family had been in it some.

Q: Is boat building a tradition in your family?

A: I think around here it's in everybody's family a little.

Q: How many boats did you build?

A: I've been in charge of the building of about 100.



Q: What are the different kind of boats that you built?

A: Sloops, fishing boats, lobster boats, pleasure boats.

Q: Did you build power boats, lobster boats, pleasure boats?

A: All of them. When I say "we," I mean the whole crew. I didn't have much to do with it.

Q: Did you build any sailboats?

A: Friendship sloops. My brother Doug left the boat yard and went up to Sid's store.

Q: Describe some of your favorites in each category.

A: A boat's a boat to me, if you want one built. I like fishing boats the best, I guess, draggers.

Q: What is the biggest boat you've ever built?

A: The biggest would be 71 feet. The biggest one I've designed is 100 feet. I designed most of the boats that I built.



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Q: Were all of the boats you build wooden?

A: All wooden.

Q: How many people worked in your shop?

A: Thirteen is the most we ever had.

Q: How long would it take to build a boat of different sizes?

A: The longest one took a year and a half. The shortest one, three months.

Q: Can you briefly describe the steps in building a boat?

A: I don't know how brief it would be. I don't have the answer to that one. Bring some wood in and make a pattern is how we build it.

Q: Are any of your boats still being used?

A: A good percentage of them are still being used.

Q: Of all the boats that you built, which ones do you remember the most?

A: I can't answer that very well. I go by the people more than the boats.

Half-hulls from top to bottom:

Five-masted Schooner B B Crowenshield, 1904, redrawn by W.C. Lash, 2000

100' scallop dragger, Jane and Ursula, designed by W.C. Lash, the largest boat he designed

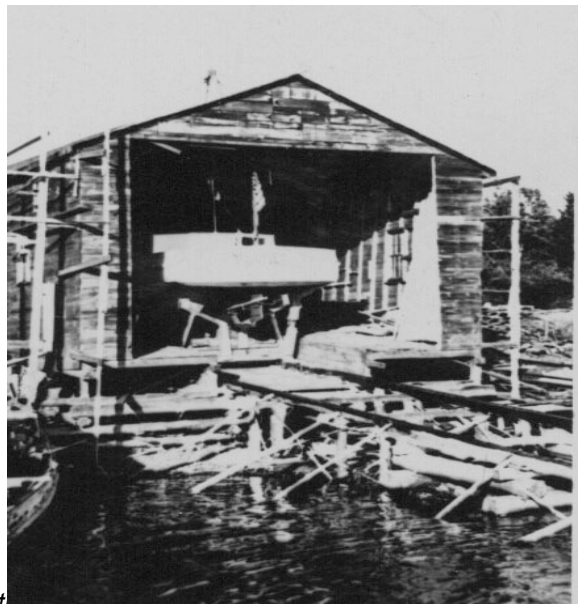
58-foot dragger designed and built by W.C. Lash, designed and built in 1988





*Site of Lash Brothers
Boat Yard, 1926-1987*

*The Lash Brothers: Robert, Harold, Douglas, Winnie, and
Howard. Not shown: Philip and John*



Early boatyard pictures. Launching of the first 6' x 10' motor boat

