

Name of person interviewed: Donald Clattenberg (DC)

Facts about this person:

Age: 81

Sex: Male

Occupation: Retired Boat owner

Home ports: New Bedford

Residence: Fairhaven

Ethnic background: Nova Scotian

Interviewer: Millie Rahn (MR)

Also present: Kirsten Bendiksen (KB)

Transcriber: Sarah Smith

Place interview took place:

Date and time of interview: November 9, 2006

**INDEX / KEYWORDS****KEYWORDS**

Nova Scotia; Russians; rescue at sea; music; modern technology; explosives

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- [00:00] Testing equipment; born in Port Midway, Nova Scotia; came to New Bedford in 1941 with three brothers
- [02:48] Father owned four fishing boats in New Bedford; was a dragger, fishing for swordfish; came down when he was fifteen; worked in Homers Filet House
- [05:30] Drafted into the Navy at eighteen in WWII; invaded the beach at Okinawa; was fifty percent disabled but stopped getting his disability pay; started fishing with his uncle on the Two Brothers; everything was much cheaper then;
- [08:17] Used to fish on Nantucket Shoals overnight; began fishing longer trips to George's Bank on his father's boat; also worked as a lumper; lumpers today make a lot of money; friends come by and bring him fish now; father and uncles were fishermen; he was the only one of four brothers to go fishing; gets a pension today
- [12:30] None of his children went fishing; son hated fish and now works in Sheriffs Department; story about how his granddaughter was living with him for awhile and going to school but they got in an argument over her boyfriend and she moved out
- [16:08] Story about how he was saved by Russians during the Cold War while fishing; boat was caught in a storm while out fishing and hit by some large waves; one guy on the boat broke his leg; DC was hit in the head by debris in the flooded engine room and was bleeding badly; crew flagged down a Russian ship for help
- [19:44] Russians contacted their embassy in Washington who told them to take him aboard, so they transferred him to the Russian ship
- [22:47] The Russians sewed up his head wound and set the other fisherman's broken leg; Russian ship rendezvoused with a Coast Guard ship and they were transferred to Coast Guard
- [25:47] Spent the night on the Russian ship; got to see where they process the fish; wears his wedding ring on his right hand because one of the Russian men did, to think about them
- [28:36] Coast Guard gave the Russians some cigarettes and took him and the other fisherman off the ship; flew them by helicopter to Boston; authorities in Boston believed they were Russians and didn't want to let them in; probably wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the Russians
- [30:53] Lots of Russians around in the sixties; Jimmy Carter came to New Bedford one day and asked him what he felt about the Russian fleet;
- [33:34] Russian fleet would haul in a lot of fish; he wouldn't be a good fishermen because the government is always telling you what to do now; fishermen now have to cut out monkfish tails and skate wings

[36:39] Doesn't miss fishing; quit fishing twenty years ago; was in the union and now gets a pension; been on stern trawlers, now boats today have automatic pilot and there's nothing to driving them

[39:17] Fished with mostly Norwegians on his boats; ethnic groups tend to stick together; Portuguese sometimes pretend not to speak English when they do; liked to sing Country and Western songs, sing Irish songs on the boats

[42:01] Newfoundlanders always bring accordions on the boats; likes to listen to country music; went to Hank Snow museum in Nova Scotia;

[45:00] Newfoundlanders had a lot of superstitions, like not fishing on Friday the thirteenth and not bringing women on board; spats were not allowed on board; they pulled up hand grenades and a bomb; one boat pulled up a bomb that exploded and sank the boat

[48:02] Explosives incidents were in the sixties; had to get away from whales a couple of times; Georges Bank was the furthest away he fished; they used to kill lots of small fish; radar was a wonderful invention; almost hit a boat a couple of times, and was hit by a boat once;

[51:18] Lots of fishermen want to get out of the fishery today; tracking boats by satellite; uncle couldn't read or write but could navigate in the fog; closing remarks

**TRANSCRIPT**

[00:00]

[Start of Audio]

MR: Ultimately we – sometimes we use some of them for the festival, some of the quotes were in the – that tabloid newspaper that the festival hands out...

DC: Yeah.

MR: We use them in workshops, all sorts of things. Basically we want to document as many people in this area who were involved in the various aspects of the fishery. So, um... so I'm going to ask you lots of questions and... um, I definitely want to hear about this rescue, and anything else, you know, sort of generally...

DC: I can only tell you what I know. So...

MR: Well, that's the best you can do and that's...

DC: ...that's all...if I can remember it all

MR: ...exactly... and you're the only one who knows it...

DC: Yeah...

MR: What you did...

DC: Yeah...

MR: So... okay. Alright, are...

DC: I know the dates of it anyway, when it happened. January the ninth, 1966.

MR: Its November 9<sup>th</sup>...

DC: Yup...

MR: Okay, we'll start with just some general back – I'll ask you something...

DC: That water was come cold.

MR: Fffff. In like January. Okay?

DC: Yeah.

MR: Ready? Are we ready to go?

KB: Mmm hmm.

MR: Okay, um (coughs). I have to get in voice.

KB: I wonder, do you think I should make sure this is recording?

DC: Already played it.

KB: I see the things are moving, the lights...

MR: Okay.

DC: Testing one, two, three, one, two, three...

MR: And is it...?

DC: ...one, two, three, four...

MR: ...is it moving?

DC: ...five, six, seven, eight...

KB: This is moving very...

DC: ...nine, ten. Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one.

KB: That's moving.

MR: Okay.

KB: This is moving.

DC: Play it back.

MR: And if the levels...

KB: And the – yup, the levels are good and the light's on.

MR: And are you hearing through the...?

KB: I'm hearing.

MR: Okay. Then it should be...

KB: We should be all set?

MR: Yup.

KB: Okay.

MR: Okay. Today is Thursday, November 9, 2006. My name is Millie Rahn, I'm a folklorist with the Working Waterfront Festival, and I'm here at the home of Mister Donald Clattenburg here in New Bedford. And with us as tech support is Kirsten Bendiksen, who will probably be recorded during the

interview as well. So Mister Clattenburg, tell me a little bit about yourself, where and when you were born, um, how you got into the fishery, and how you ended up in New Bedford. Please.

DC: Well, I was born in Port Midway, Nova Scotia, Canada. I came to this country in August the 26<sup>th</sup>, 1941. Myself and my three brothers. My mother is there in Nova Scotia, she died there. Well my father and her were separated so he was the – he had another woman here, though. And then they bought this house and we l-lived in here, in this house.

[02:48]

MR: Was he involved in the fishery here in New Bedford?

DC: Oh yeah, he was a captain. He, yeah, he – he – my dad owned four fishing boats.

MR: Aha!

DC: Yeah. Him and Gerald. Gerald Moriarty of 627 Coggeshall Street New Bedford.

MR: When did he come down?

DC: My father?

MR: Yeah.

DC: Oh, he was odd (?) years before – I couldn't tell you.

MR: Okay.

DC: I don't remember when he came. Before I was born I guess. I have pictures of him. Right there, him and I together.

MR: Oh yeah. What kind of fishing did he do?

