

Name of Narrator: Calvin Lang (CL)

Interviewer: Amber Chuawat (AC) and Sierra Sutton (SS) with the permission of Calvin Lang and for the research project “Boat Stories”

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

Transcriber: Amber Chulawat

Others present: No other people were present.

Date of Interview: November 13, 2021

Place: Brunswick, Georgia

Duration of the interview: One hour and thirty-two minutes (1:32:00)

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 interviews sit down with Calvin Lang.

General Description of Contents: Calvin touches on how he is a third-generation shrimper and fisher. He tells stories about his father and grandfather while discussing what it is like to grow up in a shrimping family. These stories include the skills he’s learned and the trips he has taken. He also talks about the technological advancements with GPS and how he learned to be able to point out certain landmarks.

CL: I hope you can hear it

SS: alright, this is an interview with Calvin Lang on November 13, 2021. The interview is being conducted in Brunswick, Georgia. It is part of the research project and interview collection titled boat stories. The interviewers are Sierra Sutton and Amber Chulawat. I would just like to confirm that you understand this is voluntary and can refuse to answer a question at any time if you wish.

CL: I understand

SS: Alrighty! Can you tell us about your current or most recent fishing vessel?

CL: I've got two. I've got part ownership in the Miss Peggy it's a 60 foot steel hull with a V-12 Detroit engine in it. Pulls two 66 foot nets and it's got up four cylinder Cummins turning up compressor with a deck tank freezer boat. The boat that I run is a 46 foot fiberglass boat. It's an ice boat with a 34-6 it also pulls to 66 foot nets and it's a stern dragger.

SS: May I ask what the name of that second boat is

CL: That's the fifth day.

SS: Did either of those boats have any other names before?

CL: Yeah, the Miss Peggy was the Voyager, The steel hulls the Voyager and the fiberglass boat was the Captain High.

SS: How long have you been on these boats?

CL: Um, well, I have a- my partner Pete runs to steel hull and I run the fiberglass boat. I've been running it about three years.

SS: What is your role on the boat?

CL: I'm the Captain. I sold the Lang's Pride, which was a 75 foot St. Augustine trawler freezer boat with a 3412 in it because in St. Mary's, there's not a lot of shrimpers left and get hard to get a crew so I wanted a smaller boat. So my wife and I fish The fifth day. And so my role is captain and my wife Lisa and I are the crew as well.

SS: Do you know who ran the boats before you did?

CL: Yeah, his name was Chris Malthus. He's from Frogmore, South Carolina. That's where I found this boat and I bought it from him.

SS: So you mentioned it's very difficult to get crew in St. Mary's. Can you tell me more about why that might be?

CL: Well St. Mary's, you know has a- had a paper mill in town in it. And when I was- which I'm 63. When I was a child growing up, there were three docks downtown three shrimp docks, and they were they were probably 50 boats in St. Mary's. Then just over the years that we had the base move in and we had a national park they made Cumberland Island National Park. And course, you know was it in the 80s when farm raised shrimp started coming out and so shrimp and wasn't lucrative and I guess people get out of school and all there weren't as many people went into the shrimp in business at St. Mary's, I guess it's like everywhere, but they weren't as many people that went into.

SS: Alright, so what has your boat now, what has that been through in the years since you've had it?

CL: Um, well, the first year I bought it spent most of the time rebuilding it. And we, you know, shrimped. I don't know, remember what, how much stock we had but the second year we did pretty well with it. And then this year has been really really slow. But um, you know, it just goes in cycles. I've seen it before I've been I was shrimping. When I was a kid my dad used to stand me up on a stool and tell me to steer the boat straight down the river while they cleaned the deck up. [laughs] So it's been I've seen have loads, you know yours like this before?

SS: Why might it be lower this year?

CL: Well just like anything else when you, you know, like the king fish too. And some years we catch a lot of king fish and some years we don't. I think shrimp is the same way. I think some years we'd catch a lot of shrimp. Some years we don't, you know, lots got to do with rain, how much rain you have. And, you know, there's just a lot of external factors. I mean, it's nature, it's not. But you know, we could have a poor, this is the fall season, we could have a poor fall season and have a great rock, I mean, have a great Rose Room season. Brownie season, or sometimes you get three good seasons, it's just just depends, you know, some years, they've declared, you know, disaster, wood freezes and stuff like that. But the great thing about strength is, you can't deplete them because they lay so many eggs, you know, so you don't really need that many to survive, to replenish themselves. They replenish themselves every year. So just because you have a bad year, one year doesn't mean that next year, you won't have a bumper crop just depends on external factors. I think.

SS: you mentioned being on the boat with your dad, when you were little. Do you have any more stories growing up on the boat?

CL: You don't have time for all of them.

AC & SS: Oh, we do!

SS: We have as much time as you want to talk to us.

CL: Well, the first things that I remember was waking up on the boat because and I think back on it now it had to be before kindergarten cause I went to kindergarten was I five. So and we've got 35 millimeters which I'm I was thinking the other day, I need to get something done before they deteriorate. You know, Dad's shrimping. My dad was the first ones to bring Aurora Reds into St. Mary's, and I can show you some stuff. But then, during the summers, we traveled when we shrimped. My dad he was you know, he didn't care where he had to go or what he had to do. He just liked to shrimp, make money. So when they discovered the shrimping in Key West, he went to Key West. So we had a place in Key West where we stayed when I was a kid. And they would go down there in January. So Spring Break, I always got to go down and see him and Key West. That was fun. And we had a home in Surfside Beach, Texas when dad shrimped out of Freeport when I was growing up. And then as I got up during the summers, I would shrimp with him, and of course he paid me and then as soon as I graduated, I went to Brunswick a year, it was Brunswick Junior College then, but I like shrimping better and the money was real good back then in the shrimping business before they started farm raising so I started running a boat for him in probably 1975-76 and shrimp with him until I think '81. And then at night in the late 80s We started rock shrimp and dad had a peeling plant so we started rock shrimp with him and I actually left shrimp and went to work at the paper mill I told you about and bought a 52 foot, wooden boat knuckle bottom boat called the Little Andy and I fished it till you know while I worked at paper mill until they closed it down and I think it was around '99 when they closed that paper mill and we had The Lang's Pride and it was a 75 foot boat I told you about and then I sold it in was about three years ago what would that have been, 2000 maybe? And bought the Fifth Day and then a year later we bought Miss Peggy. But and then of course you get a lot of stories from traveling around with the shrimp. We met, we met a lot of people and I think about Paul Haring from Darien, they would go with us to Texas every year and guys from Fernandina, we all traveled all around, got to know all the kids and all. But in '81 I quit traveling and just started shrimping in Georgia waters year-round. Because, you know, I want to watch my kids grow up and play ball, school stuff like that. I've been shrimping in Georgia since '81.

SS:All right, you said you would go down to Key West when you're younger. And I would like to know did you guys use the same boat in Key West that you used here? Or did you have another boat down there?

