

**Name of Narrator:** Brande Bennett (BB)

**Interviewer:** Kassidy Gunn (KG) and Freddy Lee (FL) recorded this interview with the permission of Brande Bennett (BB) and for the research project “Boat Stories”

**Primary Investigator:** Dr. Jennifer Sweeney Tookes, Georgia Southern University.

**Transcriber:** Kassidy Gunn

**Others Present:** No other people were present.

**Date of Interview:** November 12, 2021

**Place:** Brunswick, Georgia, UGA MarEx Station

**Duration of the interview:** Thirty-nine minutes and fifty-eight seconds (39:58)

**Repository for the recording:** The audio recording will be uploaded to the website, Voices from the Fisheries (<https://voices.nmfs.noaa.gov/>)

**Context for the Interview:** Student interviewers sit down with Brande Bennett to discuss her role on boats in the area.

**General Description of Contents:** Brande Bennett discusses how her involvement in the fishing industry is generational. She goes into detail how the boats that she strikes on have been in her family since she was born.

0:00:02

KG: Okay, so this is an interview with Miss Brande Bennett on November 12, 2021. The interview is being conducted in Brunswick, Georgia as part of the research project and interview collection titled Boat Stories and the interviewers are Kassidy Gunn and Freddy Lee. Do you still consent to being interviewed?

BB: Yes.

KG: And if there are any questions that you do not feel comfortable with, please let us know and we will skip them and you don't have to answer any of them. To start, can you tell us your current or most recent fishing vessel boat and what was its name? And did it have any other names?

BB: Well, I had my own boat that was called the Brande Ray. But I sold that a couple years back and then we have the Dora F and the Flying Cloud.

KG: How long have you been on that boat? What was your role, captain or striker?

BB: I've been on the Dora F since I was born. And I can remember back till I was four and been fishing on it with my father.

KG: Were you a caption or, now, were you-

BB: No. no. Always like being the striker. I mean, I drive the boats and do everything on it. But I never wanted that responsibility. I just like being the first striker.

KG: You said your father ran the boat before you? When did you take possession of the boat?

BB: Oh no, that was his boat.

KG: That was his boat?

BB: Yes. I have always helped him run his boat. I just had mine and had other crews runnin' it.

FL: Were any of them any siblings or anything?

BB: um?

FL: Did you have any siblings that were a crew on the boat?

BB: My brother did. Only a little bit. He didn't stick around like I did. And Dan, my children has been on the boat. I'd raised them on there till they started school and then my son is always worked every summer. And now he runs one of our boats for us.

FL: So it's kind of like a generational family thing.

BB: Yeah, my son's like the fifth generation.

KG: And which boat does he run?

BB: The Flying Cloud.

KG: And what kind of boat is the Flying Cloud?

BB: I want to say it's...I can't remember. It's the shrimp boat and it's like 65 foot long.

KG: Does it have a woodhull or fiberglass or

BB: woodhull

KG: Is it similar to the other boats that are currently operating in Georgia or is it?

BB: Yes. Just a little bit bigger than some of the other ones that are there right now.

FL: How many nets do you have on it?

BB: Four. Yeah, it depends on what shrimp are running. And everything cause you got to white shrimp, brownie shrimp, rose tramp. Sometimes we run like four forties on it or like two fifties. Depends on, like I'd say what, what time of year and what shrimp are runnin'?

0:03:10

FL: How efficient, I guess, how many shrimp are out there? Cause, I assume, if you want like the most profit, you want all four nets out.

BB: Yeah. Or sometimes and it depends on if you want to go faster. You know what I'm saying? Sometimes if you only got two fifties, you got a little more power and go with the tides and stuff like that. And depends on how many strikers you get on there too. Cause sometimes it was just be me and my daddy that ran the boats for a long time.

FL: So like many factors to think about. Many factors to think about.

BB: Yeah

FL: Like you just said, depending how many strikers. If you only have like say two strikers. You wouldn't wanna necessarily have four nets, for example.

BB: Yeah.

KG: What has your boat been through in the years that you were on it with your dad?

