

Robert Livingstone: My name is Robert Livingstone, Jr. I am a retired fishery biologist from the National Marine Fishery Service in Woods Hole. I am gathering information on the history of the fisheries in Woods Hole. I have been talking to some of the old-time fishermen. Today on April the 27th, on Monday, I am visiting with Captain Louis Doucette, who has had many years of fishing experience. I am going to talk to him about some of his memories of fishing in Woods Hole and about Sam Cahoon. We are sitting here in his living room having a relaxed conversation together. I am greatly looking forward to this conversation today because I think he has some of the most interesting history to talk about. I am going to play this back, Louis, to see if we are recording. I am going to do this way; I am going to ask you just questions to introduce you to the tape. You said that you were born in Edgartown, was it?

Louis Doucette, Jr: Yes.

RL: What year?

LD: 1911.

RL: 1911. I know some of the story from talking with Loretta. Because I think she said that your dad had come from Boston to Edgartown. Were there people from Nova Scotia that were fishing in that area that he knew? Was it what attracted him to Edgartown?

LD: No. At the time, he was fishing on the big Gloucester schooners in Boston dory fishing. Then after a while, he went to work on one of the bridges in, I think, it was in Chelsea, Chelsea Bridge. Then after that, how he found out about Edgartown, about Martha's Vineyard, I don't know. But he'd come down there and it was the Jacksons. The fishermen there were all the Jackson boys. Well, anyway, he got with them. They were dory fishing, but in the backside of Martha's Vineyard, and it was in every night. So, it was a better way to go fishing.

RL: I see. They were dory fishing then off the back side of the Vineyard. What were they fishing? Were they fishing cod then?

LD: They were catching haddock.

RL: Haddock and cod then?

LD: Yes. That brought him home. Mostly every night he'd come in. Well, here in the big vessel, he was gone for ten or twelve days until they got a trip.

RL: Very long time. Now, did you go to school in Edgartown?

LD: Yes, I did. I was 14 years old when we came here.

RL: You came from where?

LD: I was 14 years on Martha's Vineyard when they came.

RL: On the Vineyard. When did you start fishing?

LD: Well, the way fishing went, I was fishing from the time I was very small. I used to go with my father every summer vacation. When he was dory fishing, I was aboard the boat. Then when later years they changed over to dragging, I was with him. In other words, every summer I was there with him.

RL: When did they change over to dragging? Do you remember when that was?

LD: Oh, gee. [laughter] Well, he did some dragging in the *Mary D.* That's when I was only maybe 10 years old.

RL: 10 years old.

LD: Then after he sold her and he bought this *Gleaner*, they went dory fishing for maybe two years with her. He went tile fishing too on Long Island.

RL: He went tile fishing?

LD: Yes.

RL: That must be one of the earliest records of catching tilefish.

LD: Yes. He took some of your people out of New York City on the backside of Long Island to the tilefish grounds.

RL: That is fantastic.

LD: Because at that time, they didn't really know what the tilefish was. But there were plenty of them. They were bringing them into the Fulton Fish market.

RL: They were bringing the tilefish?

LD: Yes. He brought some of your people out. I remember him saying that.

RL: I will be darned.

LD: If I remember it right, I think he said they really introduced the tilefish to the New York Fulton Fish market.

RL: You know that the tilefish was very, very abundant in the 1870s. Then there was a fantastic mortality where they were killed by a temperature change and floated on the surface for miles and miles and miles. That is all written up in the old fishery reports. You said you fished during your summer vacation.

LD: Summer vacation, yes.

RL: How much money did you make on a summer?

LD: Well, I made a lot more then than I made after I started fishing. Some of the times skate wings in New York City, the big skate wing, at that time I think we got 50 cents a skate wing. 50 cents, it was a big one.

RL: What were these? Were those the barndoor skates?

LD: Yes, the saddle.

RL: You used the saddle?

LD: Yes. Not the regular skate. It wasn't that kind. It was a great, big, flat one.

RL: The barndoor skate. The big barndoor, I know those.

LD: Then dogfish. Now, the Fulton Fish Market, any fish that swam and was good to eat, they had in the Fulton Fish.

