



David Little

Transcript of an Oral History
Conducted by
Anjuli Grantham
at
Surf City, Uganik Bay, Alaska
On June 19, 2015
(With subsequent corrections and additions)

Kodiak Historical Society

About West Side Stories

This oral history is part of the West Side Stories project of the Kodiak Historical Society. West Side Stories is a public humanities and art project that intended to document the history of the west side of Kodiak Island through oral history, photography, and art. The oral histories chart the personal stories of individuals with a longtime connection to the west side of Kodiak Island, defined for the scope of this project as the area buffeted by the Shelikof Strait that stretches from Kupreanof Strait south to the village of Karluk. The project endeavored to create historical primary source material for a region that lacks substantive documentation and engage west side individuals in the creation of that material.

The original audio recording of this interview is available by contacting the Kodiak Historical Society. Additional associated content is available at the Kodiak Historical Society/ Baranov Museum, including photographs of interview subjects and west side places taken during the summer of 2015, archival collections related to the west side, and journals and art projects created by west side residents in 2015.

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Note on Transcription

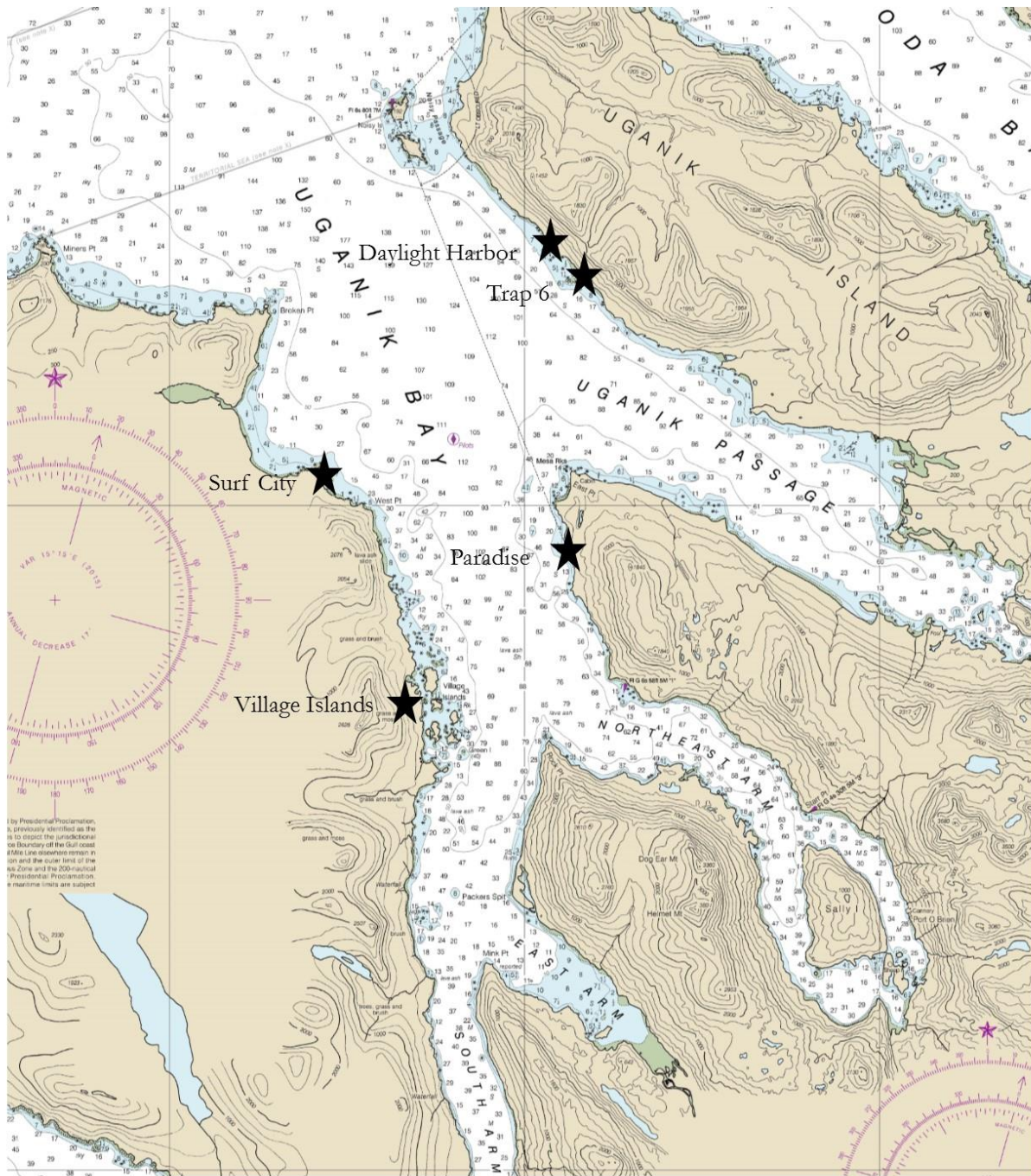
After the initial transcription was completed, a second transcriber performed an audit/edit by listening to the oral history recording and verifying the transcription. The following transcript is nearly a word-for-word transcription of the oral history interview. Editing is intended to make the interview easier to understand. Bracketed words indicate they were added after the interview. The use of [...] indicates that something that was spoken does not appear in the transcription. Often, these are false starts. In some cases, it is information that the interview subject retracted later. The original audio file is available for listening.

Citation

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Cover photo: David Little, photographed at Surf City on June 19, 2015. Photography by Breanna Peterson for West Side Stories. P-1001-4-1.



Select locations within Uganik Bay mentioned in the interview.

Oral History of David Little

[Note: Also present during the interview were Chris Berns, Anitra Walker, Stanley Gagliano]

AG: Okay, it is June 19, 2015. I'm at Surf City in Uganik with Dave Little. David Little. And thank you very much David [...] for allowing me to interview you.

DL: Sure.

AG: To start with, when and where were you born?

DL: I was born in San Antonio, Texas, 1952, but I didn't live there very much and I don't claim Texas (*chuckle*) in any respect. Yeah, I grew up in Southern California, rural area, and I liked to fish and hike and [...] camp and all. But I didn't come to Alaska until I was, I think I left San Diego when I was 29, so quite late. And I had a regular professional career, and I left that to come here and by chance ended up in Kodiak and by chance fishing. The way I ended up in Kodiak was I was at a bar in Anchorage called the Fly By Night on a Friday night and the bartender was from Australia, and [...] it was happy hour and she said, "If you're going to be in Alaska you should work at a cannery," and I said, "Hm, well wonder where a cannery is?" She said, "There's one right down the road." I went there, it was like 7:30 in the evening on a Friday night, and I said, "Do you have any work?" and they said, "Can you start now?" So I worked twelve hours a night for several days and then I called a friend, Pete Kendrick, in Kodiak, and he said, "Well, if you're going to work at a cannery you should do so in Kodiak." So I showed up in Kodiak, worked at the cannery All Alaskan, and then I got hired seining and didn't make any money for two years and thought, "Somebody must be able to make money doing this stuff," and I just kept at it. And by chance, Pete pointed out some cabins on the beach and said, "See those guys there? Those are setnetters. They're a bunch of granola heads. That's where you belong." So he introduced me to Vann LaDent. You know Vann? She's dead now, but she used to own, with her husband, Camp Swampy, which is Bear Garden. A lot of people will know of Vann. And so Vann said, "Well, we're having a setnetter party at Fort Abercrombie tonight. Why don't you show up?" And I said, "What should I bring?" And she said, "Beer." So I grabbed a 12-pack of beer and hitchhiked to Ft. Abercrombie and that's where I met lots of setnetters in the bay. That was fall of 1983. I was hired by Roger Benney to fish with him at Trap 6 in 1984, and that's what I've been doing ever since.