BB: Been through?. Alright, so like, we almost sunk it one time whenever I was pregnant with my son. It was so foggy and we couldn't see where we was. You could hear a ship comin'. So we was tryin' to get outta the way and hit the bottom of the boat. So we had to end up pulling up in the marsh so we didn't sink. That was the kind of little scary, me being seven months pregnant. So and we've been out there in storms before. We was out there and one storm that come out of nowheres and we'd end up losing one boat that day. So it's been through a lot things.

FL: To contrast that what would you say would be like a moment that really stands out as fun or entertaining?

BB: Fun, entertaining? I don't know how always about fun.

FL: Its like more kind of like work based.

BB: Yeah, well sometimes I, when we anchored up and stuff like that, and then sometimes we cut the fool, but my daddy was always kind of serious and didn't like horseplayin'. So but sometimes we would, cause I've worked when I was eight, I worked with my uncle for like a summer, and I just drive the boat for him while he done everything else back there and then I've worked with my other uncle and then you can more cut the fool and horseplay a little bit, but it's only like when you're not draggin' and stuff cause sometimes it's really not a place for horseplaying.

FL: There's a time and place for it.

KG: And you said that y'all lost a boat that day during the storm?

BB: They was on the other side Jekylls so it was really rough on us and he took his nets up and when he did, it picked it up and slammed it and it just busted all the pieces. The only thing was left was the bow and that's what they was up on whenever the Coast Guards finally got to him.

FL: That's got to be really scary. I can't imagine.

BB: Yeah, it was because I was like knee deep in jelly balls and, and I didn't know it was going on. It was actually my ex. And my father comes back there and he's like, you gotta take the wheel and you gotta get ahold the Coast Guards. So, that was a kind of, because I didn't know we couldn't see 'em over there cause we're on St. Simons and with the storm. So I didn't know what was going on for a while. So I didn't know if they made it or anything. So yeah, it was a little scary.

KG: And which boat was that?

BB: It used to be the Destiny. Yeah, it was Destiny, is what he named it.

FL: And you said you were pregnant at the time when you lost the boat?

BB: No. That's when we almost sunk it. I was pregnant with my son like say going on right at seven and half months pregnant.

0:07:01

FL: Oh boy, I bet you're like, oh no just me have the baby

BB: Yeah, because it was cold and you couldn't see nothing from the fog, you could hear things but because it's bouncing off you didn't know where you was. So yeah, that was

FL: You didn't know how far you were from like the nearest safe spot.

BB: And then I was on there, on the Destiny one time and everyone else had done went in and me and him was coming off of Jekyll and hitting the point and you could see the storm comin' and they even

called so about the time I got around the point we done had the nets up and everything, it hit us and it just laid the boat sideways and caught the nets, the air did. So he come up there hollerin' at me cause I just spun and went with the storm, it was a small boat it wasn't a big one like the other ones. So there was no fightin' against her or anything and he said so he's like what the hell are you doing? And I was like, we're gonna have to go with the storm. She's running fast and coming by. So just run with her out the channel and it'll bypass us and thats what I did and then I just turn around and come on in.

KG: Where did you mostly fish?

BB: Out here off of St. Simons and Jekyll.

FL: Were you closer to like, when you started was the government regulation that you cannot fish in the first like three miles?

BB: Yes. Yeah, we always had that every year. I think June is when the beaches open. We can come in three miles. That meant we had to be three miles off. Which we go sometimes seven eight miles and be caught out there in storms and you can't see anything, no land, no nothing.

FL: Did you ever go into like the South Carolina or Florida coasts?

BB: I didn't a whole lot, whenever we come along my daddy quit going up, far off and just stay down here.

FL: because it was like more familiar versus like if you went over there.

BB: Was the coming home every day.

KG: What did you normally fish for, just shrimp?

BB: Shrimp, fish, crabs cause when we was younger, me and my brother made money off the fish money and crab money. Cause he had strikers and we just push the trash and learn how to run the boats.