RL: In other words, there were so many different nationalities around the Fulton Fish market that would buy fish. They could sell just about anything.

LD: Right. They even had the – oh, what's that one? We have a name for that. Let me see. The one with all the little pickers on it like needles with a shell on them.

RL: You mean the sea robin? The one with all the spines on the fin and the whiskers on it?

LD: No, this is a shell. I can't think of the name.

RL: A shell?

LD: Yes, the Italians eat it. They cut out and eat the center.

RL: Oh, I know. Sea urchins.

LD: Sea urchins.

RL: Sea urchin gonads.

LD: They had everything you could think of. Oh, I'm trying to think now. When we were sitting there, they used to have them in the wells. They had these big, floating wells. They used to come from Nova Scotia and tow them up. I'm trying to think whether it was eels they had in there or what.

RL: It might have been eels.

LD: At that time, the East River wasn't as bad as it is today.

RL: You mean it was clean then.

LD: Well, yes, I guess it was.

RL: Compared to what it is now.

LD: We used to go swimming there [inaudible] kid.

RL: But getting back to your summers of fishing. Now, I think it was Loretta told me about somebody that either went out with you or with somebody, and he made \$5,000 at the age of 16 scalloping in one summer.

LD: This was in the *Three and One and One*. I took a boy from Bar Harbor, Maine. His father was keeper of the Cadillac Mountain –

RL: Of the national park?

LD: – reservation there.

RL: Is that so? Cadillac Mountain?

LD: Yes. His name was Jesse Fog. I thought that was funny, Fog.

RL: Jesse Fog.

LD: He came aboard the boat. This is a funny one. We got to Woods Hole. This Fog was a friend of my brother-in-law. They became friendly after coming out of the service. They'd been in the service and they met one another. Then they went to the University of Maine. They attended the University of Maine. This was in the summertime when my brother-in-law wrote to me, asking me if it would be possible that I could give this young fellow a chance. I said, "Well send him down, I'll look him over and see what I think." Well, he sent this fellow down. He was a real nice appearance boy, a great, big, scrappy fellow. I thought there was no reason that this boy couldn't make it. From our trip from New Bedford down to Woods Hole, he complained about the mugs we were drinking out of.

RL: You mean the coffee mugs?

LD: Yes.

RL: [laughter]

LD: So, I said, "Well, Jess, what's wrong?" Well, he says, "I'm not used to drinking out of them heavy mugs and the milk don't taste so good in them." He would drink milk. He didn't drink

coffee. I said, "Well, keep that quiet because if the gang hears about that, they're going to raise heck with you." Well, he had said it to a few of the boys, so they already heard that. When a new man comes aboard, they're always looking for something to find.

RL: Oh, I know.

LD: Something to kid him about.

RL: To tease him over.

LD: So, as it was, when we got in Woods Hole, as we were taking the ice aboard and everything and we got through – we always stayed through a few hours there before we left. Instead of going to the bar, Jess was up on the corner and he got acquainted with some man there, or some woman now. They're elderly people anyway. He got talking with them and told them where he was from and so on. This man and woman that he was talking to, he happened to mention that he didn't like drinking out of the mugs and he was going to try to pick up a couple of glasses. But he had looked around the stores and he didn't see anything that he could get there. At the time, there weren't many stores. So, they said, "Well, you poor boy." The woman said, "Come to the house and we'll take care of you." So, they gave him four or five glasses. He brought them aboard and he drank his milk with them until the gang saw what he was doing. As fast as he put one down, when he wasn't around, they'd break it and throw it overboard.

RL: They would break when he was not watching. [laughter]

LD: So, before this was over, Jess learned how to drink out of the mug and didn't mind it a bit. He made the grab about as fast as I ever see a fellow.

RL: That is pretty good.

LD: When he got through in the summer, he had \$5,000 to go back to the university.

RL: Is that so? Now, that is [inaudible].

LD: The same boy, I saw he married a girl from Australia. He was stationed there when he was in the service. He married her and brought her over. His aim was to go back there.