AG: So, what was your former career?

DL: [...] The last one I was a personnel research psychologist for the federal government for the Department of Defense.

AG: So very different (*laughter*) path, huh?

DL: Yeah, I like being outside and I hate being, on a beautiful day, in the office and I hate doing paperwork, and there was lots of paperwork involved. So I decided that I was 29 and it was time to do something else in my life. So I quit.

AG: Are there any similarities though between your current profession and your past profession?

DL: Even though there's not much paperwork involved with some things here, it's still more paperwork than I want. But I guess the other thing is, is that when I worked for the government, instead of working just 7 to 4, [...] I was the first one to come to work and they gave me a key to the building because I'd come early and then I would usually stay several hours after everybody left because I loved working on my projects, and [...] it was before they had personal computers. I would take a computer terminal home and I would run programs all night long, and so I'd stay up until like 2 or 3 sometimes, and I'd get up at 5:30 to go to work because I loved my work. So I guess my work hours were pretty easy to transfer over.

AG: So if you loved your work so much what inspired you to leave it?

DL: Like I was saying, I don't like paperwork and I like being outside. And the worst thing to me is to be, on a beautiful day, in the office or any place indoors. Even on a bad day, (*laugh*) it's nice to be outside. I understand you are with the museum and you probably need to spend some days doing paperwork, but it's paperwork you love, so I can appreciate that.

AG: So you called yourself a granola head, and based on the timeline and you were in California, what were some formative experiences in your youth that make you identify, or identified, as such?

DL: Well, I was labeled as such probably because [...] it was the late '60s when I was in high school and all, and I really was kind of a redneck, but still I was a liberal redneck, so probably I was kind of, probably ate plenty of granola and was probably a little hippified. So, yeah, Pete probably had it fairly set. But I also, I mean, I love to work hard and so forth, and it was actually a perfect combination for this, I think, and I did love- I sport fished. Now I don't sport fish very much, but I used to. As a kid, I fished all the time. I mean, [...] I'd go to the bays or the ocean and I would fish all night. So, anyway, it all kind of fit together.

AG: So 29 years old. Why Alaska?

DL: Well, I always wanted to come to Alaska, but actually what it was, I told my boss I was quitting, and he said, "What are you going to do?" and I said, "I'm going to go to Alaska," but I didn't really have it worked out. It just seemed like a good thing, since he was questioning me, to say I was going to do. And you know, he was concerned about my retirement and things like that (*chuckle*), and I wasn't very concerned. I mean, I told him I had an IRA and so I was all set. He would come into my office frequently to talk about how much he hated his job and how much he wished he was putting up drywall or something. So, except for retirement, it helped push me.

AG: What was that cannery that you worked at in Anchorage?

DL: It was Whitney-Fidalgo. And it was a Whitney-Fidalgo plant in Kodiak, too, at the time, and they were a pretty big processor. I don't think they exist anymore. And it was fun. It was mostly college kids working all night. They were fun to work with. I mean, I didn't work there very long. I worked there less than a week and I went to Kodiak. And in Kodiak, All Alaskan was lots of college kids, but they put me working with some real characters. [...] One guy had just gotten out of prison. [...] This really big guy reminded me of the guy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. There was a big guy in there, and this guy would just take and bite the heads off of raw salmon, just for the

heck of it, and eat them. So it was a guy just out of prison that talked all the time really fast, that guy and me, and so it was quite the team. So when I got offered a fishing job I was happy to leave.

AG: So was that salmon canning?

DL: Yeah, we were out freezing salmon.

AG: [...] I'm really curious about when that really started and expanded.

DL: Well, that was 1982 and we were freezing them and putting them on trays, and putting them in minus forty freezers, roll them in [...] on these big carts with trays. We'd bring them back out, pop them off, and separate them by species, package them up and they went in boxes. I was just rolling them in, pulling them out, popping them off, sticking them in the boxes. Someone else was doing the rest.

AG: Describe Kodiak in the summer of 1982.

DL: I was surprised to find that there was a Dairy Queen as I recall. And it was more developed than I would have thought. But [...] you could still kind of camp around town it seems to me, probably illegally, and it had lots of bars. Now it seems like most of them are churches. But it had lots of places to go to with good rock 'n roll music. Places I liked to go to were the Beachcombers and that was the best. And so I'd go to the Beachcombers, they were open until five, and so as often as possible I would go to the Beachcombers, listen to good rock 'n roll. The bands were from down south, from like LA or Seattle. They were really good, and it was pretty active, and it was a lot of fun. It's quite sedate now, I think.

AG: [...] What were the people like in Kodiak that summer? Was there a lot of young people, lots of fishermen, or what was your impression of the Kodiakans?

DL: Well there was a blend of people just like there is now. It seemed to me that there were a lot less women. It seemed like there were a lot of young guys and people had lots of money, and I decided very rapidly that I didn't stand a chance on meeting any women because (*chuckle*) I didn't have any cocaine, and I didn't have very much money, and I was buying dollar beers at the Beachcombers. But the plus was, I got to know some really nice women, and we would still go out and everything like that, but they weren't women I would be interested in romantically. So I met some really cool people though. And we would go to the Beachcombers and go dancing and stuff like that. So it was pretty diverse. But it seemed like it was right at the end of the crab era, so there were a lot of people with money it seemed like and that kind of dwindled out. [...] I think that '83 was the last year of king crab around Kodiak. You know there's still big money and everything like that, but it seemed like the economy was kind of packed with money. And drugs were, I mean, I don't know anything about what happens in Kodiak now, but it seemed like there was plenty of cocaine in Kodiak and in the bars.

AG: Do you have some examples of the fact that there was a lot of money around that you remember?

DL: Probably people ringing the bell in the bars a lot, people buying. I think cocaine was like a \$150 a gram and it seemed that there were plenty of that. They were in a different budget range than me. I think my first year fishing I made \$30 some odd dollars. (*Laughter*) And my second year I made

\$600, so I was definitely in a different range. As soon as the fishing season ended, then I did construction to make enough money to get by and do other things.

AG: So tell me about your first fishing job.

DL: My first fishing job was on a seiner, the *Advantage*, and [...] the seiners were on strike. It was 1982, and so they were on strike, so when they settled the strike it was fairly late, and we went fishing and we made almost no money, and the fish were pretty much gone. And so, I left Kodiak and went to work in Anchorage doing construction and doing miscellaneous other stuff, and then I left to go on other adventures. [...] What I realized about fishing is that it is seasonal, so one of the big advantages is that when you're done, you're done, unless you want to wait for the next season or something. So it allowed me to travel a lot, within a certain very tight budget. But that was another big attracter feature for me, as a result of fishing, and then I continued the next year fishing on a small seiner.

AG: On the *Advantage*?

DL: No, it was a boat called the *Valiant*. It was a little wooden seiner. [...] 1983 was a pretty bad year as I recall. I don't know how everybody else did, but we weren't catching anything. And I remember starting out, we would always get up at three to start making our sets, and by eight o'clock in the morning we would have had either a Dolly Varden or a starry flounder. I thought we were probably going backwards, but [...], like I said, I did manage to make \$600 for the season. I was fortunate I switched over to gillnetting. The gillnetting, where we make fortunes (*laughter*).