FL: Do you use the same net for fish and crab too or was it like-

BB: Yeah same nets

FL: So like for other shrimpers they would usually say like bycatch, but for you was just like whatever you caught and just organize it separately.

BB: but then we had bycatch like the little fish, about that, [made measurement with her hands] we just pushed them overboard

FL: The ones that you couldn't sell.

0:09:49

KG: What was unique or special about your boats?

BB: To me it was spending time with my father. And just being out on the ocean and watching that sun looks like it come out of the ocean every morning.

FL: Bet that's a beautiful sight.

BB: It is. I tell him. That's, I don't do it now I just take care of the paperwork and payroll and all that and I tell him that I miss going out and watching the sunrise and tasting that salty air on my lips and just smelling it. There's nothing like it to me. That's only thing I really miss of it the most.

KG: And you said you, it was mainly you and your dad who worked on the boat when you had strikers on the other boats, like tell me about those people?

BB: Well there's all sorts. We've been through a lot of them and shrimplings not for everyone. Some people think it's easy and a great job but it's really hard work. I'm paying for it now from workin' all my life as a child, like say I my rotator cuffs are not good. I just had surgery.

FL: The manual labor is intense.

BB: Yes, yes. And I have arthritis and all that now from it really bad. Is 'cause I just, women are not meant to work like that, that hard so.

FL: Do you think you were ever like, because there weren't many women in the shrimping business, I assume, back in the day like there was like, oh, there's a woman working on the boat? Or was it more like she's just a shrimper too?

BB: My daddy always took great pride in that, that I was and that I could drive the boat and a lot of people else was, I'm saying they are always treated me with respect and the ones that didn't they kind of, got told about it.

FL: You could just throw them over the water [laughs]

BB: No, my daddy. But like in Darien and stuff like that. A lot of them all know me, but I don't know them. Yeah, I'm kind of well known for that.

FL: So there weren't very many female shrimpers at the time.

BB: No.

FL: How 'bout nowadays.

BB: I know my aunt was, my great aunt. And one other lady. There's been a few chicks that's come along, but not too many.

KG: You said your great aunt was a shrimper? Did she use one of y'all's boats or did she use a different one?

BB: Yes. She worked on my boat with my uncle and stuff..

KG: You said that you had a lot of fun, well not necessarily fun, but you had some good memories on the boats. What would you say was your best memory? Was it working with your dad? Or did you have any more?

BB: I don't know. They're kind of stories but yeah, it was just the guys doing stupid things and stuff like that, horse playin' around, nothing that really wanna talk about and sometimes it was enjoyment of making the money like I did and I took care of my kids and raise them, on my own

FL: That's got to be a real sense of pride.

BB: Yeah, it is. And like I sayin' (?) I got to spend a lot of time with my kids until they went to school so I got to spend good quality time with them and stuff.

FL: Do they still like the water nowadays?

BB: Oh yes. I mean, we do the river, the beaches. My girls fight me about the beach, don't like the stickiness, but the pool. Which I'm actually a Pisces, so I love the water. I don't know if I could ever move away from the water.

0:13:53

KG: Other than, it was the Destiny that sank, right? So other than the Destiny, are the other boats that y'all have still in commission? And how many were those?

BB: Two. We've had several but, that we've went through and bought and purchased and then sale.

KG: And what were those boats?

BB: The Little D, the Miss Frankie. I can't even remember.

FL: Were they really big boats or?

BB: Mhm, two of them I think was smaller boats, but that would was it. My daddy's is fifty-five foot long. And mine was somewhere, sixty-seven foot long.

FL: What was the average size, would you say?

BB: They usually run around big teens. Some of them are bigger, so

FL: So the bigger, like really big ones would probably, could they be like eighty feet?

BB: Some of 'ems 'round seventy, eighty and they go out sometimes on really long trips and stuff like that. Ours is, yeah, cuz and a lot of them like that'll be freezer boats or something. So they'll stay out for a while. I mean, we can go out for like almost a week 'cause ours is not freezer boats, make trips like that.

KG: You said it was the Little D? That's what you said? Were those just shrimping boats or did you?

