

Frank Leinhaupel

[Separate recording from Wednesday, 26 February 2014; Ashleigh Palinkas & Frank Leinhaupel]

Ashleigh: So this is -- this is the article¹ that I think really hits the nail on the head as far as what I'm targeting to focus on for my project. It's this "divers see beauty in sea". Um, there's all but -- you know, Ron Church is in here, your name -- you don't have to go to Africa for your wilderness. It's right here. That's your quote. The second paragraph, under the second line.

Frank: When we started diving here in the 50s, every time you looked under a reef you had a feeling that you were the first human being to see that spot. You were at the edge of civilization when you went someplace where obviously other people had not been-- not trashed or anything like that.

Ashleigh: Right. And that's definitely not prevalent today.

Frank: No, nowadays --

Ashleigh: Well, there's still a feeling of being very lucky to see certain things because even still -- even though there are still many more divers today than there were in your day when you started, as far as the whole general population, it's still a pretty small group in retrospect.

----- tape lapse

¹ Figure 1

Frank: Jim Jordan was interested in setting records. He dove with us but there's that one thing² about him trying to set a record, six and a half minutes or something, laying in a swimming pool –

Ashleigh: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Frank: He also made an attempt to break the depth record and he had the -- I had very little to do with it but Larson supported him in the effort and they had Life Magazine out here. A crew of lung divers. And they put the 300-foot cable or whatever they had to put down in La Jolla Canyon where they knew they were fairly near shore, nice area, and they could find the depth they needed. And the divers went down. And he had taken big rocks and tied broom handles to them and he had a boat full of those. Larson borrowed an old -- like a rum runner with a big inboard engine in it, like one of those mahogany things, criss-craft type. And they went around and -- yeah. I was there. I just stood and supported. I was not one to hold my breath.

Ashleigh: Right.

Frank: As I say I was never a great diver, and all I ever said was to be a good diver, you have to be smarter than the fish.

Ashleigh: Exactly. So, I wanted to ask you which club this photo³ is with? My first guess would be Neptunes but I'm still new to the game.

Frank: This is Skinster's. Although, I may have been an Addict at that time, and our rules were if you wanted to wear a jacket, you had to join a club. But I was a member of another club, the Skinsters, before. Here's a little anecdote about the Skinsters. It was sponsored by Bill Toll and

² Figure 2

³ Figure 3

Toll's Sporting Goods. He was very anxious to get people to buy spear fishing equipment. Everybody was trying to promote spear fishing.

Ashleigh: Right.

Frank: So he picked me out as kind of a spokesman for Bill Toll's Sporting Goods, and he said, "Now, anytime you need gear on the weekend, Sunday when we're closed, here's the key to the store. Just come in and fill out the slip and leave money if you know what it costs –

Ashleigh: Cool!

Frank: -- or we'll square up during the week." I think I used it one time, like, when somebody snapped a mask strap I could say, "Okay. We can go up to Bill Toll's and get you a replacement," and I did. Drove up, just went in the back door, there was a side door where he had a tennis restringing thing that had its own door, although they were connected and it was opened all the way to the back.

Years later, I went in his sporting goods store, been sold for maybe 5 or 10 years-- to buy something, and I said, "Oh, by the way, there's a key to your store."

[Laughter]

Frank: The guy didn't believe me. So we had to go back and he closed the door and locked it and I opened the door and came in.

Ashleigh: No way.

Frank: Just for fun. It had no use to me anymore. He didn't know that when he bought the store, somebody had a key for the back door.

Ashleigh: Yeah. He's probably just glad you didn't loot the place.

Frank: We would buy mostly fins. Fins and nets there, that sort of thing. I don't think he ever had a collection. He didn't have suits. Suits came a little bit later. We were mostly skin diving, really skin diving.

Ashleigh: Yeah. I brought this book⁴ that I think you might be interested in borrowing if you haven't seen it yet. I just got it the weekend before last but it's got -- I mean, there's some San Diego stuff in there. I think the Bottom Scratchers are definitely mentioned, but I haven't read it yet. I just bought it --

Frank: Well, I don't know who Jack [in the book] is, but it's not a -- that's not Prodanovich. But see, they put a handle in the middle [of the gun] in order to have a little bit of a chance of swinging it around, but still with the pistol grip back here, you still have the whole gun in front of you.

Ashleigh: So I've learned. And I noticed this -- when was it? Yesterday. I was up at -- you know, there's Mitch's Surf Shop down here in La Jolla, and then there's another one within walking distance from my place up in Solana Beach, and they just recently started selling spear guns and they had Riffe guns that I noticed now have --

Frank: Did you say Riffe or Reif? I usually say Reif but -- I could be wrong.

Ashleigh: I don't know, Riffe or Reif. I think you're probably the expert so I'll start saying Reif.

⁴ Figure 3

Frank: No, I don't know.

Ashleigh: They had the handle and the pistol grip together in the back.

Frank: But they're closer together. The handle is farther to the rear than we put them. We put them pretty much in the middle because we were only shooting 15, 20 feet, and nowadays they have to shoot 30 or 40 so they want to be able to push the gun almost entirely out in front of them.

Ashleigh: Is that because they're going for different fish or --

Frank: Oh, yeah -- still water that's out under the kelp paddy is where all the fishing is now. My friends, when they go fishing, they go out 30 miles to dive and they're crazy people. I mean, I went out with them-- not that far out but, as I said, they were kind of crazy because they just -- they would see a kelp paddy and they would get upwind of it and shut the engine off and everybody'd throw all the guns over the side and I'd have to grab mine because mine would be down in 2,000 feet of water, because mine was designed to sink. All the guns were previously loaded. They kept loaded guns in the boat, and then throw them all overboard. Everybody would go overboard and they'd leave the boat there --

Ashleigh: Not anchored at all?

Frank: Oh no. Just drifting. And they would all shoot fish as they did or get tangled up in something and somebody would have to swim and get the boat.

Ashleigh: Really?

Frank: And I thought, you know, it's unbelievable that they don't leave one person in the boat.

Ashleigh: So what group was this with? Was it friends or people that you met just within the diving community?

Frank: These are people that I've been diving with in close to shore but not out deep like that. Yeah these are unusual fish, different.

Ashleigh: So in the 50's and 60's you just didn't really have an interest or an inclination to do more blue water fishing?

Frank: Oh no. We didn't go out that far. We didn't have to. All the fish were just outside the kelp. Nowadays, you know, we don't look for that stuff. I told you about Gerald McMurray. You should get in touch with him just on general principles. If you want to go out and be diving with him or see them dive, they seem to go out regularly. I sent you that picture on him where he just shot a 3- or 400-pound tuna and a -- oh, that's what we always talked about, spear fishing a marlin. Al Larson wanted a marlin so badly.

Ashleigh: Did he ever get one?

Frank: No! But spear fishing and competition was different back then. He came close at a competition in Florida. We had one team there. And as far as I know, it was Bill Howard and Barry Wagner and -- and the fireman. Oh, well. It will come to me **[Jim Fallon?]**. At that point --

Ashleigh: A team from the Addicts or the Skinsters?

Frank: Addicts, Addicts. I had backed out because I wasn't competing-- not the way they were. And they were taking in new members, anybody

they thought could beat out the competition so that's the way it worked. That's was the whole reason we would say we had only ten active members, but there were more of us because we wanted ten members ready to go in competition pretty much all time.