RL: When you fished with your dad, now, the first boat that you were on, was that the *Gleaner*?

LD: No, it was the *Gypsy May*. She was a 32-foot catboat.

RL: You fished on a catboat?

LD: 32-foot catboat.

RL: Out of Edgartown?

LD: Yes. He used to go to the southeast part with her in the summer swordfishing. He went to Chincoteague, Virginia with that same boat. I wasn't with him then.

RL: It was the old type of catboat?

LD: The old catboat, 32-foot.

RL: Oh, then that must have been beautiful. Great, big, gaff rig.

LD: I got a picture of it somewhere around the house here.

RL: Listen, this is something else that I need to make a note of it now. We will talk about it later on. What was the name of the catboat?

LD: Well, the *Gypsy May*. But her name was changed after, named after my sister Mary to the *Mary D*.

RL: Oh, this was the *Mary D*.

LD: This was the *Mary D*.

RL: I heard somebody talk about the *Mary D*.

LD: Her first name was *Gypsy May* when my father bought her. I think he bought it from up the river there in Wareham. I think that's where he got it from. There were a lot of them around at that time.

RL: I know. What was the company that made those? You remember? Was that an (Ackerson?)?

LD: Ackerson.

RL: I am trying to think of the catboats.

LD: They were big boats. They had a lot of them at that time.

RL: You still see some of these around. Ed Tucker sold these old ones over in the vineyard.

LD: But this was a big one. See, 32-foot was a big cat. But they went to Chincoteague, Virginia. They used to set mackerel nets all along. They'd start down in Chincoteague and they'd work along until they got to Jersey. Then they'd come along. The last place they'd set their nets was off of Gay Head. That was the end. After that, the fish were gone.

RL: What time of year was this when they went down?

LD: This was in the spring.

RL: This was in April?

LD: Yes, in the spring of the year.

RL: In other words, they were catching them as they might move north?

LD: All I know it was before swordfishing times. Because after we used to get through net and then we'd go swordfishing. Most of the boats, that's what they did at that time. They chased them fish down until they got down on from Gay Head. That was end. Then they changed over.

RL: Then the mackerel what? They went offshore then?

LD: Yes. Well, wherever. They lost them then. Then they'd go to work and take their two weeks or three weeks rigging up the vessel for swordfishing. That's when I first started. See, that's what we did. We went into this little boat, the *Addy May*, with my father and a bunch of Portuguese fellows. In fact, they all spoke Portuguese. My father and me were the only two that were the outsiders.

RL: You went mackerel fishing in the spring on the *Addy May*?

LD: We went on spring, yes.

RL: Did the *Addy May* come into Woods Hole, too?

LD: No. No.

RL: Who would you land your fish to then in the summer?

LD: New Bedford. We were landing at New Bedford Fish Company at that time. I don't ever remember. Of course, we might have gone to Woods Hole on a small trip, but I don't remember it. Anybody that lived on the Vineyard knew Sam. Now what Sam did, all the farms that had the sloops in Nantucket, which there was a great many sloops in Nantucket. Plus, they had a big fleet down there. Plus, there was a number of boats out of the Edgartown.

RL: You are talking about sailing sloops?

LD: No, what they called the sloop, one mass. A big, Nantucket sloop, so they had one mass.

RL: These were sailing fishing boats with the big mass?

LD: No, they weren't sail. No, they were power.

RL: They were power?

LD: They were power, yes.

RL: But they called them sloops.

LD: Nantucket sloop. In Edgartown, they had the *B.T. Hillman*, they had the *Liberty*, and the *Hazel Jackson*. There was one before the *Hazel Jackson*. Now, the progress, my father was with the German submarine. That was Bob Jackson. But what Sam did, you see all these fellows dealt with him. Most fishermen at that time, the price of the fish was so bad. People weren't eating fish like they are today. They would have a poor year, and they'd come up to Sam and they needed an engine or a new engine, a gas engine. At that time, there was gasoline.

RL: There was gas engine.

LD: After that the...

RL: What period was this? Was this in the 1920s or when was it?

LD: Yes, around that time. It would be around the [19]20s.