DC: Dragger. He al– oh, he used to go seine fishing, then he used to swordfishing. I heard him telling about it. Yeah, he – he knowed plenty of story. He used to go on top of the mast to look for the swordfish. He always had to get up there to look, on fine days you had to be cap or with a sun visor on, you know, look out over... he used to tell me some stories. His brother one time got rid of the cross trees, you know? He's sitting on the heaved side, he's sawing away inside, and then let go and he fell overboard. [laughs]

MR: [laughing]

DC: So, that – that was one of the stories he told me, anyway.

KB: [laughing] that's cool.

DC: Yeah.

MR: So you came down in August of '41, that was just before the war...

DC: That's right.

MR: And did you come down to – intending to stay and go fishing?

DC: Oh, yeah, yeah...

MR: Okay.

DC: No, I didn't to fishing, I oughta go to school, I was only fifteen...

MR: Okay.

DC: ...I turned sixteen when I came here.

MR: When – what year were you born?

DC: Uh... nine – five – twenty-five, September the fifth, 1925.

MR: Okay.

DC: So that makes me eighty-one.

MR: Okay.

DC: Labor Day. So I've been here a few years.

MR: Okay.

DC: So either go to school or go to work. So I went to work, working in the filet house. Homer's Wharf.

KB: Ah!

DC: Fifty cents an hour.

KB: Sheesh...

DC: So you didn't make much for a week's pay. Heh.

MR: And you were...

DC: Today... today they getting big money for that. That's what I told Carlos down at the festival. I used that with fifty cents an hour with no heat in the winter time, an old stove with coal. Now they have heat – and you used to heat water on top, and put a pan of water in front of you, put your hands in it, get – so you could keep 'em warm once in awhile. With cotton gloves, no rubber gloves then.

MR: Wow...

DC: That was cold.

KB: Oh, that was cold...

DC: And, I don't have no coppertone.

KB: Wow...

DC: My fingers are all working, had no problems.

KB: Wow...

DC: Yup. So, when I came old enough after that – old enough, I got drafted.

MR: Aha.

[05:30]

DC: Had to go in the Navy, the Army after that, so I went in the Navy. Yup, nineteen – I think 1942 – 43! 1943. And I served two years and the war was over, so... yeah. On an LST, 1014. We were in a lot of invasions. The last place we invaded were, uh, Okinawa. I was on the beach at Okinawa.

KB: Really...

DC: Yeah. When they said – we were right on the beach when they said the President of the United States died. I cried.

MR: Mmm...

DC: Everybody did. We were only nineteen years old, man. Heh heh. A lot of boys never made it though. Cause we – we buried dead for a week or more.

MR: Mmm.

DC: Yeah. I had suicide planes crash right alongside me. Yeah. I was a – fifty percent disabled. I was in, what, six or seven hospitals, and they sent me home. Fifty percent disability. And I know cause they had took it away from me. That's pretty good, eh? Heh heh. No gettin' nothing. I was on the job training, I guess they made a mistake in the pay or something. And that's it. I lost everything of it. So... I gave it to a lawyer, O'Leary, but, said he couldn't do nothing about it so, I just forgot it.

KB: Ohhh...

MR: Mmm...

DC: Yup. So then I went back picking and I started fishing. I went – I went out with my- my uncle on the Two Brothers.

KB: Two Brothers...

DC: Yup. Two Brothers. Then I was on the Anastasia Reed (?) with Woody's brother. With no heat, no heat in the pilot house. That's when we had, uh, no oil burners then, we had coal stoves. You use– Gallant used to have water boat, sell the kindling and the coal, and then they come over with oil burners after that. So we wouldn't a had them oil burners, they were great.

KB: Wow...

DC: Heh heh. Sure. Yeah. That's when fuel oil was only, what, twelve cents a gallon?



MR: Wow...

DC: And they went on strike 'cause it went up to thirteen cents. Heh.

MR: It...

DC: When I first came here, I used to drive to Nova Scotia with my car, wouldn't even cost me twenty dollars.

MR: Mmm.

DC: Now you can't even get out of the state. See the difference now?

KB: Yeah...

DC: When my dad, when he bought this house, he paid, what, seven thousand dollars for it, so...

KB: Yup.

DC: I was offered two hun- two hundred thousand, but... sort of a lot (?). Where am I gonna go? I ain't got no other home or anything, I live here. I do my own cooking and everything, I'm all set. I vacuum the rugs.

[08:17]

MR: Now, when you went fishing, were – where were you going fishing?

DC: Well, it was all around – mostly around Nantucket Shoals and everything with my uncle. And when a breeze up they'd go into Nantucket, and everything, standard procedure. No radar then, them days.

KB: Right.

MR: Right.

DC: Not when I started. You used to get a trip of fish overnight. Whew. Big bags of fish. I got a movie here hoisting in a big bag of yellowtails.

KB: Yeah.

DC: I'll show it to you before you go if you want to see it.

KB: Yeah...

MR: Well...

DC: That's on the Venture One, too. The same boat.

KB: That went down, the Venture One.

DC: Oh yeah. They sold it to a guy named BB, and she sunk up. Yeah. Yeah...

MR: Well...

DC: Yeah, I was on quite a few boats. So after, my uncle he sold a boat, and everything, I had to look for another site, and well, it was only in the summertime, I'd take all winter off. They wouldn't fish in the winter, them days. Small boats inshore, Nantucket Shoals. Later on I got bigger boats, you know, I got on one of my father's, we used to go down to Georges, see? Eight, ten days. You wouldn't come home unless it was full of fish, so there you go.

KB: Right...

DC: Cant – you can't settle up on pinboards.

KB: No...

DC: No, no...

KB: Right.

DC: So there you go. That, and when they used to unload the fish the lumpers was eight dollars. I forked out fish too, I was a lump too. Eight dollars! Twenty-eight thousand of fish, you get eight dollars. Then you had to scrub the groll(?) so you could walk up, make sure you put salt, you know, and up and down there, had no chemicals like they had today. Heh. For eight dollars! Now the get, what, six- six- sixty-five or seventy dollars just for a couple hours work? And I think it's a hundred dollars for scallopers, I never worked one of them, I think it's a hundred dollars for lumpers, scallopers today. Yup. But I don't pay for any fish, I have fish. I get lobsters and fish, scallop...

KB: Oh, good.

DC: Cause I have my friends, you know? I bring 'em a little beer, some gloves, some knives, or something, and they make a trade.

KB: Ha ha. Good...

MR: So your father was fishing and your uncles were fishing, too...

DC: All the whole – oh yeah, my father's whole family...

MR: Yeah...

DC: ...brothers and all, yeah. Yeah. My dad – I got pictures of my Dad right behind here.

MR: Oh yeah. Yup.

DC: I got pictures of him when he was – I got pictures of him even in the engine room with a broken foot. Heh heh.

MR: Wow.

DC: I have it all ready for you out there. Yup. My dad is right behind my- that white envelope, there.

MR: Oh yeah.

DC: I guess I can get it for you... [rustling sounds] When he was younger and when he got older. There's when he was nineteen years old. There he is when he's 89. And there he is with me. So there isn't many guys who would have that.