Ashleigh: So would you say it began initially as -- I mean, was competition on your minds when you first started it?

Frank: Very much so because we wanted to challenge the Bottom Scratchers to come out and compete if they were so good. And they never did. Never would under any circumstances. They were so much better than us. And yet, you go back to some of the old pictures and the big white sea bass they got, they actually got sitting on their -- on their paddle --

Ashleigh: Paddle board.

Frank: Paddle board and looking down into the kelp and shooting the white sea bass and then they would -- you know, you'd see a picture of one paddling with a white sea bass. The boards had a look box. Do you know what a look box is?

Ashleigh: Yeah. Inside a paddle board, an inlayed plate of glass to see through --

Frank: No, they had just two handles on wooden frame with glass on the bottom. You'd put it up against your head and it was much the same as putting a mask on, dipping your head in the water. I see why people would use it. To see if they could tell whether the anchor was tied up or something, if they could see that far. Anyway. Some of the earlier divers -- there were earlier divers around here at the same time the

Bottom Scratchers got started. They weren't the only ones because there was a lot of diving going on in Laguna Beach. And it was mostly-- my understanding is they had, like, 12-foot spears with just a tri-tip or some kind of a fork on the end. And they would go out on a paddle board and use a look box and look for the halibut and they would either jab or just drop it. And it would go down and get a halibut and they spear-fished without getting wet, you know, without getting off the board. And I think the Bottom Scratchers started out to some degree like that.

Ashleigh: Right.

Frank: Because people had paddle boards in those days, they didn't have surfboards -- well, they had surfboards but -- my early remembering of surfboards was really strange because the first boards we actually saw around were either the huge redwood things that came from Hawaii or these boards that were made with this 8-inch plywood or something on a wooden frame and a big cork at the back and you would have to pull the cork out and stand it on end and drain the water out every time you used it.

Ashleigh: That reminds me—before I forget, how long was it before you used scuba? Paul and I will probably ask you this when we record your oral history, but it'd be great to have that in mind as I try to place things for a timeline and project narrative.

Frank: I got my first equipment at UCLA from a sporting goods store in Westwood in late '51 and '52. There was a mask, Churchill fins, and a French arbalette spear gun. Also I purchased an aqualung with a Cousteau-Gagnan process regulator, a double hose mouthpiece, and a 3-minute reserve. Training was non-existent. "If you can breathe, you can use an aqualung" was the sales-pitch. I used the lung only at Catalina

and then solo diving while at UCLA. I am not aware of anyone I knew or dived with that had SCUBA at that time.

Ashleigh: Who trained you? Where was it?

Frank: When I arrived at SIO, I guess I was considered a trained SCUBA user and had no training. I dove with Connie [Limbaugh], and qualified in three 25-foot steps to be able make routine SIO dives to 125 ft. without an instructor. I still have the SIO card somewhere. All of the dives were for Doug Inman's sand ripple studies and to revisit dummy mines. Two dives were Navy contract dives off the old E.W. Scripps. In one we checked out a dummy mine in the channel outside the San Diego Harbor. That was with Bob Dill and Jim Stewart if I remember correctly. We went down the chain to the anchor and tied a line. Then the three of us spaced out on the line and circled the anchor at increasing radii until we found the mine. The old E.W. Scripps had let out an extra 100 feet or so of monster chain which was strung from the anchor toward the harbor on an incoming tide. Each circle we had to almost feel out the chain in the limited visibility because each big swell would pull the chain off the bottom in a cloud of sediment. Had to wait for it to come back down or it would pin down the cord or one of us until the next swell.

As the novice diver of the team, I was given a triple rig. Either Bob or [Jim] Stewart came over to me and indicated he was out of air and cutting out. We stayed together and I was hot to buddy breathe, but I remember the other diver shaking his head no, smiling, and exhaling a stream of bubbles slowly as we came up. I was impressed. It may have been from about 90 feet. That was probably the deepest dive I made for Scripps, or at any time for that matter possibly excluding that first dive at Catalina.

The other dive for the Navy was unofficially cancelled because of weather conditions but we were allowed to jump into the water and climb back out immediately to qualify as having made the dive to collect the

\$50 flat rate we were given. Part of the deal was lunch, I know that I ate for a week.

The fate of the E.W. Scripps is an interesting story. This large sailboat was owned by Lewis Stone, the father in the Andy Hardy movies, who donated it to Scripps. The masts-- or what was left of them, were used for small roll stabilizing sails. When Scripps sold it, it was transformed into a side-wheeler for the movie: "Around the World in 80 Days". Masts were removed. In the movie, the wheelhouse was demolished supposedly to fuel a steam boiler, leaving nothing above deck. After the movie, it wound up in the nautical equivalent of a scrap yard in Sausalito. My understanding is that it was rescued by a group who took it to the South Pacific. They had rigged it with telephone poles for masts, loaded it up with lumber and materials to build houses for themselves, and intended to use the boat for inter-island trading. No idea how it worked out, which may be just as well.

Ashleigh: When you first came to San Diego, what was the main motive to dive?

Frank: It beat hell out of sitting in a classroom or trying to measure ammonia in sea water in Goldberg's lab.

Ashleigh: I'd assume it was for spearfishing.

Frank: Wrong, if you mean with SCUBA. I do not recall ever spearing a fish wearing a lung. Didn't, and still doesn't seem sporting.

Ashleigh: What was your favorite to catch? What fish did you aim for most?

Frank: Started out with calico, sheephead and anything available. After

getting a spring gun bonito, yellowtail, and barracuda became fair game. With the Addict gun nothing was safe out there. We ate everything we could catch.

Ashleigh: What fish do you miss eating the most that isn't available anymore?

Frank: Yellowtail. It is still out there, but I am not.

Ashleigh: Yeah. Paul and I are also very interested in your early memories of underwater natural history.

Frank: In the Midwest, only one fish at a time was seen, when it was caught, or in the case of bass and carp, when they were spawning a few feet from shore. In spring you might see a bullhead with a spawn of a few dozen small replicas following her around. My first impression of the fish in the ocean was when I casted a fresh-water spoon from a paddleboard off the [La Jolla] Beach and Tennis Club. The lure would be hit immediately, repeatedly until one of hundreds of barracuda would cut the line. Since they were similar in size and looked like northern pike that we worked hard to catch in the northern Midwest, I was really impressed.

Ashleigh: Wow. I doubt it's like that these days. That's why I feel it's so important to try and convey a history of sport diving. The title is "Perspectives and Innovations at Depth" because the perspectives of those who were actually doing the diving in the early days are great descriptions for our natural history. And the innovations that were made by yourself and other sport divers shaped what I experience as a sport diver today. Last time I visited you mentioned filling flashlights with mineral oil so they could be used underwater. What were some other

stand-out developments in gear you could tell me about?

Frank: Of course, dive lights. The National Speleological Society people used underwater flashlights in flooded caves. They used the commercial molded rubber flashlight with the pushbutton on/off switch under the rubber. When used for deeper dives, the lens was replaced with a disc of automobile windshield safety glass to prevent breakage, and the case was filled with non-conducting mineral oil to forestall leakage and implosion. They were reasonably effective, but the batteries apparently drained a bit even when not in use.