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CL: Oh, well, I ran- when I said Lang's Pride, I ran different boats for dad, he had a fleet of boats. So you know, probably the first boat that I ran down there for him was Mr. David and we, we went down and fish table tops and then they had to clean bottom and stuff like that. And we done load out of Key West and fish there until we went to Apalachicola Florida then we fished out Apalachicola, we just have different, I guess bases if you want to call them where we fished out of certain times. And what we'd do is we'd fish here during the fall, you know, around September to December and around January we'd go down and catch pink shrimp and Key West and then we'd leave Key West and go to Apalachicola, and then we'd leave Apalachicola and make a trip around Alabama, Louisiana and we'd usually unload them in Galveston and then we'd leave Galveston and go down to Surfside we just were there in Texas for Texas open which was easily June July when they open the beach, you know open up Texas for shrimp and they have their you know, they close their season way out and it's not just three miles like it isn't over here. So it was usually good fun but now my dad they know before they discovered all that you know he'd shrimped here year round and they just go with shrimp Key West and he went to Key West, and they discovered shrimp like that. He was like what is it Fernandina was the birthplace of the shrimping industry I think. What was it Mike? What was his last name? Saul. Solomon was it? no. I can't think of his name right now. But fact my dad bought a boat from him. The Guyanese. Well, they named after the people of Guyanese South America because they went over to South America to continue but they were a big name in the shrimping business. I'll think of his name before this interview is over. But yes, it's just fun. I like it; it's a lot of adventure. You know, especially when you get to travel around. The water's so clear down there. And the keys that was always fun. Fishing up here is really neat, because you're so close to home, you know, when you when you fish. When I fished out of Texas now we'd be going for 12 to 14 day trips. And so, you know, you'd be ready to go home, see your family. But here, you know, lots of times if I stay, go at some most time I go in and out every day over here. So that was pretty fun. That was like a treat when I was working for my dad to be able to go in and out every day.

SS: Can you- You mentioned you've met a lot of people. Can you tell me about some of these people you've worked with?

CL: Well, when I was a kid, I remember. Of course Dad wasn't shrimp and at that time, oh as I got on up to like 12-13 years old. So I remember going with him to Apalachicola whenever I'd get a break from school and go stay with him or during the summers in the Millers. They were they had Miller's dock and St. Mary's and they probably had six seven shrimp boats in their fleet. Dad was good friends with Dan and they'd share rooms so then I got to hang around with their kids and, you know, with most places we stayed would have swimming pools, and also we'd have you know, just just growing up being kids having fun and traveling and then you when you went to you'd meet people from Fort Myers or, or from Key West who traveled alone to Texas and then they'd be in Apalachicola and they'd be in surf side. So it was almost like the families moved together. And there were so many shrimpers back then you know, and like Texas. I remember going down to the waterfront and I mean, as far as you could see left or right down the river you just see outriggers everywhere, you know, from the boats tied up three and four deep. And of course the Free Port love to see us come too because you know all the money we brought in with that many boats so that was before the, that was before they started farm raising shrimp. So you know, I guess most of the surrounding United States probably came from shrimpers now we're what now? It's only what? Probably 20%. Now Is that about right? Maybe? or less?

SS: I think it's around 12%.

CL: 12%? So it's like 98% come from farm raised or foreign? Yeah.

SS: Yeah

0:15.24

CL: Yeah. So it's the back then it wasn't like that. Back in the early 70s is when I'm talking about when I was a boy. But, yeah, it was fun. And, of course, when I was shrimping, we didn't have like GPS and stuff like that. So your boats moving and you'd have to go line up radio lines to get your readings, get your fix on your position. We didn't have radars. My granddaddy had a sinker with a hole in it he put soap in and he'd throw the sinker over, pull it up and see what kind of bottom you could look at the soap and then you know, you could see how deep you were on so that's how long ago that that was but I'd never if we had we had the old stylus which would send an electric current and make a spark and then burn a little piece of paper in the paper would

rotate and that's that's what kind of depth recorders we had when I started and so you know, we weren't near as we didn't know exactly where we were as a lot more to be in a captain and you had to we had we had landmarks over here you know when we were fishing you could see but in the Gulf where you couldn't see land fishing over there we had to rely on the [could not understand] but that being said, I remember over there coming back and I was anchored up and I've had boats come by and need rescuing and I think we one time I was off Cape Canaveral and some people had gotten the Gulfstream and drifted all the way up there to where I was rock shrimping and they were from they were from Miami going fishing or boat had broke down they drifted all the way up to to the Cape, off of Cape Canaveral. We were about 30 miles off and you know back then you had people who would come on your boat and take your boat, kill you and throw you over and haul and a lot drugs back then so you know we're just kind of scared so I was kind of watching them but when they got on there and I saw how hungry they were you know they were talking about how hungry they were so I had some canned spaghetti opening it up they wouldn't even let me heat it up so I didn't I knew they were for real so we called the Coast Guard and I came out here and got them and then somebody was hanging on an oil rig off of Louisiana one time and they were waving and hollering, we went over see what they were doing and we did the same thing, called the Coast Guard get them that they had broke down too so you know no cell phones well cell phones don't work out there now anyway unless you got satellite phone, but it was different back there because you didn't have all the all the you know now you go fishing and you break down you pick up your cell phone if you're in the river but even even when I was a kid, I'll tell my kids you know even they weren't as many boats for one thing and then you go out and if you broke down there was nobody to call. You had to pretty much figure out something or just sit there and wait till you did find somebody to flag down. Just others stories would be you know, catching a lot of shrimp is always fun

SS: Will you tell me the funniest thing that has ever happened on a boat from your memory.

CL: [laughs] I don't know we were always cutting up I can't say things one things any funnier than the other Oh, I don't know if it's funny. We ran into a steel hull over there off of Texas one time and the boat had the the crew's quarters in the bow I was in there and I remember coming up and and you know wood was flying because I was on a wooden boat. We couldn't the their towing cable hadn't wrapped around our stay. So it was every time we go up on the sea it was jerking our boat into their stern and wood was flying so we cut rigs and of course that guy we cut

his rig off of us to keep it from tearing up our boat. Of course he was going to come get us and Roy, the captain's pretty.- He's pretty funny. He's like, Oh, hold on now. I had to do something you're tearing my boat up. I don't know that was kind of cool. I don't guess it was funny. Funny I don't know. I don't know what to tell you about that one. I'm sure there have been some but

SS: How about the best memory you can think of for the boats that you have now?

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CL: well I like it when we pulled tri net, there's 3 or 400 Shrimp down there and like, you know, laugh at month, my wife, I give her a stick because shrimp would be so clean, you could just take a stick and pull them up like that and grab their whiskers, throw them in a basket, it wouldn't take so hard. That's pretty good memories. But I don't know, hearing her holler, I hit we there's a barge off of St. Mary's where I like to drag and I kind of wasn't paying attention and hit the barge one time. And remember her hollering Cal, Cal! Because, you know, we pop the cable, pop the tongue line or something. And she was all scared. Just laugh at her because that's just stuff that happens. But she gets she's kind of scary in the best memories are just catching shrimp, I guess you know. But it's kind of like when I was a kid, I'd go down to the boat and watch my dad sew nets and stuff like that. And so it's kind of neat when I go to down there to sew a net I'm always thinking about him teaching me how to sew nets and talking about that. He taught me how to splice cable. And dad always said if you had to pay people to fix everything that you wouldn't make any money. So he tried to teach us how to work on everything. So we didn't have to spend money. You know, you have to make what \$1,500 To save 1000 after you pay taxes and stuff, but if you can save 1000 Then it's better than making 1000. But a lot of the memories from traveling was like when I was a kid being in like we stayed at we had a house and Surfside beach. [phone chimes] That's me. I end up that, oh, I got a funniest thing was when I worked for my dad, he was like, Go Go, go, go, go go go. And my grandson had a soccer game. So, you know, I don't fish hard like I used to. So we were out there and we made a drag and I wanna think we had around, there big shrimps they were you know, money shrimp and we probably had six to eight baskets on the drag for short a drag in my striker Pete who bought the MS. Peggy with me. He came running in and said, Man, you know what? You're leaving. I said, Yeah, I got to go to a soccer game. So he runs out there and, I go out there with my video and I videoed it. And he had him, he made a dent in the pile and he's already got a basket picked out and and I just filmed both of that I just laughed at him because he he's, he's 79 years old. And he he's like me,