MR: Oh my gosh.

DC: And I'm the only one – only one that went fishing, the only son. We had four – there were four of us.

MR: Really!

DC: Yup.

MR: Oh my gosh. Oh, you look so much alike.

DC: Yup! I look like my father. I never noticed it till a few days ago, I was showing this woman, I said, You want to meet my twin brother? She says, I didn't know you had a twin brother. I said, Nah, that's my father. She believed me, the lady next door. Heh heh.

MR: Wow, you were the only one to go fishing. That's amazing.

DC: Yup, Im the only one. I stuck it out right up till I got my – I joined the union in 1950 and I was fishing before that. When George Fina (?) was in I got sworn in down there.

KB: Oh, yeah, yeah...

MR: Oh yeah...

DC: I get a pension now, 492 every month.

MR: Mmm!

DC: And the death benefit went up, seven thousand five hundred. Before that was only three. They tried to whack up, because not many paying in on that, they tried to whack it up but the rest of the guys wouldn't, I guess they couldn't do it or something. So anyway, anything happens while you're – you got enough to bury you, ever. Better than, uh, relying on the kids. The kids – no burden on the kids, that's all.

[12:30]

MR: Now did any of your children go fishing?

DC: No.

MR: No.

DC: My kids, I have one boy and two girls. I used to have my son come down and clean up the engine room for – but, some go fishing, he wouldn't, he wouldn't even put fish in the paper bag for me, he hated 'em. Heh heh. Oh yeah. He –he's pretty cool. He's a mechanic, he took up that. And he quit high school, he got blamed in school for riding across the lawn or something, he couldn'ta been riding

across the lawn because he was with me that day! That mighta been another car like I – I gotta get your clothes, and come out. You know what? He went back and he took up – he had a tu-tutor, you know, and-and he got his high school education out of it, and he made himself a man – made a man out of himself.

MR: Hmm!

DC: And he works for the Sheriff's department today, he's got five more years to go and he'll be pensioned off. He went up to a lieutenant, and it was too much orders and all that, and he – everybody hated him, so he says, Well, I'll do that, I'll drop down to a blue uniform again. Had more friends.

KB: [laughs]

DC: Cause the guy in the blue uniforms had to take orders from him, see? And he was only taking orders from the higher above him so he had to give them out, right? So when the other guy (something) out, he dropped out.

MR: Hmm.

DC: Now he's got all kindsa friends. You know. That's how it goes. And my oldest daughter, she works at Titleist, and my other daughter, she married a chap from, uh, Ontario. We were on vacation in Nova Scotia, and they come down with these other friends, and they went back to the beach, and they were courting one another, and they had a bottle, and I said, You gonna give me a drink? Nope! They didn't. How do you like that?

MR: [laughs]

DC: So he fell in love with – and they got married, and now they got two kids. There's his – there's his family right there, the guy she met.

MR: Oh yeah.

KB: Yeah.

DC: That's her and her two girl- and she's down here, going to SMU. She's twenty-three years old.

MR: Ah!

KB: Good!

DC: Yup.

KB: Wow, isn't that nice?

DC: And she's supposed to live with me, but her-her boyfriend called her up all hours of the night here, and, uh, I woke up during the night, and he was, uh, on the phone, and I come down, I – she's crying, I says, What are you crying for? Nothing. Well then I lost my cool. I says he keeps calling like this, and I says, You know you gotta get up and go to SMU in the morning, you got – I says I'm gonna call your father, come and get you. And I don't remember going back to bed. So I went and I had my headache salmon (?) there, and it cause I lost my cool. Tell the truth. That cost me, uh, I don't know, cost me what, five hundred dollars just for that. Scam (?)

MR: Mmm hmm.

DC: I had to pay the difference, and all that. So that – she’s – she’s out, my daughter and them come, my daughter has her. So she’s more contented there anyway, so...

KB: Mmm...

DC: And, uh, he broke up with her. Well, he was five years now, and this – they were done that here before when she down here on vacation, get her crying. I don’t like that. So I blew my stack, so... I said, Well, something must be wrong. I remember giving her that, I remember pulling the plug on the telephone, you know? But, uh, I guess she didn’t like it to see me mad, so, she packed up and left. So...

MR: Wow.

DC: So she’s with my daughter.

MR: Now...

DC: They come cruise (?) and everything for her, so. We don’t want to get into that.

MR: Okay [laughs]

DC: That’s all – that’s all private.

MR: We’ll go back to the past.

DC: You can – you can erase that.

KB: Ah! Okay, we will.

MR: Okay.

DC: I hope so.

[16:08]

MR: Now, I’m looking at this article that you, um, gave us, and it’s headlined “Local Mariner Recalls How Russians Saved Fishermen.”

DC: That’s right, that was the Cold War days.

MR: Now, tell me, could you tell me that story please, so that we have it for the tape.

DC: Well, you have to ask questions and I can answer them, I can’t just bring it out and tell you.

MR: Okay, well, what happened. Wh-what caused you to be saved at sea?

DC: Oh, well uh, it was the – we were fishing and it breezed up, and – and it got real rough so we had to, uh, stow the gear, and it got rougher. And the next day, it were more rougher, so they went out and tied all the nets, and they asked me to hold the wheel, and, uh... when they all come back into the pilot house I was steering up into it, and, after awhile just like we’re going up, up, up, up, and all of a sudden,

one come down on – I just turned my head, and said, Cap, that is a big one. When it come right – smashed everything in. We look, going up, up, up, and drove the boat backwards. You'd never believe it.

KB: Ooh. That's scary.

DC: Yeah! And when I turned – when the Captain - and the – the blowing all around here, the – the - and it – it – there's a wind you use to hook in the body (?) and you hook it up, its – smashed that right off. Musta – musta hit me, and the steering in front, nothing. Gone. I had pictures here of everything but I – I can't find them. I looked for it today for you. It was all gone. So they had to – so uh – after she hit, I said, well, I looked behind I said, Where's Leo? The guy's supposed to be on watch for me? The captain was stand by the notch gears (?), that was working alright. You could speed the engine up and down, but didn't – where the wheel go, nothing. You can't steer it. I says, Where's Leo? The compartment behind me is all smashed out. After the water all out, I'm out here. He broke the radiator off and hit him in the leg, it was all debris, laying down, and we got him out of there. And he had a broken leg, so... I goes down to the engine room, I was engineer, so I just pull the lever... let it level off, you know, and – and made sure now big ones, so... then the Captain took over. So I go down the engine room, floor boards are floating. Water up all over the floor. I worked down there so much... to get the boat pumped out. And I'm working there with a lifejacket on. After awhile I says, Lord, if you want me, you can take me. But I have to work for my wife and kids, and I took it all. And I wasn't a bit scared. So they took me down forward, they put flour on my face and everything. I was beaten pretty bad. So I got so weak, I couldn't – I couldn't tend the engine no more, so the cook... he took over. Forgot his name – Lucky, his name is, uh... uh, Norm Parasol is his name, so he took over, for me. And they... sees the Russians come up alongside and everything, and uh, the only way they compute – they had the flag upside down. And that blew all to pieces, been blowing so hard. Turned to rags. And they put notes in bottles.