Ashleigh: Wow. And what about snorkels?

Frank: We modified our snorkels, replacing the rubber tubing with aluminum tubing. Bent into the typical shape, but perhaps five inches longer. Going out from Boomer through the kelp was done in a series of dives. Swim under the mantle as far as reasonable, then look for a place to find air. The alternative was to hold the snorkel firmly and push up through the mantle. The top was cut at an angle to try to prevent a last kelp fond from becoming a one-way valve by closing the opening. When that failed it was a matter of clawing to the surface with the mask and snorkel around your neck.

As for masks, we started with the available round faceplates. Later there was the model designed for SCUBA with the squeezable nose projection for clearing ears. We punched a hole in the bottom of the nose extension and put in an exhaust valve that now were showing up in snorkles. After a while, these masks with exhaust valves were more available, probably as UDT models.

Ashleigh: And fins?

Frank: The Churchill fins came first. Then for diving free or with SCUBA, the Voit giant duckfeet were a necessity. These I had to buy, but the transition to jet fins came about because they sank, providing an unlimited supply lost in shallow water by beginning divers. Same thing with weight belts—could find them at any rip location during lobster season. If they couldn't make it to shore because of current and inexperience, the weight belt and generally the lobster sack were the first to go. Did use the ammunition belt approach with lung diving; it was okay for lung diving but rapidly converted to a web belt with a quick release and homemade weights for free diving. We had a very limited budget for dive equipment. The D-ring releases were homemade. I still have the tool for precision bending of the heavy stainless wire. Got the webbing and parachute line and the small drag chutes by devious means from Miramar NAS. The drag chutes were used to slow the drift of a small boat when we were drifting along with an unanchored boat and also unsuccessfully on the spear gun line to slow the rush of a black sea bass.

Ashleigh: Did you ever think of ways that diving could be used for science?

Frank: Considering the dive programs going on at that time at SIO which were extensive, nothing else comes to mind. Now it would seem that robotics would replace a lot of things that once were done by divers.

As an aside here, there was life before GPS. When we went out in the DUKW, it was to make a routine visit to something on the bottom. These instruments were positioned varying distances on compass directions from a central wooden cross staked to the bottom. The procedure required three people other than the divers. The DUKW driver went out from shore until he could line up specified range markers. These were along the coast and somewhere up the hill from the coast.

Putting one of a pair directly over the other gave a range line that the driver could follow toward shore at low speed. Someone leaned over the port side of the DUKW holding a line with a cast-iron sash weight on the end. He also had a coil of line in his hand. The third person, and I seem to remember that it was Doug Inman, had a sextant. The cross also had a recorded angle between the sight-line to a vertical stripe on a water tower at Torrey Pines and the designated range. Doug would watch the two images until the exact time that the angle was correct, then slap the guy hanging over the side on the back and the weight was dropped, line played out, and a float thrown over the side. We would follow the line down and invariably the cross was there. One time the weight was actually leaning on the cross just a few inches from the center. I would estimate a C.E.P. of no more than a few feet. Amazing then, but common practice now with GPS. The divers would start at the cross and use a compass heading to swim out to the instrument.

Ashleigh: That's so cool. What about the biggest fish you ever saw?

Frank: I had shot a half dozen black sea bass from about 70 pounds to typically 200 to 300 pounds. Ron Church had the record, and later Bob Shea got one over 500 pounds. Both were from the Coronado Islands. The one I got, I guessed was less than 500 pounds but later judging by the length (8 ft.) it could have been heavier. I didn't measure the girth which would have given a better estimate. Actual weighing meant taking it to a weigh-master like the marlin club on Shelter Island which wasn't worth the effort.

Ashleigh: Do you remember exactly where it was?

Frank: I first saw the fish stationary next to a big kelp stalk while diving directly out from the La Jolla Cove, now the reserve. I didn't have the

appropriate gear, so I took ranges on the spot. I came back the next day with a paddleboard and breakaway on a heavier gun. He was still in the same spot and shooting him was routine. He tangled up in the kelp as was standard behavior, so I tied the float to the paddleboard, went down and cut away the kelp. I got some help to drag him up the steps to the Plymouth "woodie" I was driving. I must have impressed a few people on the beach when I paddled out and was back in about a half hour with the fish. At that time there were no formal restrictions on bringing a paddleboard or even rowing a boat into the cove off season.

Ashleigh: Did you ever have any particular concern about laws or regulations regarding hunting, access regulations, or safety training requirements that you felt were too strict, not strict enough, or nonexistent?

Frank: Not really! We wanted to protect the broomtail grouper that was found non-migratory off boomer. Some success, although we gave one diver such a hard time that he went back out and speared another to spite us. They were no challenge. As a reef fish, they tended to be under the reef we called "skylight" because of a hole in the overhead. One or two were at home most of the time.

One goal of our diving club was to limit competition to the combined weight of three fish, more nearly the normal behavior of a spear-fisherman. Never were successful. In some contests divers brought in huge strings of opal eye, not at all typical for a free diver looking for dinner or trophy fish.

We also had mixed feelings about the black sea bass. I accounted for somewhere between six and nine. I always felt bad when I realized that I had shot a fish that had been cruising around those waters for 90 years. One of the latter-day Addicts shot and illegally sold six blacks in one week. He claimed that he was the true sportsman because they were

just going to die in the gill nets anyway. The black was protected by Fish and Game shortly thereafter under what I call the Barry Wagner law. A sort of left-hand contribution of the Addicts to conservation.

Ashleigh: What about seals or sea lions? Once they became protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 1972, the populations in La Jolla have been increasing drastically. How'd you feel about that law?

Frank: I shouldn't even comment because this is now and we are talking about way back then. Consider our behavior at that time was not at all in concert with current behavior. We shot sea gulls like shooting skeet while on boats returning from the Coronado Islands when they followed us by the hundreds. We shot the same 22 rifles at seals in the water and on rocks as you would any nuisance. Commercial fishing boats shot at any seal that got near their boat as well as-- all in fun-- at divers.

I believe that wildlife should be observed, and managed if necessary, but not manipulated for commercial reasons. At Casa, I can imagine Sea World taking over. Build a new museum and gift shop. Build walkways over the sand so people can get a much closer look at the seals, and provide mackerel to feed them. I have seriously heard a proposal to provide more room for the breeding of the seals by anchoring a barge inside the kelp bed with closed circuit SealCams to monitors in the "nature center" at the Casa Cove.

Ashleigh: Wow. Yeah, all the controversy surrounding those seals is a mess. Definitely not within the scope of this project. However, the fact that the sand buildup at Casa Cove has made a more preferable habitat for the seals to haul up on makes me think more broadly about how other beaches in San Diego have changed over the last century.

Frank: In the 50's the beaches were mostly deserted. Hard to believe but

you could tow someone on a skim board behind a car at the Shores without being handcuffed and led away. Probably in winter with high surf, but even then.

I had a '47 International 4-wheel drive pickup, totally without the floatation really needed in sand, but drove it anyway the full length of Pendleton from Oceanside to the recreation area at the north end. On the way back out the tide was coming in, and I kept my eye out for the areas of higher ground if I had to turn back and wait out high tide. There was access in a number of places, and we routinely drove all of the Del Mar to Cardiff beaches. We frequently found wooden dummy bombs that floated in. One Al Larson and I threw one against the cliff to see if the firing pin would still work. Nothing happened so we assumed it had no charge. We built a fire and threw it in. Surprise! It was an orange marker of some sort. Not explosive, but generated an impressive amount of smoke.