you know, that was you didn't leave shrimp like that when I was younger and working for dad you shrimp. As long as they were there. You got them because they're not gonna be there all time. You know, that's the way dad taught me. You got to get them while they're there because they're not gonna be there. But at my age now ,you know, if I got something to do I leave them. Some things are more important but you know back then you're taught that that's what you're supposed to do. And most of the good shrimpers are that same way. I guess I'm not a good shrimper anymore. But here I'll show you this

AC: you could also email the video to Professor Tookes to you I'm sure she'd like to see that as well.

CL:There's my wife granddaughter.

[shows photo of his family]

AC: You take your grandchildren fishing- shrimping with you?

[shows video of scene he described earlier]

CL: mhm. There's Pete. Anyway, he just had told me man, you knew how many shrimp you're leaving. You see how early in the day it is. But he's already picked out one basket full and you see there's a big pile left there. And then hadn't on that side we just have fun. I love to laugh at him because, you know he's wanting to I guess it's bad on my part. He's wanting to make money and I'm more interested in what grandkids are doing.

SS: You mentioned a lot of time and it's you and your wife about what's it like working with her?

CL: Well I thought that when when had Lang's Pride, it was hard to get crews. So one smaller boats I thought that maybe when we went out there, she would do when I told her that last about two days. And so now she's, she thinks she knows more about shrimping than I do but I dated her in high school. She she'd walked me off the field after football games and stuff like that. And so I took her shrimping with me while we were dating, and she jumped in there and started picking out stuff and what's this? What you know, the different things that we'd catch? Wanting know what everything was and she still like that today she's she won't- I'll tell her don't worry about that and pick the shrimp up but she won't she's got to look at everything. Asked me what it is. What she doesn't know. But yes, she thinks she's she's running about she cooks breakfast every morning when we go and so usually she's asking me what we want and and all so she's good she's real good but we have good time she but um, we have a good time. She'll try to tell me like

if we catch some shrimp, say between the shoals of Cumberland island is we had a good day one day and I think we had a couple boxes on the last drag and that morning we went out and I turned to the jetties and set out on the North she's like, why are we fishing here? Didn't we do good up there and just always question everything I do. So you know. But I just you know, we've been married 40 years so I learned a long time ago just the best thing to do just let her do whatever she wants to do and ignore it. I don't argue with her, but I still do what I want to do.

SS: And you showed us a picture of your granddaughter shrimping? Do your grandkids like being on the boat shrimping with the family?

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CL: Well, she likes to she'll first thing she'll want to know is how much am I going to pay her? So she'll find something she wants then she'll tell me she wants to go shrimping but then when I need her to go she's got something else to do you know like there's a lot of shrimp and I need some extra help that she's got something else to do. But yeah, but she likes it she likes to carry her friends. They all like it yeah most people that go or I guess they are really they really liked how beautiful it is out there on the water stuff they like the dolphins too. You know how the Dolphins will come right up to the boat. So grandkids like a dolphins of course two little boys like sharks girls like the dolphins boys like sharks

SS: Is it something, do you think, that they would like to do as a career?

CL: I don't know. you know I don't really see that many people going into the shrimping business I mean, I don't see in St Mary's but then I'm you know we've only got a couple boats left there now so it's so different you can't measure what you do shrimping by the hour. So you know you do a lot of work that's you don't get paid for when your shrimping like sewing nets and fixing stuff putting ice in the boat getting things ready. You know so most people that I meet they want to get paid for everything they do which is I guess fine. I mean really look at it and I think it is different kind of life. It was good. I mean, I liked it but now I don't really know. I mean, it's just the people were different back then I think people liked I don't know nature or adventure more back then I think there's more people, then I think people more now are more into the tech, technology age. You see, I'm not trying to be down on the younger generation, but you know, I've gone in restaurants and you'll see a young couple over there. And both of them instead of eating together and talking together, each of them got their, their cross the table from each other, probably on a date. And they're both on their cell phones. I mean, it's just just a

different, you know, just different generation. Probably. That probably has something to do with its culture. In Saint Mary's, the people got out of school, and they went down to the docks, and could head shrimp and make money, you know, make a little money heading shrimp, man. And, you know, we don't have that down there anymore. So nobody in St. Mary 's, I don't see many people going into the shrimping business. Fact, didn't, y'all will. Somebody told me here that I was one of the younger ones that you're interviewing, and I'm 63. So but I guess, when when I grew up, I heard a lot of stories from my dad, and all just that made me want to shrimp to so you know, people aren't hearing those stories about things you see, you know, I just had whales come up on a boat. That was kind of neat. And I remember dad telling me he was fishing up in Carolina. And he saw those guys putting their boat on the on the bank and when the tide go out that they do some work. So he was going to do something, and his boat rolled over and put a twist in the stern. He said the boat vibrated, like the rest of time. And I think granddaddy he got mad at Dad, just but on and there's little little stories, but you know, they kind of you kind of if you have the same thought you say I don't wanna do that this could happen. So these kids today don't have all those stories to make them confident or, or. And I don't know that. I don't know that people today- do you call it ambition, or I don't know that they're I'm out I'm sure we got people that are that are very ambitious, but I don't know is that the society on a whole is as ambitious as it used to be and shrimping and kind of gives you what you put into it. You know, the harder you work, the more money you can make, or you can do like I'm doing now, just shrimp when you want to [laugh] I mean, I didn't know I wasn't always like this, you know. But I think that's got a lot to do with it. I think probably Baby Boomers were one of the most ambitious generations.

SS: You mentioned your grandfather. Can you tell me more about what it was like having so many generations of your family in the shrimping industry?

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CL: Well, now the stories that I hear about my grandfather I hear through my dad, because I'm – and they're not really stories they're just you're riding around. Like, you know, back when I was a kid, everybody smoked. I mean every. You know how smoking was in the 60s. I was born in '58. So everybody smoked. They didn't know it caused cancer until I think the early 60s. They suspected it maybe. But they would just stories that I've heard but my granddad died before I was old enough to remember him. I don't really remember him I was maybe one-two when he died.

But they used to take the shrimp boats. And my granddad would take out fishing charters with his shrimp boat, and then also they would haul go up the swamp and haul wood over to Fernandina paper mills. They go way up to St. Mary's. St. Mary's river goes into the Okefenokee Swamp. So they'd go out there and get moss and stuff like that. And they would haul them and like, for instance, one of the stories is when dad would want to smoke, he'd go back there on the very back and smoke and So granddaddy saw him he said that granddaddy would ask me where you keep your cigarettes, stuff like that, and he didn't even know that they used to roll you know, roll their cigarettes I think Bugle Boy and stuff like that is what they smoked back then but but that's all from people tell me course when I was a kid and I started shrimp and I wouldn't be like my dad, so involving some Bugle Boys and rolled them out here.