AG: So tell me about that transition. You said that you saw some setnetters and you went to a picnic. Where did you first fish and how was that first season?

DL: Okay, the first season was with Roger Benny at Trap 6 which is on Uganik Island, and Roger hired me 'cause he had met me at that party in 1983. [...] I was living in Juneau and he called me up and offered me a job. I was gonna come back to Kodiak anyway, but he offered me a job. So I came back. It was myself, Roger, and a woman he hired that later got fired, but [...] there was a lot of pinks, price wasn't very good, but I made okay money. I mean, I made [...] a lot of money compared to what I had made. We caught a lot of fish. And so [...] finally, the third year fishing, I made some money, and so I was pretty much set on it. And I was interested then in continuing doing it. Like I said, it was just Roger and I for most of the season. We fished pretty hard. Fished late, past when everybody else, most people weren't fishing, and I had a good time. So, I came back in '85. And in the fall of '85 we bought our first permit.

AG: Who is 'we'?

DL: My wife, Lisa [Frederic]. We weren't married at the time, but we bought our permit from Tom Kouremetis in the fall of 1985, and Tom owned this place. Do you know who Tom Kouremetis is? Okay. I bought lots of things from Tom Kouremetis. We bought that permit, I bought Daylight Harbor, which was later my site, and I bought this place from Tom, and I almost bought my other site from Tom, except for my neighbor Steve [Rittenhouse] wanted it, so I backed out and then I bought it from Steve. So it was Tom and I have been intertwined in our fishing dealings for all these years.

AG: When was it that you met Lisa?

DL: I met her at that same party in the fall of 1983. It was obviously a turning point. I don't believe I met Chris [Berns] there. He was probably pure then.

CB: I was what?

DL: You were pure [*laughter*]. And not going to a setnetter party drinking beer. You were seining then, weren't you?

CB: Yeah. Yeah.

DL: Maybe you had the *Invader*, or I forget what you had. But yeah, anyway, so I met lots of people at that party.

AG: [...] So [...] 1984 was your first season on the west side in gillnetting? Tell me, who was out here and what were the characters of the people? What sort of characteristics or attributes would you say?



Weldon and Jorene Cook. P-986-10-1.

DL: Well the closest neighbors were Daylight Harbor, and that was Weldon and Jorene Cook. You know, they were quite generous, they were pretty wonderful, they were old at the time, which probably means they were young compared to me now. [...] My recollection was going over there, the woodstove in the morning, we would go over to have coffee in the mornings sometimes, the wood stove smoked a real lot, so the smoke level in the cabin was pretty much mid-height. So you'd either be breathing a lot of smoke or hold your head very sideways and low. And you would be drinking coffee that didn't taste very good, and they would have Tang and vodka. And Jorene was in this back room and it had these little sliding curtains, so she could be in bed and talk with you. It was kind of like going to, like Catholics, going to confession, when the priest pulls something aside and is able to talk with you. Well, Jorene would do that. And they had some nice, interesting people as crew. And they didn't fish very aggressively,

but they were always very hospitable, and I appreciated them. I just wasn't so interested in having coffee there in the morning. But Roger liked doing it. And I thought, "This is really a lousy site and I would never want to fish here." And then I end up buying it and fishing there for I think ten or eleven years, and it ended up being a good site. And then the next neighbors down were, was Danny Nickerson, the Nickersons. And I would see them on occasion, but they were a little bit wild and were always threatening to do something to Weldon because his net was in front of them, and so I kind of avoided them. And then on the inside, which is now Bear Garden, was Camp Swampy and that was Jon Dudding and Vann LaDent and they did fairly well fishing, but they ended up splitting up at the end of that first season that I was fishing. And I still know Jon. Vann died in a car wreck



Floyd Anderson. P-986-6a.

several years ago. But, also there was Bob and Christy Allen. We'd would see them a lot. They had Gull Light. I'd see Toby [Sullivan] sometimes, but I didn't really know him all that well, but I did get to know him. And Kouremetises, [...] and Floyd [Anderson]. There were a lot of interesting people. I did not see the people from the Spit so often. I remember Andy Pelto showing up one time. Maybe you've heard of Andy Pelto?

AG: A little.

DL: OK, well he showed up in his skiff and he pulled up to the beach, and he tossed his anchor out without getting on the running line and started walking up. So Roger very quickly put his anchor back in his skiff and tied his skiff off with the running line and pulled it out. (*laughter*) Talked to him a little bit, and he wanted some gas and some beer I think, and Roger gave it to him and sent him on his way. But Andy was quite the character. He was fishing a net between Weldon and Nickersons. He was kind of staying with Nickersons, I think. But, I forget what your question was, some of the characters around, but I didn't know most of the people from the Spit at the time. And we didn't really go over there. It seemed like kind of something you would hear on the radio. Mostly we stuck with our little group, and it seems like we fished a lot. So I didn't get to meet that many people during that time. Now, the bay is pretty social and everybody gets together a lot, although they probably got together then, but it seems we get together more now, and everybody kind of seems to get along well.

AG: How do people decide where to put nets, and how is it determined, you know, this is my spot, this is your spot?

DL: Well, a lot of it, I believe, was where they traditionally were. And if somebody stuck a net closer than somebody else wanted I believe somebody would say something. We didn't really have an issue at Trap 6 because they were set, and actually when I was first fishing with Roger, he had just got the sight from Jon and Vann and he had fished it in 1982, running it for them, and actually Lisa had fished as a crew member for him back then, so everything was set there. Weldon, I don't know the history, somebody else will be able to tell you the history, but there seemed to be a lot trouble between Weldon and Danny Nickerson over where the nets were between them, but there was a lot of distance. And then when I had Daylight Harbor, Nickersons got killed sometime right around then, but the mother and some people were there, there was a little bit of deciding where the boundaries were, and there was some issues involved. But it was all somehow worked out. I don't know about the rest of the bay. It seems like things were in flux sometimes, and there were probably some hard feelings. Maybe some of the lesser hard feelings now are things are kind of settled. There's not a lot of switching and competing in that regard.

AG: So these first couple of years that you're setnetting, can you describe the type of gear or boats that you used compared to now?

DL: Yeah, our picking skiff was a 16-foot. We called it Al-fab. It was an aluminum skiff, it had a 35-horse with an open transom, and it was very seaworthy for a 16-foot little aluminum boat, but it was pretty marginal by today's standards. Chris still has it. But we packed a lot of fish in that boat. It was a really good boat, and a lot of people were still using wooden boats, but there were aluminum skiffs being- the transition had taken place for aluminum skiffs. Our holding skiff was a big difference, too, because it was a big wooden thing, I don't know who built it, and it was hard to keep it clean. I would say that we didn't have ice, so fish were tossed in bags in there, and then a wet burlap put on them. So the quality, keeping the bacteria down and keeping the quality of fish in line, was fairly difficult, especially on hot days. And so the fish went in mesh bags, like the same heavy seine web bags, and so when they were lifted there would be over a thousand pounds in a bag, and it squashed them a lot, so I would say that there is a tremendous difference in quality level in the product now, based on what it was then. So that was just our two skiffs were those, that wood holding skiff and a very small aluminum picking skiff. The second year, Roger had a big aluminum skiff built. We considered it to be too big. But looking back now, it would probably be the size of my big skiff now, not as wide, but similar. And so, there's been a transition to, by almost everyone I think, to aluminum. It can take a beating, easy to repair, and so forth, and certainly no maintenance to speak of.