KB: Oh, wow.

[19:44]

DC: And let em go back and forth to one another. So, I wasn't up there then, so, I heard all about it – I did have a copy of it and I lost that too. And they sent em back and forth, in communicating. Pasilic (?) couldn't get the blood to stop. They put flour and everything, so I got so weak I said, the only thing I could keep down was a little drink of water. And – and my clothes was all wet where I took that sea that time. So, the cook gave me his big underwear. I wonder what the Russian thought when they took – and the Russians gave me clothes too, a nice sweater, and candy bars, and cigarettes, and everything. Yeah. So...

MR: Now, where was this?

DC: Down the sout' east – sou' west part, western, sou' west part of Georges. Over the Banks. Yup.

MR: And you said it was in January, what was...?

DC: January the ninth, 1966. That's forty – that's forty years ago. I was only thir – I was only forty years old. That's forty-one years ago.

KB: Was that the same storm the Midnight Sun went down?

DC: No, no, that was her other ones. That's other ones. Yup. And then the, the Russians... call... oh, yeah, they sent notes back. And says, the Wash – the Washington, Do we notify Washington, and

Washington said, Take men off at all costs. Take blood man. Blood man, yeah, they called me the blood man.

KB: Aahh!!

MR: Ohh!

DC: Yeah, take off Blood Man. Didn't say nothing about the guy with a broken leg. So then they come over, with a dinghy, that's a big ship, you gotta lower a boat down in there... they must have pumped fuel oil overboard to calm the sea down. Because when we were – man, when the boat come up alongside, we had like a – a dory, and – and with lights out, with the boom going out with the light on it, you wouldn't hear their boat come up. It hit the guys head, and it got away again. And ooohhhh, and when they come back the next time, they push me into the boat, and when I go into the boat, my cap blew off. I don't like that. And the seas... it was kinda choppy yet, but I smell like – smell like fuel oil, you know.

MR: Oh.

KB: Yup, we lost you for a little bit here.

MR: So great having a tech. [laughs]

DC: [laughs] Yeah, my clothes smell like fuel oil, so when we get alongside the boat, I happen to look up, and I says, Well how the heck they gonna get us way up there. Finally these hooks come down, and just when the sea was just right they hooked it, and they take us up.

MR: Hmm...

DC: And I had a picture of that ship, if I had it now I'd give it to you. But you see that guy who was in charge of that down the wharf, he'll probably give it to you. I don't know his name or what... and he wrote that story for me.

[22:47]

MR: Now did they speak English to you.

DC: Oh yeah, the guy from the engine room, he was just about my size...

MR: So the Russians spoke English. Did you speak – you didn't speak...

DC: Well not all of 'em, no, some of 'em couldn't. They used to call me – call me Comrade. So then they went back and got the other guy, with the broken leg. Put him in the same room with me. They were very nice – Comrade Clattenberg, and - and they wanted to know where you from, I said Nova Scotia, Canada, where I come from. And when they got Leo Powers, when he come over, you know, What's your name? He says Powers. Oh! Powers! Zzzzzzz... Remember that spy plane?

KB: Yeah, yeah, yeah!

DC: Yeah, that's...

MR: Oh, right!

DC: I didn't know about that till after.

MR: Gary... Powers

DC: Yeah, whatever the guy's name...

MR: ...wasn't there Francis

DC: ...they shot down. I says, No wonder the guy went, Oh, Powers! Zzzzzzzz. He was imitating an airplane, didn't dawn on me till after [laughs]

MR: Ahh!

DC: So, after that, they – they took – they brought him aboard, and they brought him in the same room with me, and they got him on the floor, and they put... plaster of paris and fixed his legs up. They gave him bacca.

KB: Ohh!

DC: I says, Give me one!

KB: Yeah!

DC: No, no, no, no, no, no. No bacca. You know what they gave me? Tomato juice. Out of the can, big can of tomato juice. Drink.

KB: Sure there was no vodka in it?

DC: No. No vodka. No, no, no. I know because I used to drink of it for – I know. And I...

MR: What...?

DC: My old liver – I go, no, no, don't get none, don't give me none

MR: Why wouldn't they give you...

DC: They had a big gallon of vodka there for Leo, and they – No, 'cause you bleeding.

MR: Oh, cause it's a head...

DC: With alcohol and an injury, no, wouldn't do it, no, and – and I said, Who the heck's gonna sew up my face? This guy come in, and – and pried around, he – he ga-gave me a shot, and numbed it all, and they sewed it all up, I didn't feel a thing.

KB: Wow.

DC: Put the flesh back again. It was like a lip used to come out, you know, it was just up like that, I got the scar here yet, it goes up like that, and...

MR: Yeah.



DC: Yeah.

KB: Wow...

MR: So they did... a whole...

DC: Maybe that's why I had that temple 'ritis years ago. 'Cause the bean's all...

KB: Oh, temple arthritis?

DC: ...Oh, man, that was terrible. Headaches for two weeks, I had all – I had that taken care of. After that, that happened. Yup.

MR: So, they had to – because it was during the Cold War, they had to...

DC: That was very nice

MR: ...contact Washington...

DC: Yeah, had to con...

MR: ...to get the permission to...

DC: Yeah, they did, they contact Washington, they had to, cause they – take Blood Man off at all costs. And then the Coast Guard rendezvous with them, that's it.

MR: Okay.

DC: So they rendezvoused after, the Coast Guard come aboard, and, brought cigarettes and everything for – and they gave me – the Russians gave me cigarettes. Huh! It was all filter and a little bit of tobacco! Heh heh! Three quarters of the cigarette was filter and about an inch of tobacco, that was all. Yep. And they gave me a nice Russian sweater. And some old lady, she was nice, I gave her a hug before I left.

MR: Awww...

DC: Yeah.

[25:47]

MR: Aww. How long were you on their boat?

DC: Overnight. Nice and warm, their boat never rolled a bit. Oh yeah, and they took me down the engine room. They showed me where they processed all the fish, a filet house and everything. Escalator with the – with the – what do they call 'em, escalator, everything come along. Then they had lobsters, they had – in the freezer, or they had 'em laying on their back froze – frozen. Yeah, filet house – and then they took me in the engine room. Man I could walk through the engine. The guy was working, had to be – base plate off, only a young man, he spoke good English. And he happened to see my wedding ring was over here. And to this day... there's my wedding ring over there. I put it over there.

MR: To...

DC: I wish they waited on that, I said...

MR: To remember?

DC: To remember 'em by.

KB: Yeah...

DC: So I put it on that – in Russia, right hand.

KB: On Norway, too.

DC: Yup, right hand. So you know I'm not lying. So...

KB: Wow...

DC: Heh heh.

MR: Wow...

KB: That's neat.

DC: And then I gave my ring away. 'Cause Jean, she – Jean's cousin, or his girlfriend was coming over here to Boston with cancer, and she was getting ready – she died. He said I woulda married her, I says, You can marry her if you want. I took my ring off and he put it on, on her finger.

MR: Wow...