Other stuff on the beach to a large degree was trash from, we assumed, cruise ships, but could have been Oceanside sewer outfall. Personal stuff that could be flushed down a toilet. An observation is that there was a lot of bamboo including the roots washed up to high tide line. Seems to have been trying to make a foothold-- or was that roothold?-- up against the cliffs. Then got wiped out with a big winter storm to try again. Then there were hatch covers. Everyone had to have a coffee table made out of one. There may be a few tables still around, but it has been at least 50 years since I have heard of one coming in. I had one as a bench in the back yard. No idea what happened to it. And the Japanese glass net floats were a regular item. If your décor didn't include some fishnet and net floats, you just weren't with it.

Quite a few dead sea lions on the beach. Most of them appeared to have severe head wounds, missing jaws. Probably from throwing a mackerel with a lit seal bomb inside. We also suspected that someone

was collecting the ivory teeth. I know we did if they were still there. The procedure was to get 15 ft. or so upwind, hyperventilate, and then try to pry out a big canine—or pinnipine?— and get back upwind without passing out from the odor.

By the way, the slump area below the golf course was known as "gay beach". I guess nothing has changed except probably now it is just North Black's. And have you been to Bathtub rock? It seems to have eroded a lot since the 50's. Then it was distinctly rectangular with a well defined "scum gutter" around the rim like a swimming pool might have. Not sure why the Indians felt a need for one.

They won't let me sing karaoke, because I hate to give up the mike.

Tape Lapse—

Frank: You did ask me one more question which I thought about and I've been trying not to think about because I don't want to, you know, prejudice the whole thing by dreaming up a lot of reasons why I like the ocean. Are you ready to hear something in general?

Ashleigh: Absolutely!

Frank: All right. I was born in Chicago, Lake Michigan. Spent all my time in Fox River. During the Depression I spent all summer a few years in a row up in Wisconsin on a little -- Little Bass Lake it was called-- because we had no money. Actually the schoolteacher that owned the flat we rented also owned this piece of property at the time up there. He had a cabin there, but he just gave us a spot where we put up a tent and we lived there all summer and lived on fish. I mean, you know. That was it. We didn't spend much money up there all summer. Anyway, later we then had our own cabin on Fox River. When I was born, I think they had just bought the cabin because my earliest pictures I was just in

diapers out at the cabin. I think I went out to the cabin first time like three months old or two months old. And I lived there. Summer came, I just went out there when I was a teenager and lived on catfish and a few things I had to buy at the store. Once a week I got to the store and bought a dozen eggs and some milk and some flour and stuff so I could fry the catfish.

Ashleigh: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Frank: Anyway. Considering that, what I always thought was that I lived in half a city. You know, you've got a big circular city, we'll cut it in half and make the other half facing out onto something like Lake Michigan.

Ashleigh: Right.

Frank: I came from Urbana at University of Illinois right out to Los Angeles. The choice of going to med school in Chicago would have still been on the lake, but going to California meant being on the ocean. There was no question. I had to get to California. And I've thought since then a number of times of moving to Hawaii, you know, I thought, well, that could be better. Or moving up to -- oh, Pacific Grove or someplace up there, along the coast farther north. If I had to move out of La Jolla. But I just couldn't ever do it. I couldn't beat this area. Living here and being able to see that ocean out there. And to be very honest, I'd just miss that ocean if I can't see it. Unbelievable. When we have to go somewhere, like when my wife decides we have to go out to Vista or even get on a bus and go to the Grand Canyon or something, as we go up San Clemente and we turn and the ocean is left behind I say goodbye. I'm just so worried I won't get back. And when we get back, we come down that turn at Oceanside and I see the ocean out there. Also coming

back from the desert out here is something. Yuma or any place. You come down that grade just after you go past the university. You go down there and you get that first breath of salt air. And I realize how much I'd miss it. Oh and actually you can be out in the Alpine region -- Alpine somewhere along in there. The road goes along and you can see the ocean out there and never miss seeing that ocean. Out past Coronado, "There's the ocean! There's the ocean!" I just don't know how I could ever live any length of time away from it.

Ashleigh: Yeah. Me neither. I've done the same thing, tried to imagine ever leaving San Diego. At this point, I don't think I ever could. At least not for any long length of time. Although Pacific Grove is pretty nice.

Frank: What is the golf course there that goes from Mileson? Pacific Grove is just out on the tip there. That's where the all the diving is. I was in a contest there once and I didn't do very well at all. I don't remember getting anything worthwhile. Didn't know the area. The locals had it. They knew exactly where to go and what to do to find fish.

Ashleigh: Right. Did that local knowledge make itself apparent for contests here? Were you guys -- did you see that you'd dominate at local competitions?

Frank: When we had local contests, it was all just local people. But if we went to -- like I did twice to the nationals at Catalina, everybody pretty much started on the same playing field. Because we weren't that familiar with the fish or anything at Catalina, where to look. A lot of people had the time to go scope out these things before or even bait the area so that all the fish in the area would be in one particular spot and then they would fish over there.

Ashleigh: That's cheating!

Frank: Oh there was a lot of cheating. I had a hunch that people brought in fish that they had thawed out.

Ashleigh: Mm-hmm. So I wanted to switch gears. There's one thing that I wanted to ask you about -- you know, one of the questions I'm asking all the divers I'm talking to for this project is whether they had strong opinions about laws and regulations that they felt were too strict, not strict enough or non-existent. And I was wondering if you remember in 1999 the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative in California?

Frank: I don't --

Ashleigh: It was signed legislature for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to basically develop a better network of marine protected areas down the coast.

Frank: Mm-hmm.

Ashleigh: But the reason I'm bringing up this particular Act is because they developed this Initiative as a means of doing more ecosystem-based marine spatial planning. It was an effort to engage stakeholder groups in the decision-making process for how to manage stuff. You know, what MPA's should be no-take at all, where you can take lobster where you can't, where you can take finfish and where you can't. And they solicited a lot of input from commercial and recreational fishermen and opened all the meetings to the public and it was just this kind of new approach. As opposed to taking a top-down approach of just implementing these laws and regulations. I was wondering if you remember that?

Frank: I had no part in that. '99 is still only 15 years ago and I probably wasn't that much interested by then. I had experience with Fish and Game off and on. Some good, some very bad. I was hunting, obviously, and we had hunting licenses every year. I got fishing licenses every year. I paid for extra tags. I'm trying to remember all that went in to help protect the wildlife. My personal feeling has always been that it's the sport fishing and sport hunting value of the wildlife that is the only thing that keeps wildlife surviving. We put in all kinds of money to build reserves and to protect game and then I get upset when they come along and they put a tax on something like binoculars because they're used in sports and hunting and the bird watchers say, no way are we going to spend any money that has to do with building something to help hunters.

Ashleigh: Right.

Frank: And the attitude is just, well there's too many. Too many people had their own ideas of what things should be done.

Ashleigh: That's true. It's a huge undertaking to account for everyone's opinion.