RL: Before the First World War?

LD: Before, yes.

RL: So, Sam was starting...

LD: Oh, well, wait a minute. It wasn't the First World War.

RL: In 1918?

Irene Doucette: Not the First World War. It was the second.

LD: No. See, that's before my time. But I know from that time on, he always took care of me. So, all the time, his business was there. See, I wouldn't know about that because I was too young then. I remember having boats down there even then. But Sam, they'd come up there. They wanted a new gas engine. They'd had a full year. This was known by everybody. There were two men, Sam Cahoon was one, and Eugene Perry in Nantucket was the other one. Eugene Perry in Nantucket had, well, I guess we'd call it card store. He sold tobacco and he sold candy and he had pool tables in there and they played cards. As they played cards, when they won, they'd get a disc. I can remember going in there with my father when I was only a little fellow. The old Jack would win so many hands of cards and he'd have a pile of disc on his side. He passed them to me and I'd cast them in for candy. You didn't get much candy then.

RL: I will be darned. That was fun.

LD: So, Eugene Perry was the same as Sam Cahoon. When these fellows had a poor year and they didn't have the money and they needed an engine or they needed their boat fixed up, they'd go to Eugene Perry. The ones who didn't go to Eugene Perry would come to Sam Cahoon. They

would lend them the money. I don't know how long it carried on until they could pay them back. But they kept the men going. They kept the fishermen going. There's a difference of the buyer of them days and the buyer of today.

RL: Now, I talked to Swede about this. Because Swede says you would charge your groceries in the winter and pay for them in the summertime when you were making a living.

LD: Right.

RL: But you say there was one guy on Nantucket whose name was Perry?

LD: Yes, that's Eugene Perry.

RL: Was he a fish dealer, too?

LD: No, he wasn't.

RL: He was not.

LD: But he was in with all the fishermen because he had this pool room and a con table and all the fisherman used to gather there. Oh, wait a minute, he owned the *Anna C. Perry*.

RL: He owned which one?

LD: The *Anna C. Perry*.

RL: The *Anna C. Perry*.

LD: He had money in a few boats. So, you see he was tied in with the fishermen. He was one of the greatest men. He was another Sam Cahoon, only he was on Nantucket.

RL: That is interesting. That is wonderful.

LD: I can remember him.

RL: So, you had Sam Cahoon in Woods Hole and you had Eugene Perry in Nantucket?

LD: Yes, right. These was the men that instead of going to the bank, which the banks weren't too great with the fishmen in them days, they went to these two men.

RL: Now, tell me something about these sloops. How big were they?

LD: These sloops were around 60 feet.

RL: They were around 60 feet?

LD: Oh, yes.

RL: They had a gasoline engine?

LD: Yes, and in later years they had the diesels.

RL: They had the diesels later on.

LD: The *Hope II*, the *Bernice*. Oh, gee, Charlie Rider's boat, the *Anna Louise*.

RL: *Anna Louise*.

LD: The first *Ivanhoe*, (*Bill Collish?*). Oh, golly. I could sit down and think about them.

RL: Well, the sloops, did they have any particular kind of fishing that they went out for or would they do everything?

LD: Well, they were dragging most of the time.

RL: They were dragging?

LD: These boat, yes.

RL: So, they were side trawlers, were they?

LD: Yes.

RL: They were side trawlers.

LD: On the Nantucket Shoals.

RL: On the Nantucket Shoals. So, this was mainly what? Cod and haddock and what else?

LD: Cod, haddock, flounders, yellowtails.

RL: Flounders.

LD: Now, this was before New Bedford was set up as buying the boats, fish buyers. They only had one fish house here, which was New Bedford Fish. In the end, it got sold. They weren't buying much. So, all these sloops ran to the Fulton Fish Market in New York City. Now, this is when I first started fishing. Every week we were in New York City at Fulton Fish Market. You'd be there with ten or twelve Nantucket sloops. Some days you might be alone. If you were alone, you'd get the big price that day.

RL: Just like it is now.

LD: This is a market. You didn't know what you were getting until 1:00 p.m.