DC: Yup. Then they had a daughter and she just died, and she had a little boy, and did I cry when they called and told me.

MR: Mmm...

DC: Yup, that was a...

MR: Wow.

DC: Yup.

MR: Now...

DC: That's how life goes. So then, we were on about, get back on the Russians again.

KB: Oops.

DC: Uh oh.

KB: Yeah, you clip that, yeah.

MR: Yeah, just clip it to the front of your shirt... Yup...

DC: Oh, I guess you have to do it.

MR: Oh. [laughs] I love this.

KB: That's it. My pleasure. [laughs]

MR: We're going to be a team now, we're going to go out as...

KB: Yeah!

DC: [laughs]

MR: It's much more fun to do it with somebody else.

DC: So where were we now?

MR: Well, okay, so... you'd been to the engine room, you switched your ring...

DC: Oh yeah, that was it...

MR: What happened...? And then...

DC: All that, and then they – they rendezvoused with – they notified the Coast Guard, the Coa-the Coa...

MR: Okay...

DC: The Coast Guard come and... they had a – they had a helicopter on board, a helicop...

MR: Oh, okay...

DC: On – on the Coast Guard, the Vigilant. So they launched a boat. Heh! They got that one and it couldn't start. Heh heh. So they had to bring that one back aboard, and launch another boat.

[28:36]

KB: Wow...

DC: And they come overboard, they would – men, Coast Guard men had guns and something, whatever. Yup, and they went up this big gang plank come down the side like big seam as you walk up, nothing to it then, that was easy. That's the way they took me down. And they were doing paperwork and da da... you give trade, you know, cigarettes, and had a conversation after awhile they took us off. I go down in the boat, go over alongside the Vigilant, took us inside, they gave me a drink of brandy. And the other guy. So we're...

MR: So they rescued you and the guy with the broken leg.

DC: Yup, they took the two of us, yup.

MR: Okay.

DC: The Coast Guard took the two of us, said were going to go to Boston. I said we're going to have a rough run. No! Helicopter right on the back. Put us in the helicopter and in about an hour or so we're in Boston. The about after we arrived in Boston – ha! – they wouldn't let the ambulance down to pick us up, they thought we were a couple of Russians! I found out about that! Yeah, we were there a long time with the helicopter door open. I had pictures of that, but I haven't got it now. After awhile they let the – well the other buddy with the broken leg, he swore and everything, Powers and da, da, da, Get us out of here, if you're going to take me to the hospital, I wanna get out of here, I'm no Russian, I'm American, he said, So were the other guy. I was too. Finally let 'em down and then they took us over to Brighton Marine.

MR: Oh yeah.

DC: Then they come up within the view, this is Brighton Marine. Oh you guys gonna be on television tonight, I said, Whaddyou mean? Sure enough, we were. Heh heh.

MR: Gosh.

DC: I thought they were kidding, you know?

KB: Wow...

DC: Yup.

MR: Ssssss... so who wouldn't let the ambulance down the...

DC: Security.

MR: Securit...

DC: Well I know why cause its Cold War time, you know, so....

MR: Yeah!

DC: Russians. They thought we were a couple Russians. I found out later. Yeah, that were the – that were nice of the Russians to save us, if it weren't for the Russians I wouldn't – probably wouldn't be here, and the rest of it.

MR: Exactly, yeah. I mean, that's the nice...

DC: And the Russians – oh yeah, the Russians did towed the Venture.

[phone ringing]

KB: Want me to take your microphone? Don't forget your microphone.

MR: Oh yeah, yeah. We can just switch off the...oop. Okay. We can just switch off the tape reorder.

[break in recording]

[30:53]

DC: And then the Alert, from New Bedford, when I – you know, you were allowed to tow so far and they gotta go out in there, and the Alert towed it in New Bedford. I'll show – there it is, right there now, with the Alert.

MR: Oh yeah, okay, that's the picture in the newspaper article.

DC: Yeah, yeah. That was – that had to be taken from a helicopter, or... or an airplane.

MR: So did you see many Russians out fishing in the sixties?

DC: Oh, yes. I had pictures of 'em somewhere around, it was just like convoys of 'em... Yeah, they're big ships. Like big steamers.

MR: How did... how did... fishermen around here feel about that?

DC: Oh, we f... we didn't like the Russians, you know...

MR: Okay...

DC: ...before, but... when they hauled back, man they – they cleaned the bottom. Huh! President Carter, he interviewed me one day, he said What do you think about the Russians out here? Carter, he was president – wasn't he? – he was president, wasn't he?

MR: Yeah!

DC: President Carter?

KB: Yeah.

DC: Yeah!

MR: Yeah!

DC: I gained (?) about me, that.

MR: In the seventies.

DC: So he said, What do you think about the Russians out here Donald? I said, Well, the waters getting deeper out here now account of the Russians are going back and forth our bottom. [laughs] They had – they had me on the radio too, I was on the radio – I didn't know it, I didn't hear it. So I was told, yeah.

MR: So, Jimmy Carter came here to New Bedford?

DC: He was here in New Bedford one – down around the waterfront, and some – somebody said, Hey, uh, Clattenberg, there's Mister Carter. So I went over and shook hands with him and he asked me about the Russians, and... that's after that – a coincidence, after that happened too, you know. But, uh... oh well.

MR: Interesting, yeah.

DC: Yeah. But they... they musta carter a lot of fish back to Russia from here, man, cause they cleaned up Europe over that – that side. So... just take our small boats, we all back with their nets are full, and – and the ones they take, wow. And had – and they had the other ones come alongside to the

mothership unloading and they go out and get more and they going back home, their great big tires and fenders are down – they were well prepared. These big draggers...

MR: How did their boats compare to... boats here? Were...?

DC: We're just like dories, to - we're just like bo- life boats to theirs!

MR: Ah.

DC: Oh, man. You look up there. Heh. That's right, they could – they could hoist our boat to board. They must have some awful gear, miles and miles of that.

KB: Mmm... mmm...

DC: Yup. I'd like to have a movie camera then.

MR: Oh yeah.

[33:34]

DC: Yup. Yup... they had a lot of smaller ones too. They were – they were still bigger than or draggers. They'd go up to the mothership and unload again and come back, see? And them big ones had they – they...dragged from the stern too, they had big doors and nets, everything inside. You know these, uh... some be these, um, mackerel boats coming into New Bedford, they have a lot of seine going out. You know how much they have in one tow, of mackerel? They got big pipes, they get the big net and they haul alongside and they put this big pipe down? About twelve or fourteen inches down- or across diameter. And they, with the water, and they go down and they'll just – they got an escalator down this way and the fill the hold. Four hundred thousand, one tow.

MR: Mmm.

DC: Of mackerel and herring. Oh I got movies on that! Would you like – yeah, you could take it home and see it!

KB: Okay, good! Yeah, Riga (?) would enjoy that.

DC: Yeah, I think... I think I... yeah, you - you did – they're like steamers! I dubbed that to show my friend in Canada. He – he's a skipper of a boat. He lost his wife who got married around the same time. He lost a boy one time. Had some – had an accident in front of his house. Oh, wonder what that was? And when they hauled the guy out behind the wheel it was his own boy.