Frank: Unfortunately I had bad experiences with Fish and Game because they would trump up charges and drag people in and lie through their teeth and that was just the way things were done. And that was very unfortunate.

Ashleigh: Yeah. What I'm so interested in now is seeing how citizens and local San Diegans and especially divers, you know, sport divers who are out there out of sheer appreciation for the biodiversity and the coastlines

to be more engaged in making management decision. To avoid those kinds of things from happening again and have a little bit more say.

Frank: I think it was an unfortunate problem that just-- no matter what laws you passed, there were people that would follow them and there were people that would totally ignore them.

Ashleigh: Right.

Frank: And we went through a thing here, what-- 15, 20 years ago. Probably close to your 1999, when we got a lot of people from Vietnam and other Asian countries here. And they ripped everything up. I mean, we would be down on the beach and a woman would come down in a Cadillac with her husband and they would appear to me to be not Japanese but --

Ashleigh: Vietnamese?

Frank: Well, oriental at any rate. And they would go out and I watched the woman just pry mussels off the rocks. Just a big slab of them. And then she would go like this [gestures]. She'd break one up and put it in the sack and break another one up, throw the rest away. Scrape up some more. She wanted just the right size and everything. If we took any, we went in and twisted them out of the inside. The one we wanted and we let the whole thing grow because it was so crowded they could fill that space up within minutes. The whole idea was to maintain the thing. Now, I used to be able to get the blue mussels or whatever they are. Just down here at the beach north of Bird Rock. And I know places where at low tide you could just go down, take a sack of mussels, come back here, steam them, eat them. The beach in the 300 block where we sat and would watch the beach and watch the low tide and things going on, they just completely just destroyed the whole shore and mussels. And then

that destroys the eels, the things that are apt to eat those mussels. And it's all part of a chain of things. Let's see, what else? Oh and the other thing that was incredible was that the Orientals descended on the breakwater down there by the flood control canal and they picked every little living thing up. The little kids were down there and they were scraping these little barnacle type things, the little things that look like a very tiny animal, pink top underneath it--

Ashleigh: Oh, like limpets?

Frank: Not the keyholes.

Ashleigh: Not giant keyhole limpets, no. Little ones.

Frank: Well. They would get cups and bags full of them and just absolutely strip the rocks, and they would take their fingernail to scrape and just save the meat and throw the shell back. I mean, they sat there --

Ashleigh: And they're tiny right?

Frank: They're tiny but you put a hundred of them or 200 of them in with rice and you got a very nice dish. In here⁵ he talks about those little -- have you seen them? When they come in at -- the blue ones that are like a beaded jewelry, wash up at times. Okay. Also the little clams. The little clams come in by the millions north of Scripps Pier occasionally. They get left up on the beach, I guess, and we used to be able to -- you know, you could scoop up the sand with a sieve and get a whole bunch of them and you take them back like McAllister said. Get them down here at Marine Street too. Although unlike McAllister I never

⁵ Dr. Ray McAllister, "A Student's Look at SIO During the Very Early 50's"

had a problem with the meat being too gritty. We just would take our big bucket of them, not bucket but a can of them, put them in water and just bring the water to a boil. And then just filter the water. And just make a clam stock. You didn't really try to eat them. So Ray here is talking about things he did, even try to eat-- oh, what are the other little blue things that make an impression in the rock?

Ashleigh: Oh yeah. Amphipods?

Frank: We tried to eat everything. We got off the subject of what we tried to protect. I told you we shot black sea bass. And they were no sport. I mean, we shot them and smoked them and that, by the way, reminds of that comment about the eyeballs in what I made at the beach⁶. We may have made a choppino with a whole black sea bass in there. And we did Kahlua a whole black sea bass head along with a pig, you know, just like you would in Hawaii, I suppose.

Ashleigh: Really?

Frank: Wrapped it in -- they use banana leaves and steam it along with a pig and that had eyeballs. So I don't really know what he remembers but it didn't do any damage.

Ashleigh: So did you over time that you were coming across less and less sea bass when you were diving?

Frank: Oh yeah, but it was only-- two things wiped out the black sea bass. Although they seemed to stay out of the gill nets pretty well. It was

⁶ Chuck Snell's written comment on the inside of Buzz Owen's Book

the divers like Barry Wagner who was just spearing them and selling them.

As I say, six or seven in one week. So we still consider it the Barry Wagner Law when they made them illegal. But it's still so flaky because you can still go to Coronado Islands and probably shoot one if you want one bad enough. And then I remember the Bottom Scratchers were practically running tour boats out there at one time, and taking people out and giving them all the equipment and pointing out a black sea bass and then helping them land it. I never got involved in that.

Ashleigh: I might be biased as a conservation biologist in this day and age, but I can't imagine shooting a black sea bass anymore.

Frank: They're not exactly easy. I went out with Bad News Andrews. Bad News Andrew. He didn't have an S on his name. He was a piece of work really is the only way you can say it. Anyway. He had a gun with a reel and he was so proud of it. He was determined to shoot a black sea bass and one day he was poking around near the boat and I was over off Jackass Rock. There's a little kelp bed there and I went down and there was a black about 300 pounds or something like that. And I said, "Hey, there's one over here." So he came over and I watched him swim like he was swimming up next to the side of a cow or something. He shot it, and he let the reel run out, hit the end of the reel and off they went.

Ashleigh: There he goes.

Frank: Yeah. He came up a long time later, no reel, no fish. And he was cussing. He went back on the boat and was getting gear out. And I said, "There's another one down here, if you're interested." He came over, did exactly the same thing the second time.

Ashleigh: So that was two guns?

Frank: Shot and lost two guns and two fish and killed two fish.

Ashleigh: Bad News Andrew.

Frank: Everybody had names. I mean, we had a Nasty Ed. We Nasty Knox and there was another name-- it was just another variation of the same thing. Oh, Junior Knox. It was Junior Knox, Nasty Knox and Nasty Ed.

Ashleigh: And who were they? What were their real names?

Frank: They were all -- not really. Might not even know their real names.

[Laughter]

Frank: Then Cousin Willy was actually Willy Philson, although his name for years was just Willy Cousin in the phone books. If somebody called up and said Mr. Cousin, they'd know that they were talking to Willy. He showed up at one of our parties at the Cove once and was introduced as somebody's cousin and it just stuck.

Ashleigh: And so many of you still get together these days, right? There must be a lot of memories in your group.

Frank: In the 50s or 60s at the latest, we had moved from the Cove to the 300 block because the Cove got too crowded with too many parking problems. So it was after we had moved to the 300 block where we still go periodically on Wednesdays in the summer. We had another experience down there, very similar to the day we saw that plane crash

from where we were sitting that I told you about. But there was one day, there were two guys in a boat and they were fighting a fish or doing something and they were drifting in right over the reef into very shallow water. And when they realized what was happening, they tried to turn the boat around and the boat filled up with water and the bow kind of went up in the air. Chuck [Snell] was sitting next to me, and I said, "Hey, Chuck. Look over here. That boat is sinking." He said, "Frank, look over here. That plane is crashing," and there was the boat sinking and then one of those tow planes goes in right at Marine Street or just a little farther down from Marine Street.

Ashleigh: Wow. Talk about the apocalypse.