AG: Was Roger kind of an innovator in a way, then?

DL: I don't know. I think Roger always thought bigger, bigger skiff. He got Miner's Point after that [...] and he was getting heavier lines, heavier anchors. I think he was fishing like really heavy lead line, but I think he decided that some things were overdone, after a while, and his crew decided that much sooner. But, I think he was at least experimenting with things. I think we all do that some. And some people, some people have much more long term experience and probably had things worked out, and maybe some of us had to experiment around a little bit to see where we found our niches as far as the equipment.

AG: Can you describe some failures?

DL: Failures in equipment...

AG: Some things that didn't work out?

DL: Well, I went to heavy leads and I went back some on that. I wouldn't be really a failure, it's just wasn't necessary. I've tried different depths of nets. I tried different mesh sizes. And I thought at numerous times that I had it set exactly what I should be fishing as far as mesh size and twine size and the hook was perfect and everything. And I can tell you that virtually everything that I did at one point thinking was exactly as it should be, I don't do now. So, for better or worse. I don't know [...] if the fish show up and you got a net that's out there in good shape, and you get up and make sure the sea lions aren't eating things, and the jelly fish aren't flying the net, and so forth. The good thing about gillnetting is you have less control over the variables, so you can only hit your head against the wall so much. Seining, you can always be failing because you should have been doing something else. Well, I've never really, but Chris ran his boat forever. But it seems to me like you just have too many, "I should have been here, I should have been there, or I should know what the fish are doing." And for us, it's the fish are either here or they're not. So that was appealing to me, to

reduce the number of variables to be concerned about. And I'm happy with that. Although this season has been pretty poor, so only so happy. I'm happy I've got good crew.

AG: So, you started at Trap 6 and in '85 you purchased your first permit.

DL: Right.

AG: Where did you fish that?

DL: [...] That was in the fall of 1985, so in 1986 we fished at a site in Kupreanof near Outlet Cape. We leased the site from Bob and Brenda Williams who had a site at Little River, and we had our own equipment and so forth, and we had lots of debt at that point. We fished pretty aggressively, and so people in Uganik had done extremely well and we hadn't done so well, but we fished late season in Uganik. We fished Fox Hole, which was Don and Ilva's [Fox] site, late season. We fished at Rock Point. We fished everywhere, as long as we could catch fish, and sold them all the way down to taking a garbage can with ice, fishing, skiffing into Anton Larsen, using my '63 Ford van to haul the garbage can to town to the cannery. Deliver, get more ice, drive back out to Anton Larsen, and go back fishing. Ursin's was the cannery that was buying from us at the time. They don't exist. But late season fishing. So it was all an experience. But we ended up paying off a lot of our debt. So that worked out. And we were in Uganik late season, most people were gone. Almost everybody was gone, but we were still fishing here. And then in '87 we fished Rock Point and a net out of Village Islands, and neither of those nets caught very many fish, but we were at least in Uganik. We called the site Slim Pickens. We lived in a pup-tent the first year. Eventually we migrated to a shack that I think was built by Coyote [Bowers] and it was on one of the islands, and somebody said he had lived there at least one winter, and there like little kids' toys around and so forth, so it might have been for his kids, and it was pretty basic, and there were goats living in it when we moved into it. But it was upscale from the pup tent. And then fished there for a while. Then I ended up fishing at Daylight Harbor and Lisa continued fishing at Slim Pickens until she was able to buy Paradise, and so we just quit fishing Slim Pickens. It really wasn't very productive. And then Lisa fished Paradise, where she was very happy until she sold it to Chris and Lacey [Berns] because she decided that she was worn out and it was time to do something else. Anyway, that was the order of things.

AG: But then, when was it that you got Daylight Harbor?

DL: [...] I bought it in the fall of 1988. I fished Bristol Bay a little bit, and I believe what Lisa did is she went to Tom Kouremetis, who owned it and said, "Tom, if David and I are going to stay together, you're going to have to sell him Daylight Harbor because I can't fish with him anymore." So, the pressure was on Tom, and he sold me Daylight Harbor. But he wasn't fishing it anyway. He just owned the site. It wasn't being fished because it never caught any fish, I believe. It didn't seem to catch any fish then, by anything I knew.

AG: So what changed?

DL: I think with Weldon and Jorene. Roger would say he'd go over there and the lead didn't reach the net. So there was a gap in-between. And they really weren't on their net very often. And I don't think they needed to make that much money because they lived on Shuyak Island, I believe, or up near there. That's where Daylight Harbor was. And I think they were very content with [...] what they were doing. They seemed pretty happy. And when they made money I think they went to like

Reno or Las Vegas and spent the money. But they seemed to be happy. So they were not perhaps that interested in production. I think everybody now is fairly highly motivated. Maybe they weren't so motivated before. Some people were, but maybe others weren't.

AG: Were there any strikes in the '80s that you participated in?

DL: Yeah, I think it was the '80s or early '90s. Chris may know the dates because we went on a strike it would have been in the early '90s, I believe, and there was an organization called USA [United Seiners Association] formed, and it seemed that things were negotiated pretty significantly by whoever it was in charge of the organization. I mean, I know some of the names, but most people adhered to the strikes and negotiated prices, and that went on through at least the one season. I think what happened is some seiners went around it, this is what I heard, and started selling their fish to the canneries, and that might have interrupted. Now in 1983 there were strikes, but no, 1982 there were strikes, but I was working in the cannery then, so I didn't know so much about it. At that time the gillnetters weren't on strike and the seiners were, and I don't think it was an issue because the gillnetters didn't catch that much and all. But it was an issue in 1983 when I was seining that people who had not abided by the strike in 1982, other boats were corking them (*speaks to the side about an activity going on outside*) but anyway, that's the only strike I can think of, with the USA. And USA seemed to be fairly well-organized and negotiated pretty tight, it seemed to me, and it was a whole series of going through the different canneries. One thing I've seen happen with the canneries is the number of canneries have diminished through the years, which is unfortunate because of less competition. Of course, we still have competition here though.

AG: And what is that?

DL: The competition? Well, we sell to Ocean Beauty, and then there is Pacific or Island, whichever you want to call them, which is at least around, and there was Western [Alaska], but it just got bought up by Trident, so Trident is buying up lots of things, and so my concern is trying to be a little bit too powerful. And what happens in a lot of communities, it seems to me, is the number of processors diminishes on down and then you don't have any leverage at all. Fortunately, Kodiak is a really big port, so it still maintains at least a fair number of processors, but through the years while I've been here, the number of processors, I don't know, it is like less than half, probably a third as many, I don't really remember, but it seems really, really diminished. And remote canneries are virtually all gone. I think that the only one left is on the south end. Oh, and Larsen Bay, too, there's one.

AG: When you first started coming out here in the '80s, were there many families that were living out here or setnetting or was it a different type of scene?

DL: There's probably more families now, but there were families then. I'm trying to think. The Allens. I'm trying to think when all the kids were born. I mean I've seen all the kids get born. Like Chris' kids and the Allens' kids and so forth. I think that some were really young then. But it seemed like a good situation for kids. I didn't see that many of them. But it seemed to me, I thought it was probably a good setting for kids, for spending their summers, and I still think so. Hopefully, the kids think so, too.

AG: I know that the '80s was a pretty tumultuous time in general because it was the end of the king crab industry. Of course, there's the strikes that took place, and then, was it '88 that there was the Nickerson murders out here? What do you remember of that?