MR: Mmm.

DC: Be the same age of mine. And they lost his wife, she had cancer of the brain. I – she died just an hour before I got there.

MR: Mmm...

DC: And he – he communicates with me. He just got married last month. I says God bless you. If I was young, well he's younger than me, ten, eighteen years younger. But I said... but we was all made now and you can't marry a woman for nothing so you got to get fifty-fifty, he said, What the hell? I said,

You got – the house and everything all transferred over for the kids now. Got three kids, and you split it up three ways.

MR: Mmm.

DC: But we communicate, he's a fisherman.

MR: So what do...?

DC: He come in here one time with his dragger, a big scalloper, had the engine overhauled.

KB: Oh yeah? Oops...

DC: And, uh, when they went out of – out of New Bedford, I guess the cook was pumping oil up to the galley to fill the tank, and - and he forgot it would overflow, went down and sprayed the engine, they lost the boat. Caught on fire.

MR: Huh!

KB: Got it.

DC: Yup, yup...

MR: So what do you think makes a good fisherman?

DC: Oh, you got me! [laughs] I wouldn't want to be a fisherman today 'cause you wouldn't know where to go. The government's controlling everything, they're telling you what to do now. Years ago you come and go as you like. Come in here in the morning, unload your fish, go out the next day. But now, the government tells you what to do. Now they're saving everything like monk tails, skates – I never got into that.

KB: Mmm...

DC: Yup. Oh well.

KB: Yeah, Riga (?) tried that for awhile.

DC: Nah, that's a lot of work, cutting monk tails out, and skate wings, and all of that. But, it's a lot of work to it.

KB: Mmm hmm. Mmm hmm.

[36:39]

DC: Yeah, your husband had the net place over to Fairhaven there, right? Reidar's ship.

KB: Yeah, we do, yup, yup.

DC: Yup, yup.

KB: We do.

MR: So... do you miss it.

DC: No.

MR: Nope?

DC: I do not miss it.

MR: Mmm.

DC: Heh! I have friends down the waterfront. If I want fish, I don't buy no fish though. [laughs]  
Matter of fact, I can give you container of scallops for –for your supper if you want em.

KB: Oh hoh hoh hoh!

DC: For tomorrow, that's right off the boat down Onset. I'll give you each one.

KB: Ohhh...

MR: Aww! How sweet!

DC: Its got about what, fifteen? Maybe fifteen, fourteen or fifteen scallops in it.

KB: Wow...

DC: Yup. Yup. No, the only way I go fishing today is they let me steer. If I get out in the bay I says Donald, what are you going out there? I turn around and come back.

KB: [laughs]

MR: [laughs] When did you stop fishing?

DC: 1987.

MR: Aha.

DC: I've been... twenty years now, pretty well.

KB: Yeah, that's the year we started our business.

DC: Yeah. Yup. 87.... That's it. Medicare, I was thinking about getting more insurance, I just... gee. I had a CAT scan, I had all of... stress test, and everything, all of 'em – and they all cost money. So I'm thinking of getting that AARP a little bit more.

MR: Well, you were part of the union, you were saying, and...

DC: Oh, I was in the union, oh yeah...

MR: ...there's...

DC: ...I was in the union, yeah, I get my pension...



MR: ...and that's different from...yeah...

DC: ...I get, I get 492 of pension every month.

MR: And that's different from today too, yeah?

DC: Yeah. That's cause you're luck – years ago, you're lucky to make that maybe. You got a hundred and twenty-five dollars a week years and years ago, man, that was a big trip.

KB: Yeah, yeah. Course you went to a movie for a nickel too.

DC: One cup of coffee was five cents.

KB: Right, right, right.

DC: Yup. And gasoline, man, fill your tank for twenty dollars, I don't know how many tanks you'd hold.

KB: Yeah.

DC: Lotta difference.

MR: What do you think about the difference between the boats today and the boats in your day?

DC: Oh, the boats today, man, nothing to it today. I – I been on them stern trawlers, oh, we had one of them, that's – go back and knock her out and all of that, sideways, its steering cables, and everything. Nothing to it today. I was on – I was on the Atlantic Challenger with the... Big Dick.

KB: Big Dick.

DC: Yes!

KB: Yeah!

DC: Yeah, I've been on her, that's the... sure, I just – on the way coming home, nothing to do. I'd just- he's sitting up there, got an automatic pilot – we had to steer, they just clutch the – the Mickey Mouse on the – what they call the automatic pilot. Nothing to it!

KB: The...

[39:17]

DC: He said, Clattenberg, go down and wash the galley up, would ya? I said, that's the cook's job. Yeah, but you want something to do, go and wash up the galley, so I did. [laughs]

MR: [laughs]

DC: And while we were in I used to paint the engine room, change the filters for the guy, you get extra. Heh heh heh.

KB: Yeah, that's right.

DC: Dowage (?) and all, Norwegians, but hey.

KB: Oh, Norwegians...

DC: Yeah, they were all but me.

KB: All but you, yeah.

DC: Sure. I don't know why...

MR: I was going to ask you, what were the makeup – the ethnic make up, of the crews?

DC: Well, Norwegians, usually take Norwegians.

MR: Okay.

DC: Yeah. And Nova Scotians and Newfoundlanders, all – I noticed all that. Yeah. And the Portuguese are Portuguese. Do you know they go up alongside here to – No speak English. But some day they come down, Hey Captain, any sights of buoys, speak just En- No, no speak English. I remember Gerry Moriarty saying that. [laughs] Yup. Yeah, usually the same nationalities stick together. Yeah, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia are next door neighbors, anyway.

MR: Right.

KB: Yeah.

DC: Yeah.

KB: Yeah.

DC: Heh heh.

KB: That's right.

MR: Kirsten, do you have any questions?

DC: I – one time we got in... ever get in fishing, you know you like to have a drink. So I was in this place, they were playing country and western music. So I got singing too, I mean what the hell, I'm gonna let her go. I got up singing, the guy says, What part of the South you come from? 'Cause I was singing country and western... I don't come from the South. I come from Nova Scotia. He says, Where do you get the Southern accent? I said, I drink – get that drinking from a Dixie cup. [laughs]

KB: [laughs]

MR: [laughs] Oh I love it!

DC: So, heh heh...

KB: That's great!

DC: No (something) but the Hansens there, there two – two Norwegians, and... two boys and they had a girl. I used to see them, but I think the girl died. Her name was Marion? H-Hansen? T-two Hansen brothers, the twins?

KB: Oh, the twins, they still walk around everywhere.

DC: Yes! I see 'em up St. Lukes, I said...

KB: Everywhere.

DC: ...I would stop and talk to 'em every day. And they used to be there that night, when I was up, signing. And – and Marion, their sister, she could sing pretty good too. But I guess she died, you know.

MR: Would you sing when you were out fishing? Would you sing on the boats to pass the time?

DC: Ohhhhh, maybe sometimes, you hear a certain song. Heh heh. Sometimes it was the singing you wouldn't like.