Frank: "What happened this afternoon?" So Chuck and I went out and we dove on that boat and brought everything up, all their personal gear and stuff that was stored up in the bow and the lifeguards I think came over later and got the engine. Whether or not the guy ever got the engine back I don't know. But we just took out personal property that had gone down there.

Ashleigh: Right. And everybody-- they were all survivors or --

Frank: Oh, they just swam into the beach. They were only in about ten-foot of water. They just came in through the surf a little bit and got up on the beach.

Ashleigh: What about the plane?

Frank: Oh the plane -- the guy was all right. The plane was in the water, sunk and I don't think I ever went and saw that but we had another plane go off of Boomer, a plane just crash doing just some dumb

thing off of Boomer. And I went out in my boat and we're out there diving and all of a sudden I realize there's a big commotion going on and they had a boat with a pretty good size crane on it and they were bringing something up and I realized they were bringing up this plane that sunk and we were anchored there. We were watching and they went by me and unless my mind is totally gone, I actually could see the plane underwater like about six feet underwater. The wings and the body over there as they went by and they were towing it. They towed it underwater. Ashleigh: It was like it was flying underwater?

Frank: I guess they had no way of lifting it out of the water. And it was just so weird to see the plane underwater.

Ashleigh: I went diving in a sunken plane but it was in about 20 feet of water in Aruba at a resort. I think they had put it down there on purpose.

Frank: Yeah. Wow, every story just brings up more different ones. Yeah. Planes crashing and things that went on. But we had a lot of fishing around here in those days. We had the mola mola jumping out of the water and periodically we'd see a pod of the killer whales go by. There were always whales out there.

Ashleigh: Sure. We will want to hear all about that when we record the oral history. Well, not to switch gears too much but before I forget I wanted to tell you that I may have a contact at the South West Fisheries Science Center up at NOAA, and they're interested in having your copy of Buzz's abalone book. I can handle all the logistics to get it donated in your name there. Maybe along with your oral history and a little something in memory of Chuck Snell.

Frank: Well, I don't really -- if I really wanted to say something, I would say thanks to Chuck for thinking of me because I don't know who paid for that or anything, but I know that Chuck and Barbara -- they were always so generous. I don't know if you've ever seen a whale tail cut out of an abalone shell?

Ashleigh: No, I don't think I have.

Frank: They are really attractive. There's one part of the abalone where if you draw the right pattern up, just one spot on an ab shell, they cut a whale tail out that has sort of a center structure like the back bone and then these two flukes. And then they cut a pendant out of it and I thought -- I don't know where I could get a picture of it and I don't think my wife has one but Barbara Allen certainly has them⁷ and a lot of other people I know. Chuck O'Grady has been around all those years, too, and very parallel. He had two kids. About the same time I had two kids, a girl and a boy. In the same order. And we still talk to him, see him all the time. We will see him when we have a party coming up on Wednesday night. Next Wednesday night. The 5th anyway, whenever that is I think.

Ashleigh: I think that is next -- because we've got a short month, February.

Frank: Well, anyway. I think it's on the 5th. And it's Wednesday night at somebody's house and everybody will be up there to start the season off.

Ashleigh: Great.

⁷ Figure 6

Frank: And following week it'll be down at the beach. So you'll meet some of these people. All you have to do is come down to the 300 block of Coast in front of the big old Doyle house. You know where that is. And there's two tables there and we normally have the first two as you come down the one-way street there and if for some reason we don't get them, then we move to the next two. We move in on whoever's there and invite them to stay with us and start bringing out the food. Bill Howard is generally there. He's one of the Addicts. Larry --

Ashleigh: Larry Redden.

Frank: Larry Redden is one of the Attics that typically shows up there.

Ashleigh: Yeah. I mean, it would be ideal to get oral histories from all these people. And I think this is a much better way to go about it than to -- it feels kind of strange to call somebody on the phone as a stranger and ask them to meet me and tell me about their lives.

Frank: Talk to Bill Howard. He was one of the early, very early members. I don't remember what year it was when he came in, but you'll see a picture that doesn't include him and then thereafter there are pictures that do. He may have been a junior Addict in the one picture or second team and the one where the six of us are holding trophies⁸ but our goal was to go out and dive and go out and spear fish and also go to competitions. And not to party. As I told you the three of us started -- or the two of us -- were married at the time. Within the year they had gotten divorces, so they could spend their time diving and not have to worry about family life.

⁸ Figure 7

Ashleigh: Yeah. Were there any -- I mean, not just straight from competition but around here, was there any animosity between clubs that led to, you know, brawls breaking out or something between say, Skinsters and Addicts and Neptunes and such?

Frank: No. There's enough of an area between here and where all the Long Beach Neptunes group of people are. Barbara [Allen] kept up with all of them and their diving expeditions and their accomplishments. They were in their own world and as far as I know they never did use the Addict gun up there until they started buying them commercially or something. And I really am not even that certain about what you'd call an Addict gun. Our only claim for an Addict gun was to put the trigger at the rear and the handle up in the middle for maneuverability. Now, it's just put there to make the gun partly maneuverable but it's mostly to get back to better range. If the gun is long and you can push it out in front of you, you're that much closer to fish.

Ashleigh: Right.

Frank: So the guns like the Reif guns or Riffe -- I still don't know how to say it.

Ashleigh: You mean Riffe?

Frank: I think you're right. I think it is Riffe. I think I'm the one that's -- I want to say Reif and somebody corrects me -- it should be Riffe R-i-f-f-e. There's no way to make that into Reif. Yeah. The Riffe guns are very popular and are very good mechanisms. There are two-piece triggers and I guess two-piece seers in the back. I told you our guns were sudden death. I mean you never knew when the gun were going to go [sound effect] and shoot and knock your teeth out if you happened to

be looking down the barrel of that thing. You never knew when it was going to go off. And, as I said, we had to sit there and file those seers because the triggers were a little touchy and that pressure was tremendous and if it wasn't so that it was just smooth and you put some gear grease on it so that you would pull it off, you had to really pull on that trigger and when I fired it, it jerked so badly. No smooth release. So later guns were made with the trigger mechanism longer so that the pressure wasn't as much on the trigger. A longer trigger so that you had more leverage. So you pulled back an inch or two instead of a half inch. Anyway, back to the diving off the Cove. I used to -- since they shut down, you really can't go down to the rocks and go in the water anymore, but when I first came to La Jolla, there was steps at the Slides.

Ashleigh: Right. Near the Cave Store.

Frank: Between, you know, right in that corner.

Ashleigh: Yeah.

Frank: That went all the way to down to the beach to the rocks down there and you could go down there. We could go down those steps and swim right out and get a lobster or go down from the store and get a lobster. I probably didn't tell you that the big deal was we would go out diving below the Cave Store, and when it was time to quit and go home, we'd all very quietly go up the steps into the Cave Store and then bust open through the Cave Store with our sacks of abalone and fins and stuff and out the front door.

Ashleigh: [Laughing] Just --

Frank: Just to give tourists a little excitement. All of a sudden here comes these crazy people out of their little stairs down to the water.

You could go down the stairs and there's a little platform there and you can look out through the cave. I'd love to get back and see my favorite spots for lobster. I've heard so much poaching has since gone on. In fact, they blame the lifeguards and people that should know better. That still go in there.