BB: Mhm, we've only had shrimping boats.

KG: And did anyone in particular in your family use those? Or did you just?

BB: Yeah, it was always family.

KG: What do you understand about fishing vessels now that you didn't when you first started fishing? Even though you started fishing at a young age?

BB: Yeah, I'm not quite sure how to answer that.

FL: Was it more like you learn a little more everyday kind of thing on the boat?

BB: Yeah, well, my daddy always kind of helped me to learn off the rip cuz he always looked at say if it was just out there that something happened to him or anything, that we would be able to know how to take up and take the boat home.

FL: I'm assuming that was at an early age. Pretty soon after you started.

BB: Yes, yeah. Cuz he has this stool on the Dora F<sub>2</sub> I used to drive when I was four and five. And then both my kids did, and now my grandchildren do.

FL: You said you drove the boat when you were four or five?

BB: Yeah, and so did my kids.

FL: Sounds like fun.

BB: It was, where I lived at, most the kids picked tobacco and stuff for the summer. I tried that one summer. And that was like, too much dirt for me. But I was on there every summer, every holiday, but which our father made us work and learn the value of a dollar and that nothing was given to you. So I think far as like with that question. No, exactly shrimping, but it did teach us, not as much my brother as it did me, the responsibility and how to live and do in life, and earn things.

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FL: Reflecting on that, working for the dollar, a really vital lesson, especially for kids to carry that on. So like, have you seen the change in how fishing was back then to how it is now, say not necessarily profits, but how much you could get for your trip, I guess?

BB: Yeah, the price is kind of different. We don't make the money that we used to.

FL: That parts got to be a little saddening. We mentioned before, the manual labor you have to put in for it.

BB: Yeah, cuz sometimes you're looking at thirteen, sixteen hours a day. That made really long days.

FL: What would your day be like, when would you wake up? Would you go to school and then shrimp?

BB: Well, when I got sixteen I ended up quitin' and helping him and his friends, so you get up sometimes around three, four o'clock, and then you get home in the afternoons. And then as I became a



mother, then I had to come home and do homework and cook dinner. So not a whole lot of sleep. Cause I get bed eleven or twelve and have to get back up at three, three-thirty and go to work. But daddy always let me take a nap on the way out. So that's

FL: Thank God.

KG: You said you first started fishing because of your dad. How did he start fishing?

BB: His father.

KG: So you have a long line.

FL: Yes. And then his father did and then even on his mother's side, his great grandfather was, their family was the caretakers over there on Jekyll and and they shrimped as well too.

KG: Do you know why they started in that? And shrimping?

BB: No, not really.

KG: So what changes have you seen in the water and the weather and the sea level, of sea life over these years of fishing?

BB: More storms. A lot more storms out the just about no wheres and we don't catch fish and crabs and stuff like we used to. I mean used to we could have fifteen, twenty baskets of crabs. Now you're lucky sometimes if you get a half a basket and whenever, when my children were small, we'd go out there in the wintertime and fish for whitin's and stuff at night. And we make good money then and there's no doing that now.

[interruption, paused recorder until BB returned]

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[Resume Interview]

0:00:35

KG: So earlier you said you were a striker? Did you ever want to be a captain? Or did you always just want to stay a striker the whole time?

BB: No, I was kind of both. What I'm saying I helped run the boat. But it gets real boring up there. I wouldn't have no fingernails. And back then I smoked cigarettes. I'd just smoke and chew my fingernails. Cause sometimes it was more intense to me because you have hangs where you drag at. And then like say, sit up there for hours. And it's very boring. So I'd rather go pick shrimp and clean the deck,

then I would sittin' and so me and my daddy sometimes would fight who was going to be up there drivin', you know? Because he didn't want to do it always either. So

FL: In the captain position, did have like the maps and the GPS and all that and we're able to read those? Were you, did your dad teach you how to read those at an early age?

BB: Yeah. And then, we have the plotters and all that so a lot of it's right there. So when your draggin' what lines to stay on and everything. And then back then when we didn't have that you used certain things to line up, to know where you was and all that. So you didn't go up on a sandbar because, you got all them valleys and stuff. So you really had to pay attention.