MR: [laughs]

KB: [laughs]

DC: Boy [laughs] Oh yeah. I used to bring out some tapes, Irish music, and everything. Sure. Play it. I got Irish music on tape.

MR: Mmm.

DC: Cause the Newfoundland, they like Irish.

MR: Yeah.

[42:01]

DC: Yup. And nine times out of ten, there's always a Newfoundlander can play the – the accordion. Some guy would bring the accordion aboard, yeah. Boy that would be different, oh, nice to hear that.

KB: Yeah!

DC: Yeah, nice music. Nice to hear music. And Wheeling, West Virginia. I used to have that on. I – I used to get a car radio and – and the speakers, and hook it up in my bunk.

KB: Oh!

MR: WWVA. Wheeling, West Virginia.

DC: Yeah, Wheeling, West Virginia. Old Lee Moore

MR: Yup.

DC: Yeah, The cat come back the very next day, he said were gonna sell you something, he says, absolutely free. No obligation whatsoever. It won't cost you nothing. He just – just send one dollar in

care of the station. I always remembered that. It won't cost you nothing. No obligation whatsoever. But send one dollar, in care of the station. [laughs] That was Lee Moore.

MR: The coffee – what is it – the coffee drinking...

DC: Coffee drinking nighthawk.

MR: Right, right.

DC: That's right! You heard that? That's right, that's what he used to call himself. Ol' Lee Moore. Yeah, he used to have the – that's the station I used to listen to out fishing.

MR: Well, a lot of – all through New England and the Maritimes and up into Newfoundland, where country music was so big in Wheeling, you know, you could hear it every – everybody talks about WWVA.

DC: Well, down in Nova Scotia, you said you went to the Hank Snow place?

MR: Mmm hmm.

DC: I got movies of guys out there singing and playing, I videoed it myself this summer.

MR: In Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

DC: Yeah...

MR: Hank Snow's...

DC: ...Hank Snow Museum, yeah.

MR: Wow...

DC: I do that every year. Yeah. The first couple years it was bad. I reach over, no woman.

KB: Ohh...

DC: Yeah. I still do it. But...

MR: Now his – you were showing me the ph-picture of his father. His father came into Massachusetts.

DC: Who, Hank Snow's father?

MR: Yeah.

DC: Not that I know of.

MR: Oh...

DC: I took that in Canada. When I used – down there I got caught in Molloy (?)

MR: Aah! Oh, but that was awhile ago.

DC: That was way back in the fifties.

MR: Yeah, okay.

DC: But I used to... call her and, uh... run around with her brother – her brothers, and – and her father said you - we were riding up the hill, he said Hank Snow's father lives in here, I said lets go in. He had an old outhouse. Couldn't understand why the damn door wouldn't close.

KB: [laughs]

DC: Stead of the nail and the button on the door frame, he nailed it on the door. He was – he got funny I guess.

KB: [laughs]

MR: [laughs]

DC: And I had a movie of that. I don't know how many buttons. And every time we'd drive by he was always out cutting the grass side the highway. And one day, I took that picture. And I went with him, my father-in-law... and my brother-in-law, and, uh... I took a picture and somehow... I said Hank Snow, Hank Snow, so I had it enlarged, after the wife passed away, I says, I think I'll take it down and... give it to the museum, sure.

KB: Yeah. Nice

MR: Mmm... The Hank Snow Museum.

DC: I took it... I had to sign a paper.

[45:00]

MR: Now, having fished with all those Nova Scotians and Newfoundlanders and Norwegians – the N, heh...

DC: I been fishing with Portuguese too.

MR: Did – did you have any superstitions, or... sayings?

DC: Ohhh, the Captain did.

MR: Mmm hmm...

DC: The Newfoundlander. Today is Friday the thirteenth, we're not going out. Or if anybody come aboard with an umbrella or pair of spats...

KB: Ah! Or a woman on board...

DC: Aw yeah...

MR: What was...

DC: A woman...

MR: What did...

DC: Hogan tried that one time.

KB: Oh, yeah.

DC: A girl and a bicycle, they're gonna take her to Nantucket. The old skipper had come down. Hogan, he said, No, no. So that was it.

KB: Ah....

DC: From Hathaway's Dock.

KB: Yeah.

DC: Yeah. I been there only once. She tried, but no.

KB: Ha ha ha.

MR: I never heard about the spats.

DC: Oh yeah, spats too...

MR: Yeah, but I mean...

DC: Oh yeah, spats.

MR: Yeah, but I mean... what did that have...

DC: Or, certain color of glo- mittens, or what.

MR: Okay.

DC: Yes.

KB: Wow...

DC: Oh yeah.

KB: Hmm...

DC: Friday the thirteenth... Oh, the old black cat, they didn't worry about that. Or walking under a ladder, that's – all that stuff. But the Friday the thirteenth with the skipper.

MR: Oh yeah.

DC: Yeah. He was – Frank Foote from Newfoundland. Yeah, he was superstition on that. But never superstition when it come for a drink.

KB: [laughs]

DC: [laughs] That's for sure.

MR: Well, it gets cold up there.

DC: Yup.

MR: Did you ever, um, pull up anything unusual?

DC: Yes, we had. Hand grenades.

MR: Really?

KB: Wow...

DC: And a bomb.

KB: Yeah, Reidar got a bomb, fishing through (something).

DC: We had a bomb one time.

KB: Huh...

DC: Had – know where we had it? Down forward, up in the bunk.

KB: Woah.

DC: Could show it to the guys, say, Hey get that out... the hand grenades, we were about ready to dump 'em and we got in the dumping ground that we had... we haul back and up in the wings, hanging full of hand grenades.

MR: Where did you get them? Where did you...

DC: The dumping ground, they... they...

MR: Where is that?

DC: They go so far off of New York and then they dump...

MR: Oh, okay.

DC: ...their old ammunition, see? See we get to have 'em – I guess the captain had to get into it, but, good thing they didn't...

KB: Hmm!

DC: But I've know guys that have hauled up depth charges. The old Hazel S, now he was a – a Norwegian guy, he had one. And he steamed away from it and just when he got so far it exploded and almost sunk him. And there was another one, the – the Snoopy, he didn't make it.

KB: The Snoopy, yeah.

DC: The Sn- see, I know. That was off of New York, unexploded – unexploded torpedo. Or depth charge, I think it was a torpedo, that they had up. And it – in the scallop drag. And they had – and it bumped against the side, and – pshew. I think one guy survived that and he had, didn't he have feast...

KB: He's still alive!

DC: ...the guy had the thing through his neck?

KB: Yeah, I think he lives in Maine...

DC: Yeah...

KB: ...or something, I've been trying to get (something)....

DC: It was State of Mainers. I knew the guy was a skipper of that Snoopy.

KB: Mmm...

DC: Yup.

[48:02]

MR: When were...

DC: He had nice curly hair...

MR: ...was this in the...

DC: ...that guy.

MR: ...when were the s... incidents, in the sixties?

DC: Had to be in the sixties, I would say...

MR: Okay.

DC: Way in the sixties. You could look it up, or something like that.

KB: Yeah...

MR: Yeah.

KB: ...cause we got married in 70....

DC: Yeah.