Dianne Herman. P-1000-6-264.

DL: Well, the Nickersons. I remember I was at the cannery, I was selling to APS at the time, and Danny Nickerson was there at the dock, and he introduced me to, or I introduced myself, to Robbie, his brother, and I remember his brother. Apparently, his brother might have been up before but I'd never met him. I just remember Robbie going, "I'm never going back to Seattle." And he didn't. So, I was around them. I remember Danny, if he wasn't, I don't know if they were on drugs, I was guessing they were on some sort of drugs, but they drank. But if Danny wasn't on anything, it seemed like he was very intelligent and informative, and I could talk with him. But otherwise, it seemed like I usually like to avoid situations with people where I always say I might be stabbed or shot. And I'm not saying, he never threatened me or anything like that, but that's always what I say. And he seemed like, I mean I appreciated him at certain times, but I avoided him a lot. And so, I went to Bristol Bay to fish peak. There was Steve Olsen, who used to own Paradise, and when I came back the Nickersons were missing. We were fishing Slim Pickins, and I remember everybody

is going, "Yeah, [...]" The Nickersons were kind of like a lot of other characters that seemed to survive everything, and the idea that the skiff was found and they must have ran into something and died seemed unlikely. And there were some other people in the bay that everybody is kind of looking at, like, "hum." Some of their friends and so forth. Wondering if they knew anything. Everybody was expecting to find some bodies washing up or something. But, you know, the history is [...] Cue Ball, Gary Cue, found them, underneath lead line or rocks, I think, in a ravine right off of Noisy Island setnet site there. And what's his name, Rob Shepard, who killed them. And I didn't know Rob Shepard. But I must admit that since I bought, ended up buying, Daylight Harbor that fall, it was probably a lot easier for me buying it. I hate to say it, but not having Danny there who would have been potentially difficult to deal with. I don't particularly care for such confrontations. I remember we had a party at, we really didn't have a party, but in 1985 at Trap 6- first off, the canneries used to give us beer. So you'd get a 12-pack of beer when you delivered. So we didn't

drink, well, we drank, but we didn't drink that much, so we collected all the beer. And I told Roger, it was Roger, Lisa and me, and I told Roger, "We should not have this beer all visible." Well, Roger goes, "The beer is for everybody and here it is." So Roger was going to town all the time, and so here it is. Skiffs all start showing up at the site during a closure, and I'm looking at all these skiffs going, and I go, "That looks like Andy Pelto, and that looks like Nickersons," but it was also like Don and Ilva (Fox), and Dianne [Herman] and all these people showing up. So I am just taking these 12-packs of beer and I am slinging them behind the cabin into the bushes. And I sling all this stuff and so everybody is showing up, and I don't know why they were showing up there, it was just us two crew members, and there was still some beer. Everybody started drinking. They brought beer and we made popcorn, I think, for everybody. And everybody was pretty wild. And I remember Danny going, "If it wasn't for Jorene I would pop caps on Weldon." And then another friend of ours (*chuckle*), who is still a friend, kind of egging him on, and I go, "That seems like a poor choice." So, anyway, it lasted late into the night, and I was happy to be through that. But nobody died, nobody was shot or stabbed, and I eventually brought a few of the beers out of the bushes. Yeah, that was 1985. Yeah, it was full of characters.

AG: Do you remember when the body was found?

DL: Danny's or Robbie's? Yeah, sort of. I was busy fishing and I remember somebody saying it, and then I just remember people talking about Rob Shepard having been in town and having talked with him in-between the time of him killing him, and it coming out that he was the one, and him acting like nothing had happened. He's just in town doing things. So it seemed like, I guess, it seemed kind of strange that all he got was one count of manslaughter. But, you know, you got a lot of wild people.

CB: Top notch lawyer of all times.

DL: What's that?

CB: He had the best public defender to ever come to Alaska.

DL: Did he? [...] I had heard something to that effect. I mean it was pretty amazing. I mean Danny and Robbie were probably difficult people, but I certainly wouldn't consider Rob Shepard to have done that to be any angel. And [...] I can probably tell stories what I heard about when he was going to come to Village Islands at one point and live with Ron Dunlap. But that's a different story, so we will continue.

AG: Who else went missing?

DL: Besides Danny and Robbie? I don't know anybody.

CB: Joe Darling.

DL: What's that?

CB: Joe Darling did earlier.

DL: Okay. I didn't know him, I don't think.

CB: Yeah. He was a watchman down there.



Daniel and Nan Reed's homestead in Village Islands. P-776-57.

DL: Oh, at the cannery?

CB: I don't know if they ever found the body.

DL: Yeah, there were things that happened at the herring plant and at the cannery that I wasn't- some of it happened just prior to me. And I guess some of it happened just right around then. It was Freddy Sullivan died, was killed, and then Joe [Darling], and I can't remember, [...] and Chris will be able to tell you more stories on some of these because I've gotten a lot of my information from Chris. Between Chris and Dave Lindberg, as far as things, they are much more informative.

AG: I say that because my dad [Joe Grantham] used to say that he thought Uganik had the highest murder rate per capita in the nation for a while.

DL: That's what we thought, that's what we used to say, too. Fortunately, it's diminished down.

CB: At least until this interview. *(laughter)*

DL: Yeah.

CB: Did you talk about when you moved and built your cabin, when you bought your land?

DL: When we bought the land?

CB: And you built your cabin, and you lived in a pup tent all winter. *(laughter)*

DL: Yeah. Yeah. Lisa bought the land in 1988, and I was not for it at all because I went over to look at this land and the bugs were thick, [...] and it was a swamp, and I'm going, "Oh, nothing like buying ten acres of swamp that's bug infested. Just doesn't seem very appealing at all." And if you went over there right now, you'd realize the bug infestation because I was there trying to work on something yesterday and they were thick and hungry. But yeah, then we lived in a wall tent for a couple of years. We left in February, but we were there, I know, through New Year's and so forth, partially because I'm so slow at building anything. And I got the little books from the library, how to do things, and so building on them and building on it, it was going to be a little gear shed and it was like, this is taking so long it might as well be a cabin, and so it evolved putting more pilings in to make it into a cabin. So nothing was done right, everything was run the wrong direction, but it is a house now, a small house. And then I remember living in this wall tent and the one time I'm up it's like midnight, and I'm up working on, I think rafters, and I'd gone down and lit a propane light in the wall tent, and I'm back up at the rafters and I look down. First off, its got a little loft and there is a sleeping bag on it, and I have all my tax receipts all over the place, on the sleeping bag, and I look from the rafters and I go, "What is going on in the tent?" So I go on down there, and I have a little plexiglass window in a wooden door, plywood door, and there's flames everywhere. I had a fire extinguisher. Who has a fire extinguisher in a wall tent? I go to open the door and everything was covered in snow. Somehow the door had froze to ice, melted the snow or something, pounded on it and I got it open and "Pssss," put out the fire. And all my receipts were still fine. Things were melted everywhere. The sleeping bag was on fire, but my receipts were still fine. I had a car radio and the front of it had melted. The speakers I had, fronts had melted on them. All this stuff had melted in there, and there was a little piece of carpet on fire. Fires were everywhere. But I put them all out with the fire extinguisher and so Lisa came back a day or two later and I pick her up at the mail plane, and I said, "Well, I've got some bad news, but it's okay." And she goes, "What?" And I said, "Well, there was a fire in the tent, but it's still livable." And she goes, "It wasn't livable before." And I said, "Well, (*chuckle*) it's just fine." But I remember I painted Thompson Water Sealer at about two in the morning then over the canvas because it was dripping on down and everything. And then [...] there was the fumes of that. I probably had better brain capacity before going in to sleeping in that tent with the Thompson Water Sealer. But I eventually had to go to sleep. So anyway, that was a long, drawn out thing, living in that, and finally we got the bottom floor done and I put a tarp over it, and a barrel stove and stuck that up through the tarp, and we moved in. It was pretty primitive. But you'll see it. It's sort of a house, a little tiny house.