FL: This sounds like a scary question. But did those because they're like electronically based, they ever go out or malfunction?

BB: Yes. Many a-times.

FL: What do you do in that situation?

BB: Well, then you use by the old fashioned way, that you knew how to drag and you had to line it up by this marker, this house that was up on the beach.

FL: I can imagine that was stressful and nerve racking.

BB: Yes. That's why I'd say I didn't have fingernails at all back then. I don't even buy my nails anymore.

KG: When you think about the future of commercial fishing in Georgia, is it based on the boats like yours?

BB: Do what now?

KG: When you think about the future of commercial fishing in Georgia, is it going to be based on boats like yours?

BB: I don't know. I do worry here because we don't have the boats we did. We don't have the shrimpers and I mean we have very little here now. The rest is yachts and fishing boats and all that where shrimp boats was, that is it going to be here anymore? Is because it's been a family thing for us all of our life, and that not just my grandchildren and generations on up. Are they going to see that or is anyone else going to? I was telling Bryan that since I've been a child a lot of people come visit Georgia for the islands and for that and for the shrimp boats and to see it and even down to like Mother's Day when we do blessing of the boats and everything. We don't even have it down there at the dock like that. There's not everyone celebrating and learning and experiencein' seein it.

FL: Kind of like, sad to say, sounds like a dying tradition.

BB: Like a dying business.

0:04:08

FL: Do you keep it in the family currently like to your sons or grandsons or granddaughters or daughters?

BB: I'm not sure my grandson, which he's fixin' be six. My son that runs the boat. He wants to be a DNR. I found that so funny, because it ain't like were the biggest fans of the DNR.

FL: [inaudible - mumbles]

BB: Yeah, and that he wants to be a DNR. So, my granddaughter, she goes, my oldest one, and she goes with my daddy. Cause this year it was, they sent a picture of her coming in from shrimpin' and she had on the hat and everything. And I swear she's redheaded but it was like seein me all over again.

FL: How'd it make you feel?

BB: Made my day.

FL: Because you started early too and just seeing that is like, I was in your shoes that one time.

BB: Yeah, and she just - oh, I drove the boat. I'm the captain. - Daddy gives her a little bit of money and she just thinks is just the best thing, there is oh, I drove the boat today and everybody kind of does her like they did me as a child. So

KG: With him wanting to work in the DNR, do you think that would be more helpful for the fishing community?

BB: I think it could. I think it could.

FL: You said he was only six?

BB: He'll be six in January.

FL: He'll be six and he's got his mind on the prize.

BB: Yeah. All my grandkids are kind of like very intelligent, it's like you can't even pull nothing over on them. Yeah, used to pull over on kids nowadays, I don't think you can.

FL: Was relating to DNR and like government regulations and stuff. How much has that stuff, like those regulations, affected you?

BB: Well, they have us to use the turtle shooters, and the fish ice and all that. It spits out a lot of our catch. So, as I've seen shrimpin and everything that it's made a difference on us, but I understand, with the turtles and all that, but we never killed no turtles, we always call 'em and release them. It was kind of like awesome to us to catch a turtle and get to see it and touch it and then release it.

KG: With your grandson possibly working in the DNR, what ways do you think that would help the fishing community?

BB: A lot of times DNR goes by school, not lot of learning experience. And that, because he goes shrimpin with his daddy and stuff, that maybe it could, teach them some of because a lot of things now is by book. And there's a difference from learning everything by book and then getting out there and doing it.

FL: First hand kind of teaches more and gets you more insider perspective that the book can't teach you. A book can only teach you so much.

BB: Yes.

KG: And you said, you believe the commercial fishing in Georgia is kind of dying out. Over these few years, do you have any recommendations for the future of commercial fishing?

BB: Not for sure on that one. Like I say, not everybody wants to do it. It's not a job. And there's so many rules and regulations and this and that and a lot of it I think is pollution from our world that's made a difference on it too. My great grandfather said one day there was probably going to come a day that there wasn't no shrimping and I just hope that day never comes.