RL: 1:00 p.m. not early in the morning after fishing.

LD: No, they didn't give you any price. You sold your fish at 1:00 p.m.

RL: Now, Louis, when you came in, there was no way of communicating with anybody?

LD: No.

RL: You did not hail anything?

LD: No.

RL: You just went in and took your chance?

LD: You mean?

RL: Into New York.

LD: That's right. You had no communication with anyone.

RL: You could not call in or do anything like that, would you?

LD: No. No telephone, no nothing.

RL: So, when you went into New York, you were usually fishing where off, Nantucket Shoals or out on Georges or whatever?

LD: Well, Nantucket Shoals but a lot of the bigger boats went to Georges. My father went to Georges.

RL: What period of time was this when these scoops were going into the Fulton Fish Market?

LD: Let's see. Now I got to go back fourteen. Well, this had to be [19]24, [19]25.

RL: In other words, this was in Sam Cahoon's heyday?

LD: Yes. We lost our boat *Gleaner* in Boston Harbor in 1927, was it?

ID: [19]28, I think.

LD: Well, [19]27 or [19]28.

RL: So, this is off of Hole on your way in with a big catch of fish.

LD: Yes. I had been with my father all years before that. So, that was in the [19]20s. That was in [19]23 in May.

RL: This was in [19]23 or so.

LD: We used to go and see Babe Ruth play in the Polo Grounds in New York City.

ID: It wasn't in [19]23. Let's see, how old were you?

LD: Julian had to be in the [19]20s. Of course, we lost the *Gleaner*. Oh, wait a minute. No, I'm wrong. We lost the *Gleaner* in [19]27 or [19]28.

ID: It was [19]28, I think. Well, I am right, because he was buying me a car that year. He was going to buy a new car.

RL: Excuse me just a second.

LD: All the time we were talking about the transport.

RL: We were talking about the sloops coming into the Fulton Fish Market.

LD: Now, those sloops they ran up to New York all the time. You never knew how many were going to be there.

RL: Why did you go to New York?

LD: Because you couldn't sell them here. They couldn't take nothing here. They couldn't handle no trips like that.

RL: What about Woods Hole?

LD: Those sloops all had 30,000 pounds of fish.

RL: Oh, I see. They had much more than the small ports could use.

LD: Yes. Once had partial trips run into Sam's. But this guy up here in the New Bedford Fish, in the end, he just wasn't operating. Eldridge was up street, Linus Eldridge. He got down there buying quahogs and clams. He was trying to get down to the pier for quite a few years.

RL: Eldridges who were on the Vineyard?

LD: No, Eldridge. That was Linus Eldridge that had the fish companies here. He was the first big fish buyer we had here in the New Bedford.

RL: Oh, that was in New Bedford you were talking about?

LD: Yes.

RL: Now, is that connected with the Eldridge in Edgartown too?

LD: Well, they had a fish market there.

RL: Yes. Was that Eldridge's Fish market?

LD: That was the same, yes. This was Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge from Mattapoisett, is where they lived. They told me a story about they had a little shop there, they were getting clams and quahogs and they'd stay up half the night and buying base Gulf with a little kerosene heater to keep them from freezing. They'd become the biggest buyers we had in the city of New Bedford at that time. They were the big buyers. They were the first people to buy a trip of 100,000 pounds of fish.

RL: Is that so?

LD: Which was an enormous trip at that time. After that, they bought trips. The boats stopped going to New York because at the time it took you twenty-four hours to go up and come back. Well, it would take you about twenty-four hours or twenty-two hours going up at the speed of the boat those days. Then you had to come back and lost of time. They stopped coming to New Bedford. Eldridge told the New Bedford Fish Company, he'd have them out of business in six months, which he did. He paid such a good price that the boat stopped going to Fulton Fish Market. Finally, that was the start of New Bedford and what it is today.

RL: In other words, these sloops could handle up to how much fish? Thirty-, forty thousand, you said?

LD: Most of those fellows I know they could carry thirty thousand, not much more than that because they were weekly trips. There might have been one or two who caught to fifty. Like the Ivanhoe could carry that.