AG: Was that your first winter at Village Islands?

DL: The first winter at Village Islands was one of the ones in the wall tent. I think we spent two winters in the wall tent, or one and a half or something.

AG: And who did Lisa buy the property from?

DL: She bought it from the heir I guess of... I don't think she bought it from Daniel Boone. It might have been from, Chris, do you remember what those people's names were?

CB: If you wouldn't have asked me I might have remembered. Claytons. Claytons.

DL: Claytons, yeah, which must have been Nan's [Reed] family or something.



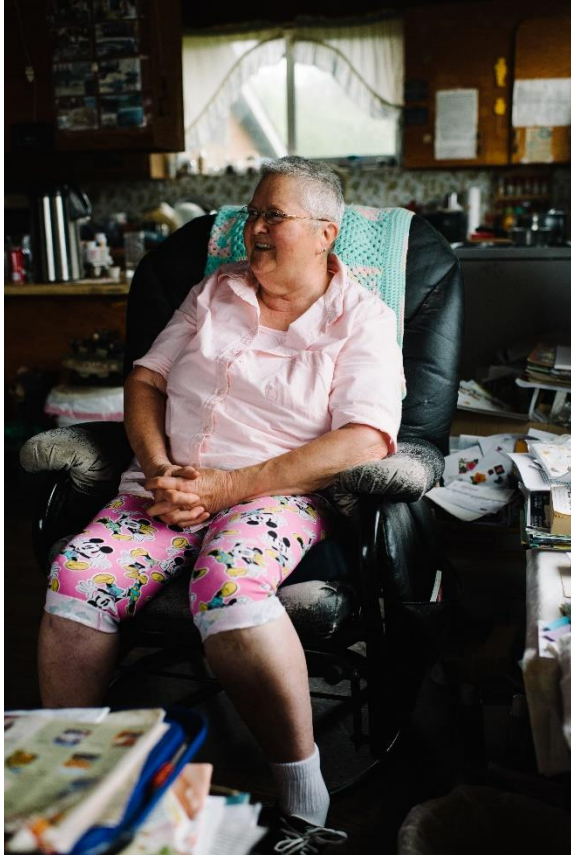
Village Islands, summer of 2015. P-1000-6-153.

CB: Nan's son.

DL: Nan's son. And so it was kind of like that. I think first Dan Ogg was going to buy it, or was buying it, and then he did a something switch with Lisa because of something. But anyway, I'm not sure how the whole thing took place because at the time I was not very interested in living there. And here I am. So many things in life kind of just seem to happen.

AG: Who was living in Village Islands at that time?

DL: Well, Lindbergs were. And they had moved to their house that they're in right now. And then they had a lot of the kids living there it seemed like. So there was Joey and Dusty and they were sort of pseudo family, I guess. And then Steve and Shawna Rittenhouse, Shawna being one of Linda's kids, and [...] they were living in some house that might have been Lindberg's old house. I remember Steve was extremely quiet. He wouldn't really say anything, and so we didn't really know any of them except for Dave Lindberg who had the *SJ-11*. He would pull up to us around the net and talk with us. And he had a whole crew of girls, it seemed like young girls, but I don't know how young they were, they probably were somewhere in their 20s, and he would talk a lot. So we would see them and then at one point Shawna and Joey Ann, the one younger daughter, came over to our pup tent to visit, to see who we were. Ron Dunlap was living there with Martha. Ronnie and Justine [Fadaoff], who were pretty wonderful, were living in Village Islands, and then for part of the year, Deedie and Jim [Pearson] were around. Trying to think who else. And during that time Chris, and



Linda Lindberg. P-1000-6-272.

some point there, I don't know when you built your house there, but Chris and Lacey got their place and Dianne [Herman] was putting up her cabin, and also Hazel and Roland [Jones] were around some in the summertime. I don't think any of them were around in the wintertime. [...] Sometimes there were different people living in the little cabin over by the old mail plane beach, but I'm not sure how they were living there. I think Shawna lived there at some point, but then Edson [Fadaoff] and Ron Dunlap and some others were kind of hanging out in that cabin sometimes, and Edson sort of lived there, but I don't know if he lived there legally or not. So that was pretty much it. I might be missing something. The Petersons had their place down the line, as did what's their names, Conwood. Simeonoffs, but Simeonoffs weren't around very much. And the Petersons were around some, but not so much. Now Howard and Cheryl [Peterson] are. I don't know if you know them, but they're out here right now I think, or Howard was. And I haven't been over there. But they seem like nice people and they are always really generous and give us stuff. We have some crab from them right now. I think that was

pretty much it. Ronnie and Justine were really nice. [...] They would always bring us something to eat. They came over and helped us put some of the walls and stuff like that, and of course, Lindbergs were always really generous. Everybody was really good. I didn't really hang out with Ron and Martha [Dunlap] any, but everybody else was really nice. I just didn't go over to their place. Different style.

AG: So you spent some winters in Village Islands, but what else would you do in the winter if you weren't setnetting, or when you weren't setnetting, I should say.

DL: Yeah, we spent some winters in Anchorage because Lisa was taking some classes at UAA and we were also working to try to make payments on our fishing operation. And then we would also travel a lot. Or travel a fair amount. Travel for a few months.

AG: Did the cannery still have its own fishing fleet when you first started coming out?

DL: Uganik Cannery, yeah. Uganik Cannery operated... you mean their own boats?

AG: Because you mentioned the *SJ-11*.

DL: No, they didn't own their own boats then. I don't know when that ended. That was a long time ago, wasn't it?

CB: A long time ago.

DL: Yeah, no. No.

CB: The SJ's were the cannery boats. They just sold them, but there was SJ boats all over the place.



Chris Berns. P-1000-5-454.

DL: Right. Yeah. And even when I was first seining, I mean, people had like I think the *Fidalgo 1* was one of the boats that we fished with. But it was, I'm pretty sure, privately owned. But the bay was pretty active because a lot of people were going in and out of the cannery. I didn't go in there very much, but there were lots of seiners going in and out. There were barges going in and out. Setnetters would go there pretty often and all. So it was kind of a hub. And it was the only phone there was in the bay. Things are pretty modern now with satellite internet and this inReach thing that Chris has and so forth. Technology has kind of changed things a little bit.

AG: In what ways?

DL: Well, if I need to order some parts, they arrive from Amazon, let's say, on the mail plane in Village Islands. And I order parts all the time.

AG: Before, how did it happen?