FL: With pollution and stuff do you think that has contributed to like a lot of

BB: It is contributing to our whole world. Sometimes, moderation is good, I find it but sometimes I think moderation is hurtin our whole entire world. Down to cell phones and everything. People don't know how to communicate. And but we have to have all this moderation. And pollution comes along with it and everything else. So I think it hurts everything down to the animals, down to shrimping us as well.

FL: do you think there were any government regulations that are kind of glad that they were taking place or?

BB: Yes, like the not dragging on that long. Because it doesn't get them time to rest and breed and multiply and make more. So there are some good things.

FL: So people would literally like just drag the net

BB: Twenty-four seven. Yeah, not just all night. Twenty-four seven.

FL: That probably, did that affect

BB: I mean yes it did cuz like when we go back out there in the morning to fish there's nothing there cause they've done drag it dry.

FL: So now what's the regulation, they have like certain hours they have?

BB: Yes, you can only put out thirty minutes before sunrise. And then I think drag like thirty minutes after sunrise. I mean sunset.

0:09:58

KG: You said all these regulations and rules did affect you and your fishing and other ways. Can you tell me more about that?

BB: It's just like what we had to put on our nets and stuff like that. Pretty much I don't see a whole lot of other things.

FL: You mentioned the pollution affecting the whole world earlier. Have you seen like, has the water over the years been darker or?

BB: They have yes. Jekyll Beach is just so nasty now. I mean the water is just real muddy muddy but like far as the shrimp, we have the black gill and they say a lot that comes from all the stuff that they put on the golf courses and that all runs in our water to have all that grass pretty and nice and green and it can't be good to have all that in the water. And just all kind of stuff I'm saying to pollute the water.

FL: People probably have their priorities in the wrong place or like oh the oceans dirty anyway, why not? What's going to do but they don't really think about the shrimpers.

BB: Yeah like throw trash and everything.

FL: It'll affect the wildlife cause it's just a cycle. Something eats the shrimp or people need to catch the shrimp. It's just the shrimp are the middleman, basically.

BB: And even down to like plastic I'm saying so much is thrown in the ocean now. That years ago we had glass and all that and we didn't have the things that mess up the turtles and the fish and stuff like that.

FL: So even like the number of turtles has probably decreased over time.

BB: Oh yes, yes. But the sharks sure haven't. The sharks are way worse than they've ever been in my whole entire life that I've seen.

FL: How do sharks affect?

BB: They eat our nets up. Sometimes we can't even make another drag because the nets are so ate up. We have to come in or if we drag all day, it takes us two days to sew the holes in the nets and they try to say they're endangered species but they're not. I used to, we swam out there, we swim at the dock but there's so many sharks we catch 'em here at the dock so much that there's no swimming there no more. We used to like throw a rope and a piece of plywood over board and ride it on the way home now you just be a bobber back there thats fixin to be eaten. And a lot of our bycatch fed the birds and stuff but the sharks are there eating it so much if they land they're gonna eat them.

FL: Because when, you're when the nets going through the water it's just like for the sharks, oh that's a bad food I can eat, so they're just bite on and like you said. When it takes two days to repair a net you got to bring it back up and take the time

BB: And we didn't have to do that back then. I mean sharks was out there but they're not like they are now. They used to allow the catch them, they was always out there catching sharks and everything and then they just limit it and they're not a 'dangered species anymore. I don't know what they're going by but I know by what we see and what we deal with that they're not.

FL: If you have to take a guess, what do you think is the reason for so many sharks appearing now days?

BB: I guess cause they don't let them catch them like they did.

FL: Because if they did kind of control it versus if they're saying it's endangered that they can reproduce. And more sharks just come out of it.

KG: You were talking about the sharks destroying the nets, do y'all fix your own nets or do you send them out?

BB: Yes. We fix our own nets. Unless, we have to buy a lot more nets now because after you repair them so much, the're just not worth having. So you spend a lot more money at buying nets now because they don't last as long.