Ashleigh: It's a huge ordeal.

Frank: We had somebody spearing black sea bass there and they caught them doing it and he just thought what I am I doing wrong? No license, just says, "I didn't know."

I get discouraged when I feel there is uneven monitoring in the whole situation. Make it so that if you broke the laws, you were going to get caught and not that write the laws and hope that people follow them, you know. We write so many laws for everything that are unenforceable. Unenforceable or left as the policemen or the gang war. It becomes the judge and jury. Selective enforcement. The Scripps—see, the La Jolla area, as you know, terminates by the pier and then it goes on as the Scripps area around to the house down on the beach.

Ashleigh: Yeah.

Frank: And there are different rules. There are certain things that you do here and not there.

Ashleigh: Right.

Frank: And I was down on the beach one day and some guys came out with sacks of lobsters. They weren't even taking only ten. And they said

this is not part of the regular ocean. They said this is a reserve and there's no law against taking lobster here. And I tried to get the lifeguards to do something about it, but the guys had left and there's nothing you can do about it. But we also were never allowed to dive for lobster off that little point by Dike Rock. And although you were allowed to dive there for halibut which Elle always did, there wasn't much else there of interest except halibut that I can think of offhand. There were no abalone to speak of. There were guitar fish, by the way, and guitar fish -- if you're really hungry, if you're one of these starving students, shoot a guitar fish because it's just like a big crab leg or something.

Ashleigh: Really?

Frank: Yeah. With a knife it's very easy but even with a thumb I used to be able to go into the gill slits and break one that long off [gestures], break the whole tail off behind the stomach and I guess right where the gills start. And just hung it off right there under my belt. You get home and you cut it in half and then you take two skin sides off and you're left with a triangular piece of pure white meat and it's extremely mild, good as --

Ashleigh: I never knew that.

Frank: It has no acid shark taste at all. No. I think the guitar fish -- I used to think people were crazy when you'd see them casting off the beach fishing with crabs and things. And they would get the sand sharks and felt sorry about them, sorry for that minnow soakers or idiot stickers or -- we had all kinds of names for people that left with poles.

[Laughter]

Frank: But they knew what they were doing if they were taking them home and eating them because I'd love to have a good size --

Ashleigh: I see those guitar fish all over the place. Pretty big ones too.

Frank: Well, if you got a pranger, nail one. If you need one, I got one out in the garage you can have. I'm sure I could rig up something up minutes.

Ashleigh: Let's do that the next time I come and visit.

Frank: Okay.

Ashleigh: I'll take it out and see and try my luck.

Frank: Okay. You can bring me a nice guitar fish tail.

Ashleigh: For all the tales that you've told me!

Frank: Halibut, too – they're always in good halibut areas. North Windansea and Moony Street is still good. And that's about it now. Unless, I think you could go up to Dike Rock. On the other side of the rock, not the seaward side of the rock but the northern point of the rock there, there was always halibut along the north edge all the way into the beach. That area. You could always get halibut in there. And if you felt up to it, you could always pick them off the rim of the canyon. But this is free diving and so I would work my way pretty well down into the canyon off the Marine Room. Which is now -- oh, that's not the La Jolla Preserve.

Ashleigh: No, I don't think so.

Frank: And I could make my way fairly well down into that one neck of Scripps neck or whatever that first one is on the other side of the house down on the beach. By the way, I mentioned there were two John Nageys. Dale Nagey was the other Nagey and -- don't even bother because he was an architect and had nothing much to do with anything except that he was the designer of that house down on the beach.

Ashleigh: Oh, really?

Frank: And since I was making fiberglass boats and was ahead of the curve on using fiberglass, he came to me and I gave him a quick course on how to use fiberglass. He wanted it for a certain structure in that building. I've always been curious whether I made a contribution to that strange house down there.

Ashleigh: Between I would say about halfway between that house and the river mouth north at Torrey Pines, there's an artificial reef. The Torrey Pines artificial reef.

Frank: Oh, yeah.

Ashleigh: Ever heard of that? I was diving there in September and I was seeing halibut all over the place, big ones. And that's open to fishing. It does directly out from the golf course. I remember finding a lot of golf balls. But it's at about an average of 45 feet so you need pretty good conditions I would imagine to freedive it. I was just impressed with the number of fish and I don't think it's under a lot of fishing pressure mainly because it's a little bit of a haul out there.

Frank: It's -- yes. It's hard to get there. I mean, you get in the parking up above and the stairs from Blacks Beach and everything. I went out

there. Just part of going to Blacks Beach. I mean, you want to be a purist, you go out spear fishing wearing nothing more than fins and mask.

[Laughter]

Anyway. Short story, long story. I had a funny feeling about that reef. I moved down on it and I felt it was a shark environment.

Ashleigh: Really?

Frank: I didn't like the idea. I felt sharks around even though I never saw one.

Ashleigh: What kinds would you say?

Frank: Well, I don't know. It just --

Ashleigh: Spooky.

Frank: Somebody told me that they got chased out of there by a shark or something, but I was uncomfortable and it was too deep. When you can go to Bathtub Rock --

Ashleigh: Yeah.

Frank: And Bathtub Rock, if you go around to the south end where it stops right in that area where the south end starts to be beach with little stuff there. There's all this halibut there.

Ashleigh: Really?

Frank: Always was. And we could go there and dive in eight feet of water and always get halibut and it was easier to get to because there was just

one mile of water from the parking along the coast there. Didn't have to climb down a cliff. And right down on -- oh, there's a lot of good places going north, you know. Swamis and that self-realization colony had some kind of a pier, some kind of stairs coming down north of that until you get to the next break where you go in again. All that area used to be very good for halibut. We never had any trouble. Just this year, the time of year they would start showing up. The females mostly.

Ashleigh: I was replacing an instrument diving under Scripps Pier last Thursday and saw a big halibut sitting there near a piling. Gave me a scare because I was so focused on unscrewing some screws and suddenly this giant one zooms off.

Frank: I knew all those pilings purely by heart when they went from singles to doubles. I've gone out there so many times.

Ashleigh: Yeah. Me too, even in the short time I've been a student there.

Frank: I think it was probably 20 years ago-- I was still very actively diving, I was out there diving, and all of a sudden a loud speaker from the guard shack says, "Diver next to the pier. Come to shore immediately," and I came to shore and he read the Riot Act to me that that was dangerous and I had no business under there, and I said, "Was I breaking any law or anything that you're aware of?" "No." Well, I said, "Well then, cool it."

Ashleigh: Right. He had no idea that you were a graduate student there probably before he was even born!

Tape Lapse; Here, I am showing my GoPro to Frank.

Ashleigh: This is it. This is all underwater housing. It takes great photos. I get HD videos on many of my dives. I just usually have a stick mount for it. I'm actually gonna experiment with mounting it on a little cutting board because I've heard that that reduces the wobbles in the shots, but I just -- that's just for fun. I put together little videos. I'll send you a few of them. You might like them. They're very amateur but I guess it'll give you a little insight about what it looks like in the water, especially at the [La Jolla} Cove, now. You can offer some comparisons as to what you remember.

Frank: Well, I'm sure the Cove hasn't changed a lot.