DL: Well you could order stuff through the cannery, but I guess I just didn't do so, so much. And also I think now it's like you can just keep it. I can at least e-

mail my mom or right now for the first time, I mean, I can call my wife on this thing called Facetime. It doesn't work very well, but sometimes I can see her and she can see me. And so, I just learned how to do this, but it is a different reality. And you used to go to the cannery, especially in the wintertime, and you'd hope that the solar panels and propane that ran the transmitter on top of the mountain were doing things right so you could try to get a phone call through. Lots of static. But it was pretty amazing that you could do that. Now everybody updates their Facebook, I guess. Stanley [Gagliano] is big on that. (*chuckle*)

AG: Tell me about 1989, your experience with the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

DL: Yeah, well first off I didn't think it was gonna impact us. It was my first year to be fishing Daylight Harbor. So I put out my sets and I was all pretty excited and had my nets ready and all that, and I guess the biggest thing was the chaos. [...] I remember helicopters hovering over the cabin and on the beach right around the corner having as many as three helicopters at a time there. And the place was just crawling with people. [...] I was hired to be a skiff driver to haul people to clean up sites. The oil was on the beaches right where we were, so I would take my crew. I got them signed up to clean oil because we weren't fishing and we would go around. I was really tight about their hours. We would go and we'd clean oil and I'd clean oil, too. But I wasn't hired for that job. I don't know what the hell the whole thing worked out. But we would do that and [...] sometimes

there would just be a mass number of people and [...] I think the hard thing was like it just kind of threw things in turmoil. Some people were trying to get, I'm not talking about setnetters, I'm just saying some people were trying to get money by lying about different things and so forth, I mean the size of their boats, or how many hours they put in and various things. It was just fairly chaotic. Anyway, [...] I was looking forward to a fishing season. It was a letdown. But we made it through it. And we just missed out on a season. And it was all the finances involved with Exxon, but I was just happy to be done with it. And after that, things went pretty much fine. Exxon was more paperwork which of course, as I indicated before, I don't like, so I was happy to be done with that, too.

AG: Were you living at Village Islands then, at that time?

DL: In '89? No, we were building. I was actually working on my setnet site because it didn't have a lot to it, so I was putting in a little gear shed. It was a pretty primitive place. But as I recall, I think we were putting steps in in Village Islands or something like that. My recollection on the particular years is a little bit vague. But I was kind of splitting my time between a couple of different places and so, no, I wasn't really a resident of Village Islands. [...]. We weren't even living in a tent in 1989. I'm not sure what we did after the season. Probably went to Anchorage because probably Lisa was going to school, but I can't recall.

AG: When did you become a resident of Village Islands?

DL: Well probably very early '90s, I would think. Probably when we were living in the tent because we weren't really living any place else. I mean we lived a little bit before that in Kodiak and some in Anchorage. But yeah probably around 1990 or 1991, I would guess.

AG: And what inspired you to live year round out here?

DL: Well, once I started building on the place I got focused on that, and it's really a pretty nice setting. I guess as soon as I start on a project I go extremely slow. The house isn't done now (*chuckle*) and I'm hoping to have a few more things done before I kick off. I started on it, and I'm really pretty happy. I mean I come out, I work on things, I'm either working on fishing stuff or I'm working on something there [Village Islands]. Actually though everyone is pretty diverse as far as community. I like the place. I like Kodiak, too. [...] I like the entire environment. And it's a really beautiful setting.

AG: Did you participate in other fisheries beyond setnetting?

DL: I didn't do too much. I mean I fished halibut always. We started fishing halibut in 1984 just out of the skiff, but then shortly after that I fished on boats. And Lisa fished halibut on different boats. She fished cod or something in the early '80s. And I fished a little bit of herring. [...] I gillnetted herring with some different people and I think I fished herring with Chris [Berns] some, too, or Don [Fox]. I fished on one of your boats. So herring and halibut are the only other things I fished.

AG: Did the coming of IFQs impact you, and if so, in what ways?

DL: Yeah, IFQs impacted me to some extent. We bought a lot of equipment back before IFQs and for whatever reason, and we did okay, but we were crew members for a lot of openings, but we also fished when we were salmon fishing. We would also fish halibut and so we would deliver them. They would have tenders out here. Once IFQs came along, you could no longer deliver halibut to a



Inside Little's Village Islands green house. P-1000-6-246.



Little's new house at Village Islands. P-1000-6-201.

boat out here. So you had to deliver them in town. And then they allotted some poundage, but the poundage was pretty minimal. I forget what I got. I mean my average delivery when we were fishing out of the skiff was probably 1500 or 2000 pounds, but I got maybe 400 pounds of halibut [IFQs] and for some reason, Lisa got even less than that, but she had done better than me. We never could figure out how they were calculating things. So I ended up buying a lot of IFQs and fortunately, for whatever reason, I could afford 'em. But I fished halibut up until about two years ago. I sold the last of my IFQs. But I suppose for a lot of people IFQs have been really beneficial. It was more fun for me before IFQs. But anyway, that's what it is. I spent money on them and I actually sold them and probably made some sort of profit or something.

AG: Were you for IFQs when they came in or were you against the idea?

DL: Well I wasn't very political on it, but I was against them just

because it's kind of like if we were salmon fishing here and we were allowed to catch 500 pounds of reds, and we'd have the next month to do it or something, I'd be hard pressed to do it right now. But I want to be able to work hard and hope that the effort somehow pays off, as opposed to I have six months to catch or do 500 widgets or something and I'll get paid for those when I'm done. It's just more like a job.

AG: Was the [Uganik] cannery processing halibut?

DL: No. [...] When I was out here, I was selling halibut primarily to APS, but I also delivered sometimes to Columbia-Ward, Port Bailey Cannery when we didn't have a tender, like in April or early May openings or something. There was some on the edge of the summer and so Port Bailey would process.

AG: Did you have another boat beyond just your skiff that you would fish with?



Port O'Brien in September of 2015. P-1000-8-195.

DL: For myself operating? When it was just Lisa or I operating, we were just fishing out of the skiffs. And then, like I said, we fished on other boats. I fished on the *Northern Jaeger* for quite a few years fishing halibut and fished on a few other boats. And Lisa fished on some other boats, and on the *Northern Jaeger* I think.

AG: What's it like to spend winters out here? What do you do to occupy your time in the winters?

DL: Well, I think people think that you sit around and read books and drink tea or something. But again, I'm pretty slow at stuff, but you're your own utility company. So I have micro-hydro, and I have solar panels, and I also have a big generator so I can run a welder, a mig welder. I'm very slow at construction. I'm always building something, and so I have no shortage of things to keep me busy. The reading I do is usually manuals. And I'm a slow reader, so it takes me a long time to do that. Yeah, I get up and I'm very happy to work on things, and I always have something to do. Just before this fishing season I was very busily working on some of my projects trying to get as much as I could done. Also, we grow our own greens and so forth. So you know, setting up stuff for that and harvesting stuff and all. Like I said, a lot of people are a lot faster at doing things, but I have no problem filling my time. And then usually I go visit some of the neighbors at some point, most days, and so I'll walk over to Steve or Shawna's [Rittenhouse] or when Tollef [Monson] is around or something like that, or the Lindbergs, just to visit. So it's a pretty nice setting. When I'm out here I'm saving money. Because it seems like when I'm in town, I spend too much time, well not too much time, maybe going to the brewery and having a couple of beers, and next thing you know [...]



Surf City setnet site, June of 2015. P-1001-04.03.

I bought a growler and probably spent too much money. And then coffee some place the next morning. So, yeah, I save money being out here.

AG: How did life change when the cannery closed?