KB: ...and that's when Reidar got that bomb, it was active, too. And torpedoes...

MR: Wow...



KB: Yeah.

MR: Did you ever see any giant squid?

DC: No.

MR: Always asked to...

DC: Seen some awful – whal- I seen whales I had to get away from, though.

MR: Really.

DC: Oh, yeah, when they come up. I got a movie of that, one got 'em going along and I had to – schoo... I said, he ever hit his tail, hit us, man, we're gone. I got a movie of it, somewhere. Yup.

MR: Where is the furthest away that you fished?

DC: Georges Bank, that was the farthest, yeah.

MR: Okay. Okay.

DC: Take about twenty-odd hours to get down there. Captain would turn in, give me a call if you need me. How... we... Okay, Captain, We need you. What? What's trouble? We're there. [laughs] We had some awful bags of fish sometimes, man. Pick out all the big one, let the little ones go. And they say about the Russians killing 'em? We were killing 'em ourselves.

MR: Hmm...

DC: You... decompressed all them, and it breaks their liver when you hoist 'em up. Nice scrod, haddock, now they're saving them today. Pick up the big ones, always big ones. What about the little ones? You killed all the little ones, you gonna have no big ones. Yup.

MR: So what – what did...

DC: And the price, the prices were way down then. Now look at 'em. Phew!... Yup... But it's something you never forget though.

MR: Where did...

DC: When they come out with them radars, that were wonderful, man! Yeah, go right up alongside of a guy. One time was raining coming home, were coming home... and the big screen turned all yellow. First you hear "Woooooo. Woooooo." Steamer. I couldn't see him. The guy come in the radar, I say, Make sure [something] he running around with the buoy keg around... I said, Hey, whatta you worrying about, I can't see him, you think you can do any better, come in and look at the radar, all turned yellow. Can't see it, the rain.

KB: Wow...

DC: And when we... we went by and we looked up, I thought, Phew!... That was close. Went right along side.

KB: Yeah...

DC: And another time I was steering a boat coming home and I was gonna st... cut across, I said, No, I better not. Come to find it was a tug boat towing a steamer with no lights on.

KB: Mmm!...

DC: Good thing I didn't go in front of it, it woulda sunk him, huh?

KB: Oh my goodness...

DC: Yeah, that's a close call.

KB: Yeah!

MR: Yeah....

DC: Oh I was with Woody one time. Heh heh. Sick of fogs. [laughs]. We towed along Woody, though, he - Woody is up. And first thing, we're... we're hauling back, and - no, I guess we're towing, and two boats, the Maurice - Maurice and Ann, come right along, hit us in the side. Right where the batteries are. There were water coming in.

KB: Jeez...

DC: Yup. But we stayed fishing, and - pumps handled it. So...

KB: Oof...

DC: That's the only time they ever got hit.

KB: Mmm...

DC: Yeah.

[51:18]

MR: What - what do you think is the future of the fishery these days?

DC: Oh, I don't know. I don't know anything. I don't think they'll have time to mature now, they, even lotta fishermen like to get out of it, today.

KB: Oh, that's the...

DC: I talked with Ian MacDonald down there, buddy of mine, he said wanna get out of this now. It's not... you go to a place to fish, it's - there's nothing, you gotta come home. Can't go where you like now, they got a certain area, they got that thing, satellite, they tow...choo.

KB: Yeah, the tracking...

DC: Right where you are. And you gotta - and my uncle, he was skipper of a boat, the Two Brothers, and he couldn't read or write. Now that's - he - thicker fog behind... behind the Cape, he come up through the slew, and anchor behind the point. With no radar. Just by the sounding machine. And he

couldn't read or write. Now isn't that something? Knowing the bottom chart. He said, Donnie, when the fog clears up, we're going to be right behind Nantucket Point. Sure enough, we were.

MR: Yeah, that... that old...

DC: He was a good man...

MR: ...knowledge...

DC: He only lived to be sixty-eight. He had a ruptured naval, went up in, uh, Nova Scotia and died. Said, Morris, are you going home for Christmas? Say, go ahead and talk about (?). He says, I'm gonna walk out or they carry me out. They carried him out.

MR: Mmm...

DC: Yup. Isn't it funny how life goes?

KB: Mmm...

DC: Yeah.

MR: Hmm...

DC: So, we gotta take one day at a time.

KB: That's right. That's right.

DC: Right.

MR: Well, is there anything else you want to say for this session on the tape?

DC: I just want to thank you people for coming.

KB: [laughs]

DC: [laughs]

MR: Well, I want to thank you for having us, and giving us the opportunity to... record some of this.

DC: Don't let me forget your scallops before you leave.

MR: Okay!

DC: A promise is a promise.

KB: [laughing]

MR: Okay. Well I will say thank you very much on behalf of the Working Waterfront Festival and this oral history project, and...

DC: That's like Dolly Parton's song she sings, Promises Are All I Ever – no, it wasn't... it wasn't Dolly Parton, it was the other girl. That used to sing with Lawrence Walsh, was... heck...

KB: Oh, yeah...

DC: ...you know her name. A Promise is All I Ever Get.

MR: Oh...

DC: Yup.

MR: Yup.

KB: Yeah... I can't think of her name either.

DC: Yup.

MR: Great!

KB: Okay.

DC: Yes, you can have that.

MR: Okay, well thank...

DC: ...I have other ones. You all done with this, and I can shut it off?

MR: Yeah. Yeah, we can...

DC: You can play it back if you want, see if you got me. You haven't, you'd have to tape that whole thing over, I hope you come back another day.

MR: Yup. I...

KB: Yeah, that's right, we will have to come back if it didn't take. This is my first time I ever did this, so...

DC: Oh, here you go.

KB: Everything is doing what it was supposed to, but...

MR: Good. Im sure it...

KB: I just hope we can play it back and there's something there.

MR: Yeah.

KB: That's what I worry about. This was great!

DC: Sometime I'm going to get up for an hour.

KB: I don't know, but there was a tape about some fishing you were going to let Reidar take a look – well, both of us take a look at. Don't trip on this now, the cord...

DC: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I think that's what it was.

KB: That's right.

MR: I just got the, um, release forms, so...

KB: Okay, good. See if I can keep this neat so it doesn't take so long to get it unraveled.

DC: There it is, herring fishing.

KB: Oh great! Watch your step.

DC: I think that's a whole full tape.

KB: We'll return it - watch your step - we'll return it. That's terrific. He'll get a kick out of that, he will. That's for sure.

DC: You see what I've been doing out here, for pastime?

KB: Oh, we'll have to come see. For pastime, huh?

DC: Oh yeah. I do a little of it.

KB: You do?

DC: Oh yeah.

KB: Get away!

MR: Well I noticed you were holding that needle the whole time.

KB: You making nets?

DC: Oh, lobster pot heads.

KB: Oh, I gotta come see.

DC: Little small ones.

KB: I don't want anything to happen to this, I gotta...

DC: Oh, I know what I was gonna get up for. I got some other pages up here too... This is what they done for me in Nova Scotia...

[microphone noises]

[distant voices]

MR: Oh yeah, right...

[55:51]

End of recording