Ashleigh: Yeah. So that was in '71, I believe, that it was designated as a look-but-don't-touch ecological reserve. Did that have a lot of backlash from spear fishermen who were fishing around there? Did you support it or --

Frank: After a certain period of time you were never allowed to take a spear gun in there, although we were allowed to go -- like, if you wanted to go down the steps and through the tunnel under the rock and just go out there. But we normally walked up where the that thing is for Connie Limbaugh the top of --

Ashleigh: The memorial, yeah.

Frank: That was, you know, a straight walk right down to the water there until that collapsed. And now you can't do it, but we used to be able to walk down and just go in the water there and go out. And if I

ever really found something in the Cove, would I take it? I've never done it, but it's gone through my mind. I generally try to follow rules. But if I found something in the Cove that I really wanted, right off of that rock there's an extension underwater. There's a reef and it's got a hole like somebody drilled a big hole and put a post in there at one time. It's got a hole about that deep and about that big of round [gestures]. That's just in the top of that rock. I've left stuff in there when I was going diving. You want to leave something there on the way back and so only the few people who know it's there would be looking in there. I always thought if I found an absolutely perfect metate or something, I would swim over, drop it there, and then come in and some other time and pick it up and bring it in at Boomer. I'd just have to smuggle it out of the Cove, but I had not been back taking anything out of the Cove since they decided to shut it all down. Metates are still off the Beach and Tennis Club.

Ashleigh: I'd love to go look for them.

Frank: I think it would be fun to go up there with your camera and find one and turn it over and photograph it and turn it back again. And, as I said, those net weights as far as I can remember all came from the Cove. So they were putting nets across the cove for some reason. And those have to be net weights. And McAllister calls them net weights. So I -- although I've had other people say those are axe heads and things like that, but they weren't axe heads.

[Brings out shell collection] Now these haven't been looked at in how many years? Know what that is?

Ashleigh: No idea.

Frank: Okay. It's a very crude abalone pearl. Occasionally you would even find those.

Figure 1: Original newspaper clipping saved by Frank from the San Diego Union Tribune, September 8 1957.



Figure 2: Original newspaper clipping from Frank's collections. San Diego Union Tribune, Friday March 2, 1956. "WORLD'S CHAMP? – A new world record for staying under water without breathing aids has been claimed by James Ray Jordan, 36, of 3329 Grim Ave., North Park. Left to right, he prepares to don face mask, plunges in, relaxes on the bottom, and finally rests after feat. Jordan breathes pure oxygen for about a minute before entering the water (Story Next Page.)



Figure 3: Skinsters, F. Leinhaupel with Joe Groton, c. 1951



Figure 4: Book, *The Evolution of Freediving and History of Spearfishing in Hawai'i*

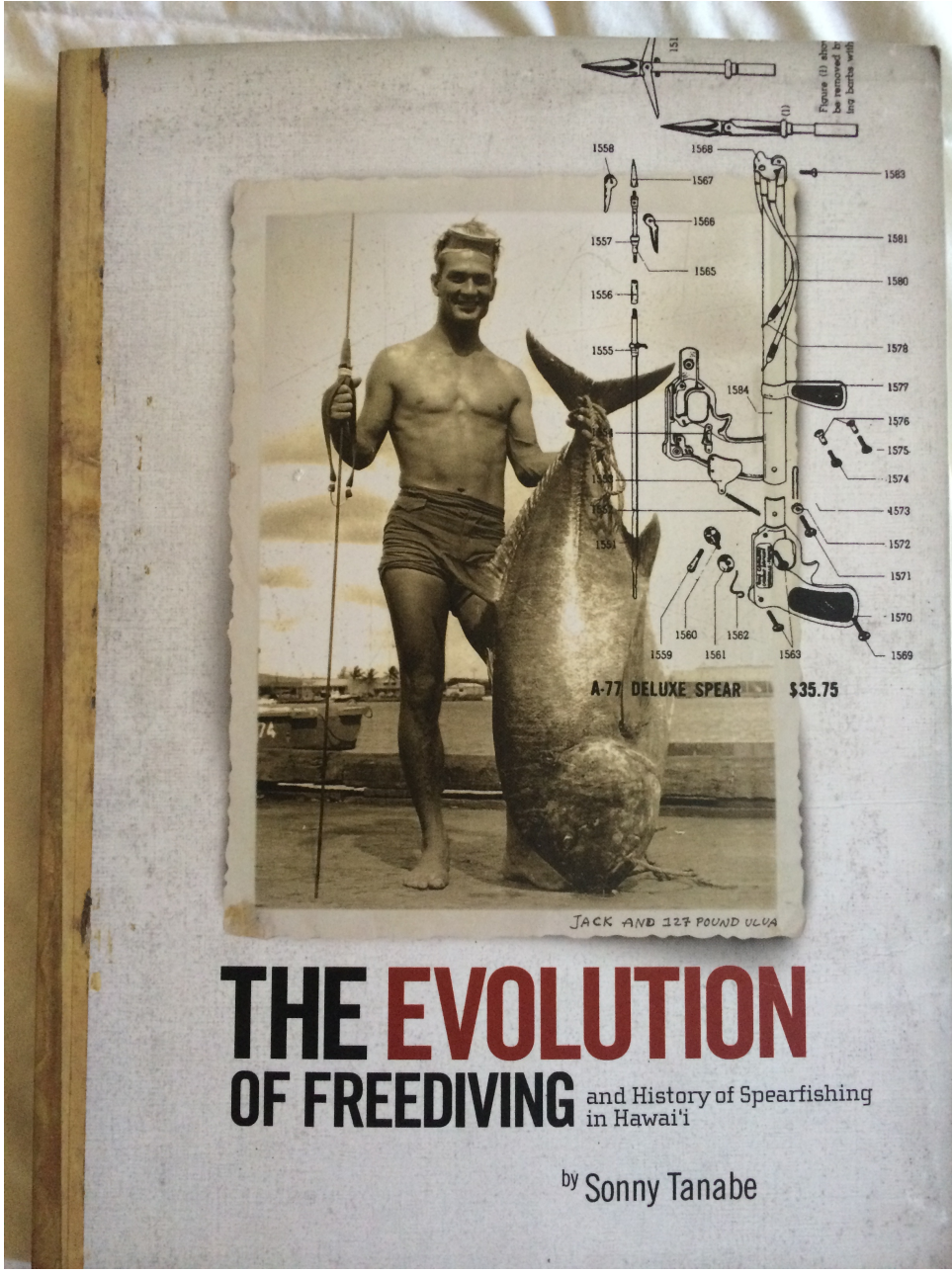


Figure 5: Note from Buzz Owen on the inside cover of his book, Abalone (ConchBooks, 2012)

2 MARCH 2013

TO FRANK AND SUSIE - HOPE YOU
ENJOY THE BOOK! ARE YOU STILL SERV-
ING UP THAT FISH EYEBALL CONCOCTION
AT BEACH PARTIES? THAT WAS SOME WILD
STUFF I REMEMBER! YOUR FRIEND,
Buzz

March, 2013
Chuck - Barbara

Figure 6: Later I asked Barbara about these and she sent me photos of her collection.



Figure 7: Addicts Members 1956

(Top L to R) Ron Church, Bob Shea, Bill Howard

(Bottom L to R) Tony Sanchez, Frank Leinhaupel, Mickey Church