DL: I'm trying to think what we were up to at the time. Well, when the cannery was operating, I guess it was, you'd go in there kind of for, I didn't go there as often as a lot of people. [...] We'd go in there and visit with people. I mean it was more like a kind of little bit of a social setting. And you could go buy stuff. I guess I primarily would go in and maybe pick up a couple of things, maybe see if they'd let me use the phone so I could call my parents, or something like that. So when it shut down, the bay became quieter, I think. And to tell you the truth, I haven't been there now in years. And it's not very far away. But it didn't impact me as much. I would go in the wintertime. Back then I would go visit the watchpeople. Now I haven't been. I know who the watchperson is, but I haven't been in to see them. So, but it hasn't really impacted me that much. [...] I love the cannery. It's a pretty interesting place. It probably is disintegrating. But it was wonderful to see it active and so forth. But I didn't utilize it as much as a lot of people did.

AG: When did you sell Daylight Harbor?



Adelia Myrick at Trap 6. P-1000-5-655.

DL: I believe I sold Daylight Harbor in 1999, but I could be off by a year. And I sold it to Bryan Ellsworth. Bryan, I think, Adelia and Jenny [Myrick], and I don't know who else. They might have done some sort of combination. You know they're all wonderful, young people. They are still young people, but they're not so young anymore. But yeah I sold it to them, and I sold it because I was trying to work my way toward Village Islands. And so here I am, and I'm still working my way that way. I mean I got the house and I don't utilize it as much as I like to. Right now, Anitra [Winkler] is thinking about buying this place, and so I will just keep working my way that way, I think. Sort of my retirement goal, not that I have a goal of being retired. It's just that I want to utilize the house more.

AG: When do you usually move out here?

DL: Oh, early June I guess. I was here early May putting out the running line, doing stuff. I was here a few other times in mid-May just doing general things. The house [in Village Islands] is pretty nice. So, you have to kind of pry me out of it. But once I got all the kids here and everything, then they like to be here. So we move

out here. And we will move back to the house in early September, probably.

AG: When did you get Surf City?

DL: I got it immediately. I bought Surf City and sold Daylight. I bought it from Tom [Kouremetis]. I don't know what Tom was doing. I don't know why he was selling it. I think he was quitting fishing and Brook [Kouremetis] was buying his place over there by Noisy [Island]. And I had told Tom years in advance that I would buy it when he wanted to sell it 'cause it seemed like a good stepping stone [...] and I've been here fifteen years or something (*chuckle*).

AG: So what does it mean to be on Refuge land? How does that impact what you do?

DL: Well, I guess the biggest thing it means for me is I pay about \$700 a year in fees. It used to be two hundred. And I guess if you're making lots of money that's fine, but I haven't been making so much money lately. They can control certain things, but actually they don't really [...]. I guess some people probably push things. I always get along with the Refuge people it seems like, and they haven't caused me heartaches so far. I mean they control the size of the buildings and so forth, and they want to know what you're doing, and they come and kind of inspect things on occasion. But almost always I'm not here when they show up, so they leave their card. I try to keep the place in general order and they don't typically cause me any trouble. They may come in and I'm here and



Surf City cabin. P-1001-4-6.

have a cup of coffee, and that's pretty much it. So it doesn't impact me so much. I probably don't put quite as much effort into doing things because it's not my property.

AG: So, that's a question then, when you buy a site what do you actually buy?

DL: Well, [...] the permanent locations for buildings is set. And so you're buying a location to fish out of. And at this point, [...] I think it is pretty important to have a location because otherwise you can try to live on a boat here, but it wouldn't be very convenient. So you've got the permanent location of cabins, and when you're buying you're getting that location. You're usually getting, although it's a little bit vague, the sets. And the set comes with the cabin, with the site. I don't know of too many challenges, or any challenges really, to your access to those sets. Sets are where you put your nets. And then usually you've got whatever comes with it gear-wise and so forth. And so when I bought this place, it was small. This cabin was half the size and all. It's primitive now but it was even more primitive. It was reasonably comfortable and it's got access to water, a place that is somewhat protected. And there's a lot of history here. It's been fished for a super long time, and I met people that, I think, one person fished here in 1930 or something. I'd like to know, since you are a historian, I'd love to know more of the history of the place. But yeah, there's been people fishing around here forever. I mean my other set, it was interesting because they had Pioneers of

Alaska convention in Kodiak last fall, and so I had my picture taken with Hazel, Hazel, what's Hazel's last name?

AJ: Jones.

DL: Hazel Jones and Margaret Peterson and me. And so we've all fished the same set. And Margaret's family fished it I think in the '20s and '30s. And Margaret described the spot. She goes, "Oh yeah, I had my own little building and my own little net," and it's right there, right beside where my net is, on the inside. So she fished that spot, Hazel fished that spot, and I did, over a pretty long period of time, and there's been other people in between. Here, this was a Native community 'cause there are barabaras everywhere. And Paddy Mullan. Paddy died a few years ago, but when he was living, he showed up with Norman on the *Cindria Jean* out here. They were buying our fish at one time and Paddy was on board, and he goes, "I fished here when I was a little kid." And I said, "Paddy, where did you have your net?" And he pointed right to my net and said, "It was right there," and I go, "Good, so I got it in the right spot." And he goes, "It's in the right spot." So that's some of the history of this place, you know. People have been fishing here for a long, long time. Chris's place, Paradise, I mean, he fished there a long time (*background noise muffles conversation*) and he's back there.

AG: So you know that really, maybe Margaret was the first to fish out here, or do you know anything beyond that?

DL: I'm sorry, what?

AG: Do you know Margaret? Was she the first to fish out here?

DL: [...] Margaret fished my other set, but the funny thing is you ask Margaret about people in the bay, and she starts describing people who fished here back then. She was born in I think the early '20s or something. I don't know, she's 95 now. So that would be around 1920?

AG: [Yes]

DL: So, she could tell about other people that fished in the bay, so probably would have been in the late '20s and early '30s, and who they were and so forth. Now I think that Deedie's [Pearson] family might have fished in that area right off a bunch of rocks at some point, too, but that would have been more in the '40s or '50s. And I don't know when the whole transition took place. I'd like to learn more. [...] When Margaret starts telling stories, I don't have a good memory, and she'll start telling them, and I wish I had a recorder to record them. And I hope that you can do that at some point. Because she's so clear on telling the stories. She has a lot of history if you can catch it sometime. Or one of us can.

AG: Well, I feel like we've probably been talking for a long time (*laughing*). What have I not asked you? What do you want to share before we end today?

DL: You know I can't think of anything. I, hopefully, will come up with something more to pass on during the Solstice get together, but I'm just happy you're doing this because [...] there are so many people with wonderful information. I feel that I'm kind of a new person. So there's so many people that have great information. By you collecting it, [...] it will last forever. It's been a very colorful

environment here, I think. And I wasn't as involved in the more colorful components of it, but I, at least, was on the edge of them.

AG: It's because you did such a good job of avoiding situations in which you were stabbed or gunned down.

DL: (*laughter*) Stabbed or shot. I still say that. Yeah. I like to avoid parties where I might be stabbed or shot. I've so far managed with that quite well. We'll see if I can continue.

CB: Until this one (*laughing*).

DL: Yeah. Yeah. [...] Even if my friends were not happy with me, I would survive. The worst I'd get out of most of them is I'd get a back rub. So there we go. They are pretty darn good. They are pretty darn wonderful people here. You know I'd say it's a wonderful group of people. I feel very fortunate to be here. And then we got the new people, like Stanley and Galen [Berns] growing up and so forth, and I am happy to be a part of all these different people. And no matter what age it is, it seems like everybody is always accepting of each other and happy with each other. So we're quite fortunate. And thank you for interviewing me. Hopefully, I provided some sort of information.

AG: You did. Thank you so much. I think it was very good.

[End of Transcript]