SS: You mentioned earlier that there have been different methods used on the shrimp boats, can you tell me how the boats and the technology have changed since you've been shrimping?

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CL: Well, while I was shrimping for dad they came out with automatic tracking, Loran-C. So that was neat, you didn't have to line it up anymore. And you could tell where you were at all the time on one line, and we had radar so you could put the radar off the beach, you could pinpoint your direction, and you could, you know, stay in a certain area that you found it, you had a good try, you know, you know what the try net is and all that stuff. So you know, you have a good try and you want to turn around, you can go right back down that same line stay pretty well positioned. And then they came out with the double tracking, and then you had it where you hit both lines, and you had your radar, so then you can stay on even better. And then GPS came out. And that's real good because you got your depth and your shoals and everything on that. So actually, it doesn't take, I don't feel like I really kind of liked it the way it was because now I think anybody can run a boat and get in there. But I used to be kind of cool to thinking that, because you'd learn how to go in tight places and stuff like you know, drag down this side of shoals. And I remember dragging down the lighthouse bank, and we would with our outrigger and our doors, when we saw the the floats come up on the net, that's how we knew to pull off and then we pull- that's how we drag the bank, we could actually see our floats coming up in the course, you know, we had the sounds would be open back in those days, too. That was that was you had to worry about your tide and all it just seemed like beach fishing. In certain areas, like down the beach and stuff that's easiest. To me, that's the easiest fishing areas because, you know,

it's just dragging up and down, you know, to worry about tide and stuff. So there's all different, different ways to look at it. But I kind of thought it was neater when it took a little more skill to run a boat than it does now. You know, they used to, I hear my dad, you know, I've talked about how it's different. What are, when I started, I had to line the radio lines up and then you read the numbers on your knob and then you switch stations and line them up again and read those numbers and then where they intersect it on the chart. You've already moved to three miles drag and by the time you figured out where your position was. But Dad talked about it. They didn't have any of that they had dead reckoning in time, you know, had to keep up with how long they've been running. You know, they knew how fast they went. And they would figure out a variation of the current stuff like that. That was pretty, pretty cool.

SS: Do you think it would benefit today's fishermen to still learn some of those older ways of doing things?

CL: No, I don't think that puts you as accurate as a GPS does that. I mean, I think the GPS is more accurate. But of course it always helps because you can always lose your electronics or something like that. So but I mean, on the east coast fishing for white shrimp around Georgia. You know, you can always run west pick up a landmark. So if you got a compass you're okay.

SS: can you tell me about any changes you've seen in the water, the weather or the sea life since you've been fishing?

0:39.11

CL: Well, in 1981 we had a real good rose shrimp season I was on the Lang's Pride for dad. And I remember we had like a ten box day tails, not day, drag I mean, and so dad you know what I was talking him on the radio. And he said Are there any boats there? And I counted 52 boats off the St. Mary's channel. Now if I see when I go shrimping I very seldom see ever eight nine and Francis and I was out there day before yesterday and it was me and two other boats. So the main thing that I see is there's not new as many boats I mean, you know Fernandina used to have a good fleet of shrimp boats and St. Mary's had a pretty good fleet so there was always plenty of boats right out St. Mary's entrance were now St. Mary's is only got two boats left. And Fernandina is only you know, Fernandina probably only got about four left, maybe six in the, you know, they got other boats in there, but they're from other places, you know. They can come down and unload in Fernandina. But that's the biggest difference I see. And the next thing is we used to have to fight like the jelly balls and stuff and make short drags. And so when they came

out with a TED, that really helped because you when you get in jelly balls, you don't catch them because a shoot out the the turtle shoot a turtle shooter was for the turtles, but it shoots out, you know, a lot of big fish or big. So that's good. I think that's good thing. And as far as the water? No, I do think now I don't really know. I heard stories that they had Taylor's cannery was in St. Mary's, they used to can shrimp, and from my uncles that shrimped my dad, that when they would come into, they would go around the north jetties set out and they were on limits, They can only catch so many bushels back then. And they would set out around the north jetty and dragged an hour away from the bar turnaround, drag an hour back towards the bar pick up come in and have their limit. So I don't know about that. But I do know, other than this year this year has been of course, you know? I feel like other than this year that is, to me, it might have been a little easier to catch shrimp than it used to be. I think it was. If you look at the data, it'd be easy to find this out as theory. But can't you look at the data and see how many shrimp are landed in Georgia each year. So if you look at the license that are sold, you can see that if there's the same amount of shrimp being called each year, and there's less boats and everybody's getting a bigger piece of the pie, that's what I'm saying. It seems like it's easier to to catch when they're there. But you you know like this year, this fall season has been for me. It's been terrible. We hadn't done much at all. We had that big blow last. You know last week it blew like three four days and rained and everything and man I thought we'd get them now finally we go out there and it wasn't much

SS: You mentioned your uncles did they work on the same boat with your dad? Or did they have other boats that they worked off of too?

CL: My dad was the youngest but I guess he was the most ambitious he actually sold my uncle Green his one of his boats and they got a you know, a bigger, better boat and then my other uncle. He told me the story. I used to fish with him a lot, you know, trout fishing and stuff. When I was a kid he'd take me fishing with him. He was telling me always felt like he felt bad that he got out of shrimping business. But he said then he went down there to Taylor's dock and the price had dropped. We've got statements where we sold shrimp for like, two cent. Well, he told me that they had dropped to like half a cent a pound. And he said he looked at his crew. I don't know who he was running a boat for, wasn't his boat he is running for somebody. But he told me he was telling me how he got out of shrimping business. He said I looked at my crew member I says if you get down here and shovel those shrimp out you have my share, and he said he never

went back shrimping. But after that, you know, when dad was doing good and and shrimping business was real good. He he- you could tell he always wished that he'd have stayed in it, but so I guess it's like anything else good years and bad years. But you know, back in the 70s I think it was Singleton like ordered 52 boats .But you know, you had doctors and lawyer everyone. You know shrimping was so lucrative back then everybody was getting into it. And that's during the time I was telling you about me counting 52 boats right off of the channel. I mean they was everybody was wanting to be in the shrimping business because getting there was a lot of prominent people in Saint Mary's that had timber businesses because of the paper mills and all back then. And, you know, they all own shrimping and, you know, shrimp boats, and like I did when I worked at the mill, I still had I still was in the shrimp business. And it goes back to kind of like I said, a different mindsets between the, the people you had. And I And you still got people, I don't mean it, but I don't think you have as many but you've got a lot of people that will have a job. And then they'll have another job or they'll have a job and have businesses I mean, that's everywhere. But it used to be pretty, pretty prevalent that you had two or three jobs. You know, of course, when I was a kid, too, you didn't have many women in the workforce weren't like they were now and she this country wouldn't run now if you took all the women workforce because, you know, we depend on them so much. My wife, she was she's, uh, she taught kindergarten for years and years and years. And that's probably where she got that want to know what everything was, you know, like, at the end of the year, she had a saltwater aquarium. You know, we'd get stuff and put in it for the for the kids and all they love that kind of stuff. But **AC:** To kind of circle back You mentioned earlier that what really kind of helped you get into it was stories that your dad would tell you could you go more into detail about that?