KG: Can you tell me about the process of fixing up a net?

BB: You're looking at from far as purchasing new ones you're looking at five thousand or so per net and as far as fixin' 'em your spending a long time not a whole lot of money cause the string is not that expensive, but you're losing time from shrimping and everything so.

FL: Literally taking a bite out of your profit.

BB: Yes, that's exactly it.

KG: I don't have anymore questions.

FL: I don't have any more questions either.

KG: So that's all the questions that we have for you today.

BB: That was better than last time.

0:14:53

KG: Do you have any questions that you would like to ask us?

BB: I do y'all enjoy doing this?

FL: I really do. And this is honestly a career path that I wish to follow and pursue. So giving me this experience has really given me first hand experience, finding out not just like oh, I can read about it and think I'll enjoy it. And now I enjoy it.

BB: Well like with as me telling you with the sharks. That gives you somewhere like when you go and speak with someone that is a little bit of a manner to look in and stuff like that.

FL: It give me more of an open, not open, well rounded approach. Is like now consideration is like the shrimpers how are they affected? Why are people seeing the sharks differently? So like different opinions doesn't give me just the biases is like no sharks

BB: Cause at first y'all are taught by statistics but doing this gives you more of a experience. Well I'm glad.

FL: Thank you.

BB: We all need people to learn and learn different things and help this world revolve and if people don't take interests and like what they do, it doesn't help.

FL: If you enjoy what you're doing, you'll never work a day in your life.

BB: That's right. That's why I was telling Bryan earlier because that went out town not long ago and had met this young guy. We got to talkin' because I mean I built houses, tile work, cabinetry work, waitress cause you have your off seasons you know that you don't catch and you don't make money so you find other things. He asked me about going to school and I said I never did and but he asked me I said it depends on what you're going, what you want to do in life that you might have to have that schooling and he asked me I said I'm gonna tell you the only thing I know personally is take pride in anything you do. I said I don't care if it's shoveling pig shit until you move where you want to taking pride and always keeping your faith and God, to my personal opinion. Everybody has their opinion about God all that but I feel like there is a God or we wouldn't be here. And we have to have our faith and believe in it and always take pride in anything we do and enjoy what we do, not do it for the money. Cuz I've learned money is not everything and it will not bring you happiness. We have to have it to survive but its not everything and I always tell everybody, it's the simple little things that means the most you know watching the kids see Christmas sites for the first time or you know doing things like that or say if you have a spouse and you could pick flowers, that work for me and would make me happy I don't like roses have been that a waste of money? It really is. I tell him buy me some new panties or something, at least get use out of it or stopping and buying them their favorite candy bar. People, they want more and more

and they're not happy with what they got. And when you're happy with the simple little things I think you're happier in life.

FL: It's like even waking up in the morning is a blessing.

BB: Yes it is. My son he struggles a little bit right now because everything just goes wrong and goes wrong. But and which I went to Bible college and graduated and then I have my ministry license. If you wake up every day feeling negative, What the hell is going to happen today? Blah blah blah. And I tell him, I said, I just hope I hit a pile of daisies. I said your always going to hit shit piles. Just I hope I hit some daisies or Posies in between, knock off some for a hit the next ones. But if you get up every day thinking it's gonna be bad, is going to. That you cannot be negative, you have to get up and say thank you God for this beautiful morning, whether it's raining or snowing. Thank you that I'm here and deal with what comes and I learned probably about five or six years ago that there's always going to be something, it's just how we deal with it. And learn from it, whether we learned something or not. And we can learn something every day. I felt like that for years. You can learn something every day, if you keep an open mind. It might be something little, it might be something big. But if you're always keeping a closed mind and negative, you're not gonna learn and you're not ever going to be happy.

FL: With that in mind, the small things learning something new everyday, do you think that could apply to shrimping too, even though it's kind of like second nature for most shrimpers? But theres always something that could be learned, like maybe holding a shrimp a certain way when your heading them or something. Those little things.

BB: Yeah. You can learn anything you.

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