0:46.40

CL: Well, everybody, I'm assuming you know how most kids are or they used to every body. Their dads their hero and mine was no different. You know, he would go on a trip and so he would stay you know, for a couple of weeks. Course when he'd come back. He'd have stories and listening to those stories, you want to relive them and then he made me a little boat. I can remember it's crazy but but it was just a little wooden boat that he made and had a string tied on it nets had magnets on them and I pulled him around the yard to see what I could catch [laughs] but um, you know, just stuff like that and then the films and sharks and then when we catch lobsters off Apalachicola and just you know whenever I can whenever I went with and one thing

about Dad is he took me with him everywhere, and he bought a fish house in Fernandina. When I was a kid, and on Saturdays he'd take me with him over to Fernandina, which is back then was about 30 minute drive from St. Mary's. So we still lived in St. Mary's, Georgia, but his fish house was in Fernandina, so he took me over there and forgot that he took me and I was playing out by the fuel tank with my little cars and stuff. And he went home and Mama said where's Cal and Daddy didn't answer mama because he knew he was in trouble. He jumped in the car and ran down and got me and I remembered that but I didn't know that I got left. I just remember him pulling up in the car telling me to come get in the car. But the memories that Dad told me about you know, he would just always he would he would just always talking and always teaching and always he loved the shrimping business. You know dad was in scallops, you know, he bought land. He had a peeling plant that he sold rock shrimp to Foley's in Boston and we shipped shrimp up to New York all over the country really. And Ukely Lewis who's based here in Fernandina sold dad the Cumberland Queen and he got the contract with the government for carrying ferry passengers over to to Cumberland Island, and now we still have that and he had restaurants seafood markets, I guess what I'm trying to say he was into a lot of different things. But his favorite thing was always shrimp and so even even when he had all his things he liked to talk about shrimp and and before he died, we we went in this is after that Georgia started closing the sounds year round we went to to drum point which is a Island, inshore island of St. Mary's and my son in were eating and off the boat and he was holding it in a certain depth and we keep a 48 quart cooler little shrimp we filled it up with the cast net and his knees you know when you get old his knees were hurting him but he wouldn't stop he couldn't help it he had to come out here get picking the shrimp up picking the shrimp but but we went home and fry them up the next day and had mom and dad over but yeah he just always loved it so I guess he just turned it over to me and you know which now there's not it wasn't all fun and games that's why I started doing it part time and when I left an '80 because I you know I wanted to fish like I was you know like I wanted to not like he wanted me to fish all the time and you know really so I liked I liked shrimping and I guess there's a couple ways shrimp you can try to make a living or you can really shrimp hard to try to you know he started out with one boat and then he got him two and three and four to five and six and when I say that I mean and still had the others you know had six different cabins one time he had seven his fleet he had seven and they were all state of the ark freezer boats you know so and we traveled all over the place and those are the ones that called

the rock shrimp and that's when you put into peeling plant and also I guess you know you can it's really or used to be not only that you could do that today he didn't have this many regulations and all back then there but I guess Yeah, I mean not say that regulations aren't good they're good just didn't have them back then so I don't know that you could could be that successful today

SS: How would running a fleet of shrimp boats be different than running one or two?

0:52.04

CL: Well my dad the way he would do it was when the boats would come in and he's always something wrong so that's where he would be down there fixing them up helping them get going if they you know making sure that that everything was in good working order making sure they had what they need to go back out shrimping and usually when you've got you know seven boat fleet there's usually something wrong with one at any time you know, and you know they're always tearing up nets so when they came in and instead of them having to take time off to to run their nets to the shop or whatever that's what we did. And yeah they'd throw their nets in dad's truck they'd get right back out fishing with the nets they had and then when dad would come when they'd come in again they can throw their nets out and shrimping like we did fall under shrimp over there and in the Gulf, you were always tearing up nets because the cap that they had cap wells off you had slab rock and you know you're fishing a lot of waters that you're not real familiar with do are we did you know a lot of times we would just see a fleet and we'd want to see what they were doing we wouldn't know where the hangs were that kind of stuff. So no dad used to say if you're not if you don't tear something up once in a while you're not catching any shrimp. But yeah, and then when they would come in, you know dad had the office where we unload whether it be Keywest, Apalachicola, or whatever he had different offices where he would do the payroll in the book work mama helped with that and he did that and we unloaded them. So that's- and telling them where -when what we're gonna do okay, we're going to apalache this this trip but it's it's a lot of work when you've got- and that's part of the Millers had the fleet that I told you about the train galleys and all those were the kids that I grew up with their dads were all running their their fleets like that. And we had also like the friends that stayed in fishing here year round too but but we always traveled with the shrimp. In fact Texas probably we probably Texas was probably our biggest season. The Texas Browns rough season was probably the biggest season but I hadn't been over there since 1981. But uh, talking about

shrimping and what what did but even when I was a boy when you know dad loved his family to so when a hurricane would come, we'd have to take all seven boats up the Brazos River in you know tie them up and stuff and I remember going up there with mom and mom would cook for all the crew and then to me I don't know how old she was probably wasn't but 40 but I remember thinking, you know, she had to climb the boats were just like, you know, stacked up against each other tied to trees and stuff and bluffs to get out of the wind and when the hurricane would come so I remember her climbing the rope you know backwards and all that. Now think about it now back then I thought man, she can't do that. But she did it and then now I realize heck, she was younger than I am now. And I guess I still climb a rope. [laughs] But yeah, those are all fun times and they were there. I remember at one of the storms we ran through there was a there was a cow pasture and we went over there and all the crew and all we had some football games and all that's good memories. And that was fun. I remember we were fishing off of Alabama, no it wasn't it, it was Louisiana. And you know, we were all together Calvin Jones was another one in Marion Jones's those were guys from Fernandina but since we all traveled together, we were all out there fishing and then we shrimped at night for the brownies. So this one particular night we had done pretty good so we dropped the anchor right there to sleep during the day. Well, first I woke up and pulled the anchor and set out start dragging there's nobody around I'm out there all by myself. And I get a call from Marion, he says Cal here are you? I said, I'm dragging where's everybody at? He says man you hadn't listened to the weather. There's a storm barring down on us right now you better get them up get out of there. So man it got rough before I got in but we ran up to Patterson Louisiana and docked there and unloaded with those guys to get out of the storm. And I remember going up there getting a bicycle because you didn't have any transportation I went over there and bought me a 10 speed English racer and I rode that thing all over town. But But I started running, I wasn't but like, 1920 just just pretty young. Because Daddy let me run a boat early I guess because I'd been shrimping for so long as a kid. But yeah, those are just memories that were fun you know that kids don't know about like when the you had to have saws and stuff because like when the hurricanes come you know the tide would go up. You wouldn't want those tree limbs to stick in your boat. So as the tide came up, you had to saw all the limbs off to to keep the the branches from going but over there we ran up the the Brazos River over here like when Matthew hit we ran up Satilla and the reason why we go the Satilla instead of St. Mary's is they got a train trestle and all we can't get far enough up but if we

come up to to the Satilla river you can go all the way past Woodbine because you know 95 is so high you can go under it and all with your outriggers and all that's why we come up come up Satilla now if it's bad now if it's just you know if it's predicted to hit pretty close but last time I went to the river- Dad always goes up it was even at 90 years old last time we went was Matthew Then we had Irma. Irma what and it was hitting on the other side. So we did go up to St. Marys river then I don't know where these boats up here go to do you?

SS: Nuh uh. What do you think about the future of commercial fishing in Georgia? Do you think it's going to be based on boats similar to yours?

0:59.11

CL: You know, we cut up about that all time out there. Me and David Cook who's an old fisherman. In fact there's a there's a book called Shrimp Boat City and it's all about work and how. There is a name. I still hadn't remembered his name, Mike. But anyway, they brought the shrimping over I think from Sicily in in, you know, they started drawing the otter trawl, which is pretty much same trawl we pulled today. But anyway, we laugh because, you know, we're out there now there's only four or five boats out there where there used to be so many and I said something about it , yeah there's not many of us live he says no after we're gone you can close the book. So I don't know if that's gonna be true or not, I told Bryan, that I don't see any many young people shrimping anymore. And he you know, he thinks that there will be, but things change it could it to the it could change. But, you know, fuel is so high right now, you know, it was a lot cheaper last year, or what in 2019 I think I paid \$1.48 a gallon. And I've just paid \$2.72 cent The last time I fueled up in Fernandina, and that's at Port supply, which is about as cheap, you can find it anywhere. So, yeah, but it'll hopefully it'll come down, you know, again, hopes so but, you know, that's, that's, nobody knows, you know, what, what its gonna be like, things change, you know, there aren't any whaling ships anymore. You know, there's not any cod boats anymore. I don't even think we catch sardines here anymore do we? I think I read somewhere to last sardine plant in the Northeast get closed. So I don't know what the future is going to hold. Now, I do have a guy that really wants to shrimp with me. And he's young guy, and I'll call him whenever shrimp is good. But like, this year, I haven't really needed him. So that's maybe one thing that hurts is a lot of young people they need to check every week. And you know, shrimping you may make real good, you have to put away your money when you make it. Because, you know, you can make some good money in a week's time. And, but that money may

have to last you all month. So, you know, there's not there's, there's this lifestyle now, you know, the new the new norm is to get a check every week and have a basis, you know, base your expenses on what you bring in, you know, that's the way people live now. And I don't think that used to be the case. You know, now everybody's got mortgages and things that they have to meet so they're not as free. You know? I think it's like being a slave to money or if you want to call it being a slave to the bank, or whoever's financing the stuff for you. And young as y'all are y'all just out of that trap make you a lot freer you can go and do a lot more if you don't have to. You know getting it that it's easy to do too because everywhere you look somebody wanting sell you something you don't need you know you have to think about do I really want to have to do this obligation what that was talking about my dad that's that was something he preached to never, course back then they call it living within your means. Your parents told you about that too huh? [laughs] It's true.

AC: You have any more memories you want to share with us?

CL: Well, I'm sure I'm gonna think about a ton of them when I leave here. But when you're when you're in an interview, and you think about them at random times what usually when you try to when you you know, I guess I wasn't prepared, but when you when you think about these memories, usually it's something that reminds you of something that happened it'd be something out there while you're shrimping you'll think man, I remember when when this happened or man I remember when that happened. If you want to, want to know a memory, here's one for you. Calvin, my brother was working with Calvin Jones and the- a door chain had come out of the tri net so every time they pulled the try net the door flip well back then shrimping over in the Gulf we shrimp at night, so Calvin wanted to take a nap lots of times captains will do that on last drag and they put the crew up there so he told my brother don't pull that tri net you and John don't pull that tri net because you know it'll flip I don't- I wanna take a nap don't worry about y'all falling over. So he went to bed and of course my brother said shit we pulling the tri net well they dropped the tri net down they pulled it up and the door flipped. So John went out there to to- He says I'll fix that he went out there on the outrigger flip it and said hey me that hammer and my brother reached down and to gave him the hammer. When he looked up there John was gone. He'd fall in the water. Now this is at night dragging and he looked and John was swimming as hard as he could toward the tow cables and grabbed the tow cable. So they're tolling him in on the tow cable. And David said that he, he grabbed the whip line and pulled it through to block

the block, you know what hangs on outrigger and he threw it as hard as he could. He said, Man, I don't know how I did it. But it landed right across John's shoulder. So John grabbed that rope and he pulled John over. It was gonna pull him up to where they had a tire on the side of the boat where he put his foot in, say, when he pulled that his feet started going off and he was going over, John saw what was happening, he kind of let go a little bit and David went back down on the ground. And so then he brace himself and he finally got him up on the on the boat. So they came that close to Calvin Jones opening up waking up and not having any crew not know where they were. But when John got on the boat, he still had a cigarette in his mouth. And he also didn't have his boots. So he had put his tennis shoes on. John's dad was Calvin. So when they picked up the drag, David got the push stick was pushing around trying to find John's boots. And John was- stop it Dave stop it. You know, and and John's dad was saying, John, go put your boots on- naw they hurt my feet. He said you can't wear tennis shoes out there. I mean, but there's a lot of little crazy stories like that, that are kind of funny, you know, he would be messing with John about his. His. But I mean, it's just, it was just shrimp boat life just cut up like when you're in the hull. And Calvin was real religious. Now this is just a friend. He was named Calvin's, just like my dad and me, but he was very, very religious. So you know, we're kids, you know, we say we'd say bad words. And because we were shrimping at 18-19 years old during the summer, and you take the water hose and you wet the guy down in the hull and you you ass hole or whatever. And then we don't talk like that on this boat and you'd be washing the deck and it's just this playing, being kids this kind of stories that we had always on the shrimp boats, but you know, I'll think of some more of you know, I got tons of them, but they're all just like little short things is shrimp boat life. Cooking. You know, is that's one thing that that most shrimpers really know how to cook. I don't know, you know, because we were always cooking like perlow's and shrimp gravy and smothered fish down like steaks. You know, I still do that house. Course my wife when I first start doing it, she said that just doesn't seem right having fish like that. But you know better than cube steak to me. So now she loves it, you know likes for me to cook so I can cook shrimp boat style food. What else you got?

SS: You've talked about shrimping at night, quite a bit. How is that different from shrimping during the day?

1:08.10

CL: What happened and this was before my time. But so this was just handed down to me. You had the people drilling the oil wells. And you know, of course, you always had the shrimpers they didn't want them drilling oil wells are missing up to something grounds whatever. But anyway, they weren't catching any shrimp weren't catching any shrimp. So somehow another the pumps kept getting plugged up, but they only got plugged up at night. So they told the shrimpers that so the shrimpers went out and started fishing for brownies at night and start loading the boats down. And that's how they really found out that the brownies caught them at night offshore. Now this is out there, you know, where you can't see land. But there's actually a movie about that. It's an old old old movie, and I don't remember what the name of it was. But of course and the shrimpers you know that's some of our best shrimping is around oil rigs and you know now and stuff like that, you know, I know you get you know, people that don't want you to put oil rigs here they're on the East Coast or whatever, but heck their fish their fish magnets, you know, they're places. They really are a haven for wildlife. You know, it's just like we put our artificial reefs out there off Georgia because we have no we Gray's Reef but other than Gray's Reef where do we have a lot of coral and you know, stuff that really attracts sea life? So you know, a lot of times stuff that you think would be harmful to the environment probably actually good for it. Some things you think aren't harmful for environments probably bad for it. You know, I don't I don't know. I'm not a scientist. That's just my my take on things. I don't think mans nearly as smart as he thinks he is

[phone rings]

AC:A question I had was about the landmarks you were mentioning earlier. Can you talk about some of those and how you came to memorize them?

1:10.24

CL: Well my, there's a boiler that sits off of Cumberland Island and it was a boiler back then, you know, like a locomotive they they would boil the water and steam propulsion. So with a boat sank real shallow off of Cumberland where it's real good dragging but you can't. My granddad caught the boiler and disconnect his net and they went back with the shrimp boat and rowboat and rode out here and got his net off the boiler. But you can actually hit it at low water with your boat. And the shrimp get right up on top of the beach sometimes. So there's an area of palm trees in front of that boiler and one of them was kind of bent in one of them was was straight, a taller one. So you got to recognize those two. But and I don't know who did it, somebody might have

gotten a rowboat and went there and look but whenever you're on top of that boiler, that one that was bent was right in front of the one that was taller and all the rest of them, so as you're dragging and you see those starting to come together, you would have to pull off to miss the boiler, so you didn't need any equipment or anything as long as it wasn't foggy, you could stay off the boiler when you're dragging the beach. Another one was dragging Jekyll we used to and these hotels are gone. Now this is how long ago it wasn't I hadn't dragged Jekyll beach in years. But we used to put that we call them golf balls is that what they call the the water towers, they look like a tee and a golf ball. I don't know if that's really what they're named, we call them golf balls did put the golf ball on a certain hotel in that, you know, that's how far you could drag and you can turn around or if you went on, you would run a ground up burn the shoals. And off of Cumberland there was a paper mill now you can't do this anywhere. But a bunch of ships used to come into St. Mary's and they would drop their anchor. So there was a the ground that was full of hangs and all the old ship anchors and stuff. But it was north of where everybody drug. And right when the smokestacks would let off steam and all where Cumberland starts off flat, there's a group of trees, you could drag north until that smoke got to the woods. So we call that dragging the smoke on the woods. And that's just three or four landmarks there's more. But you know, that's the way we used to drag before we had all this stuff. You know, I still miss dragging smoke on the woods because I like to drag that and you could angle actually you put that smoke on the woods and angle your boat and it will you would drag right out here and hold that. I fish it today and that's one of my favorite spots still but I don't really, I do it with the GPS now. But we used to do it with the smoke on the woods and then there's used to be turtle mound. We would do smoke on turtle mount sometimes when we were down in shore. Stafford shoal, which is a shoal off of Cumberland, when you're in there tight, that shoal kind of wraps around so you have to turn around sharp but you could go all the way to there was a they call it the White House, you'd see that White House and you could go past the White House and then you had to turn around real sharp come back out. When you get up there between the shoals of the little beach off of little Cumberland and that's called the coffin, they call that a coffin. And when when you're dragging up there to there's some high dunes, we call those the high hills. So you can drag all the way down to the last when you're stern got around the last high hill you had to turn around, or else you had to drag on in the coffin, but you can only do that on high water. So you have to keep up with your tides and stuff like that. But that's I mean it's just on and on and on. You just got

those landmarks to all of them down the beach that you used to use, which I still use the high hills because it's so easy and changed any but if I'm dragging up there usually when I get that high hill if I'm not going to go on into the coffin, and it has to be high water for me to do that. Then I'll go ahead and turn around when I pass that last high hill, come out and then dragging in the bottom of St Andrews sound I used to line up there was a if you if he lined up the buoy with a marker if you were right in the center of the dragging on the on the Jekyll side of course light house bank, I told you how I dragged that was way back we had turtle shooters and I had a big red float when I'd see that float come off I'd pull off the bank now to go back pull off the bank then we get down here and turn around you know you just hold a different depth coming back. You want some more? That's enough landmarks you get the idea! [laughs] Yeah those are just landmarks that we use.

SS: Can you tell me about some of your favorite places to fish now?

1:15.37

CL :Shrimp? Well just because of the grandkids and all I love fishing just north of the bar and cuz it's so close to home but my favorite fishing is probably around the barge and around the Gypsy Girl Gypsy Girl's a sunken shrimp boat that had been there all my life I think it's really gone now but I still got to reading of it but I think it's all finally deteriorated and I haven't heard of anybody catching it in a long long time. But it's just north of the bar dragging the channel. That would be probably my favorite in between shoals. I love the fish up there between the shoals I love fishing off of the Santander sea buoy out there in water I like fishing in the bottom of Sander Sound when it's rough because you can fish in there and not be but I haven't done that in a long time but I used to like that a lot I like fishing in the coffin because it's just pretty to me looking like a you know a lighthouse on the south of Cumberland well it's not Cumberland its little Cumberland but it's you know little Cumberland got that like that and I like the way the dunes are so high there on Cumberland that's pretty. I like the scenery there and it's so neat when you get through shrimping you're out there you just pull right in Sanders run up theres up Joyner Creek real nice place to anchor and I like to spend the night up Joyner Creek it's pretty quiet and peaceful so those would probably be my favorites sometimes I like to fish off Amelia Island which I know y'all are Georgia so I hadn't said that but it's just like looking at the condos and the people on the beach you know when you drag. You drag off the Jekyll you don't really get as close to the beach as you do down there.

SS: you brought up the coffin multiple times do you mind telling me maybe where it got its name if you know

CL: I don't know that's just what they call it that's just what they know where they call the Lighthouse Bay cause it's got Lighthouse I don't know why they call it a coffin I guess I can look at a chart see if it looks like a coffin and maybe it looks like a coffin got a chart

SS: I got that. [motions to map on wall]

CL: oh no that's not gonna tell you. You see that, see Christmas creek right there on Cumberland you see Jekyll Island down? Okay, there's a bank that goes out there Pelican split and that's probably that's probably why they call it the coffin is it probably looks like a little coffin I would guess but I haven't really studied it that much

AC: You mentioned earlier how your father was one who taught you how [phone goes off] Oh! You're good. You mentioned earlier how your father was the one to teach you how to maintain your boat and that sort of thing could you go more into detail about how he taught you and the process of all that and learning all that?

CL: Well last time Daddy would come home they were- he was bar fishing and he'd come in and his, say, his starter went out so he you know want to go fishing next day so he'd come home we'd eat supper and oh and he'd say come on down here and you can shine a light for me because you know back then everything was 12 volt you didn't have all these 1-10 and all so I'd go down there and I'd be shining the light you know I'm a little kid so next thing you know the lights shining somewhere else. [phone rings] And he's he's of course he's he's a shrimper like dammit I'm working over here! Shine the light over here. So anyway, I don't know I guess I learned how to change the starter when I was about eight years old and you know, we'd have changed belts on the generator and have to. As far as you want me to elaborate, he just took us with him. And what that's one thing I said Dad he, he carried us with him everywhere he went, you know, my brother and I joke sometimes we think that back in when we were born parents had kids so they'd have somebody to work [laughs] for but I don't know, you know, I know we I know my and you know I'm not saying one ways better than the other I know I raised my kids and grandkids I spoil the heck out of them because that's what I want to do. You know? I don't think we were spoiled quite like people are- kids are today. But it was good. It was really fun. You know? And like I said some of my best memories are when I sew my nets now you know him teaching and talking and and I feel almost like I hadn't done as good a job as he did teaching my

kids as much of course my son's not a shrimper so I guess it doesn't matter but but he he as far as like with engine work you know not being afraid to learn the big things is not being afraid to tackle something that you're you know you have to learn you know, it's real easy to do it now back then it wasn't because you didn't have YouTube. Now you can find it you know you want to change something or fix something you can go on YouTube now and find it and look at and research it and pretty much do it if you're mechanically inclined or whatever but you know back when dad was teaching us we didn't we didn't have that resource. We didn't know what a smart you know we still had you know what a rotary dial phone is Yeah, we had those

AC: Pretty sure we covered a lot of the written topic one so now we can just discuss if you remembered any more things any more tales or stories that you want to share about new experiences on the boat ones that you haven't told us. Maybe thought of some while we've been lingering here.

1:22.16

CL: Well I mean our, just remember catching unusual things. That's pretty cool. You know, like I was fishing off of Louisiana one time and we had to cut the bag lines when we got the bag lines up and dump the - it actually stopped the boat we read through a school of red bass and we had to cut the net that'll let them out because it actually just stopped the boat that was pretty cool. And you know catching, I remember catching some big old leatherback turtles, the black big black turtles and trying to get them back into water. You know? Watching them swim off they were they were good I didn't you know back before we pulled turtle shooters the DNR told to turn them over on their back press on their and, did y'all know this? Yeah, they used to tell us to turn them over on their back and just kind of take your foot and just pump them a couple times and 90% of the time you'd see that you'd hear a big [inhales] and it start breathing in water would run out their nose and all you know but that's the way we used to do that before they came out with turtle shooters but yeah, I don't know just after you shrimp while like when I shrimp for and down in the Kate, the shells, you know we'd save shells and sea horses and different things like that. Had them on the coffee table, my grandmother did and my wife still save stuff sand dollar starfish stuff like that, you know. Don't catch as many big nice flounder now but we catch the smaller ones I like to eat flounder but they all go out to shooter now. You know the big one we used to catch we called doormats flounders. Yeah, but no. and shrimping on the GA coast, the shrimp are usually a lot cleaner here than what they were in. Gulf we call a lot more. We call it

trash. I guess we'd get stuff called hay. It looks like a stack of hay. And it would you'd have to dig through that stuff. Course in Key West we ,the shrimp down there, we'd catch those sponges and I can still smell All that sour sponge man that stuff would make you sick. What was your question anyway I already forgot what the question was?

AC: It's just about more memories

CL:More memories? It just it never gets old seeing the sun come up in the mornings it's pretty and the lights at night even when you drop the anchor and well actually the lasts no that was a trip with a couple of days before the blow it was the night of the blow Lisa and I had gone out there and um we had a not a good day but we'd scrapped up a little payday and it was I think it was last week that Atlanta won the World Series?

SS: it was the Halloween Weekend.

CL: Halloween weekend. Okay, so anyway, we were coming in and we didn't want to miss the game so I said well, let's swing in here. So we swung right behind Cumberland in the calm water drop the anchor, and she fixed supper and we watched the world series out there in the sound we've waited till the next day to come in and doing stuff like that it's fun to me it's probably the last good memory we had. We sat there, she fell asleep but I watched the whole game. That was it. We never even that games never even in doubt what you like baseball? No?

SS: I was in Atlanta during the World Series. I was in Atlanta during that.

CL: So you were there? Oh so you'd like baseball.

SS: Just in town moving family.

CL: You're from Georgia Southern?

SS: Yes sir.

CL: No, yes. I'll take y'all know Emily works there it was Emily Sap and then there's Christie Dr.

SS: You've mentioned your dad ran a lot of like restaurants and stuff like that. How do you think that maybe how do you think that maybe impacted the way they you guys fished or just the business side of things?

1:27.27

CL :Well I think shrimping was the main thing until when the base came to Saint Mary's you know, the fish docks. Saint Mary's doesn't have a lot of waterfront we don't have near the

waterfront that Brunswick's got.. So the admiral came down and he needed a place to the base. He needed a place this was when they were building the base and they needed a place to put his sailboat. So Daddy put a dock and he had more people answering so then he put a marina and the Marina filled up so then you build another Marina at another dock but and then we, they found scallops. So Daddy put half his fleet catching scallops and he opened up the scallop plant where the restaurant is and why it became a restaurant was when the scallops kept getting further and further and further south. Dad decided he was going to change that from a scallop plant into a seafood market. So we opened up a seafood market and we had been shrimping and when I was a kid was shrimp out of Galveston and one of the things that we liked about Galveston at the docks is some of the seafood markets there you can go to and they could po' boy sandwiches we did shrimp or fish or whatever kind of po' boy you wanted. That's all they served they had a machine that sold potato chips and and po' boys and you'd get you that and get your drink out and drink but man people would come from all downtown Galveston to this pack-, packed it. So daddy told Tim Green that was running the seafood market about it and so Tim got him a fryer and started to sell the sandwiches well next thing you know we were selling more sandwiches than we were seafood which I mean sandwiches were seafood right? But anyway, so Daddy said well let's change it from a seafood market to a restaurant that's how it got its name Lang's Marina seafood restaurant and then our guess when the shrimping got where it wasn't as good in the 80s and all he started putting more time from shrimping into the Marina the restaurant. And then also the he Got '86 I think it was when you Ukely Lewis, from Brunswick here sold him the ferry, he started putting more time into the ferry business and have actually got ferries now not only do they do that they do for the y'all know where the king and the prince is they'll build lease our boats and type parties out and they have weddings on the boats, different things like that. So that was your asking, When did he start doing more of tours that then shrimping was probably in the 80s. And then he started selling his fleet off. And then by the time he died, he only kept one boat and he used to say that he can't sell that because he's never remembered after he was a World War II veteran Daddy was in the Philippines and he was in occupation Japan and also when he got back from the war. They let the veterans have first bids on the ships. So he bought a sub chaser, gonna turn it into a shrimp boat. And somebody offered him more money and what he'd paid for it and Ukely Lewis, same guy that was over here. Same guy, in fact that's that seafood. I used to be Ukely Lewis', he had daddy's first shrimp boat he bought from Ukely. And he bought

it with the money that he had paid for the for that sub chaser that he'd resold and then he bought that one he didn't have to change that it was already a shrimp boat. Since from then until probably '86 shrimping was his main thing. And then as I think around, I want to say '83 or '84 is when farm raising started coming in. And now I remember it because I owned the Little Andy, that 52 foot boat, I told y'all that I bought and we were shrimping in the bottom and stuff and I remember him coming on the air and saying 2125 Tails shrimp were selling for \$5 and when I bought that boat and they had dropped all the way down to \$3 and something a pound that's how bad it affected you know, almost half. So when that started and different things like that dad started selling off his boats, but he said he was gonna keep the lion's pride because he'd always already had always had a shrimp boat ever since in granddad hadn't won, you know, so it's true. Pictures, are we still interviewing?

AC:I think we've covered everything. You can show us the pictures.