RL: What did you use? You used the manila flat net?

LD: Everything was manila at that time.

RL: Were these flat nets?

LD: These were flat nets. Dan Mullins here in New Bedford, that was a supplier of gear at that time, he used a lot of twine from Grimsby, England.

RL: From Grimsby.

LD: Grimsby send over the (cart-ins?). They were all manila cart-ins. There was that dock, black tarred stuff. Oh, what a mess your hands used to be. I made plenty of them.

RL: Ruined your fingers some.

LD: I guess so. The hangnails you used to get from that.

RL: Oh, yes, that was horrible.

LD: Then that was when the section net stopped coming. Sam stayed with (Todd?) cotton twine 42 thread. He sold a lot of that, Sam did. We used a lot of that when I got with Sam. But later years, I think they came out with sections. But at that time, that was all. You had to cut your twine. You had to cut your wings and your squares and your bellies.

RL: Louis, how many sloops were in –

LD: Nantucket?

RL: – Nantucket and how many were on the Vineyard?

LD: Well, I would say in Nantucket, oh, they must have had a fleet of thirty or forty sloops.

RL: Is that so?

LD: Oh, yes. They had a big bunch of boats. The Vineyard never had that many. Down the Vineyard, they had mostly bigger boat. Like the *Liberty* was a schooner boat. First, the *Hazel Jackson* was a schooner. The *B.T. Hillman* was a schooner. After the *B.T. Hillman* came up here, that's the one I was in. They called her the *Gay Head*. They took her main mast out and put in a little jigger mast in her. But before that, she was a schooner. So, these schooner boats were 60-yard feet. They were nice boats.

RL: These were dory boats, were they, the schooners?

LD: No. They didn't go dory fishing on them. They went sword fishing and yellow tailing in the wintertime.

RL: You mean they would drag for yellowtail in the wintertime?

LD: Yes.

RL: Of course, the Nantucket Shoals being right close to Nantucket. This was a fairly close way.

LD: Yes.

RL: How many days would they go out for when they went to Nantucket?

LD: It depended. They were out, most of them, four or five days. Weekly trips they tried to make.

RL: Did they take ice from someplace in Nantucket?

LD: Oh, yes. They had the ice facilities and everything. In fact, now they're starting to try to build Nantucket up again. They got some boats there. Every once in a while, I get the Nantucket paper too.

RL: I do not know why not, because it is right close to Nantucket Shoals in terms of how many hours it would take to run out there.

LD: Sure. Things have changed a lot. The banks were not so much for the fishermen. When the yacht people started to come to the islands, when they've been going there for years, they kind of took over the island. They took over Nantucket. They took over Martha's Vineyard, which was a great thing.

RL: Took over Woods Hole too?

LD: Yes. It made monies coming into the town. They bought big homes and built big homes. They needed gardeners and they needed people to paint them in the winter and paper and do all that kind of thing. So, the fishermen were left one side. They didn't care too much about them. They'll tell you this in Nantucket, they forgot about the fishermen. He survived. The reason with my father leaving Edgartown to come here, he figured the machine shops were here, and the railways was here.

RL: Oh, here in New Bedford?

LD: Yes. Everything was here. His partner in the big boat had business in the New Bedford. So, that was my father's move because everything was here. But anyway, after the sloops – oh, they were beautiful boats. They were really beautiful boats. They'd done well. There's an old fellow, Charlie Rider. Charlie was one of the nicest guys who ever was around Nantucket. He was a gentleman all the way. In fact, I think he's still alive. Well, Charlie must be in his damn close to 90. The last I asked about him, he was still alive.

RL: Do you remember your first experience fishing with dragging?

LD: No.

RL: You said you were...

LD: The first thing I ever did...

RL: Was dory?

LD: The fishing that I saw being done was the dory fishing.

RL: How old were you then? 10 years old or something?

LD: Yes. Well, I went with my father in the *Mary D*. I made a trip. I was 7 years old. We figured it out.

RL: Did you go out on the dory still?

LD: No. No. What happened, he had this cook from Nova Scotia. Bill hadn't been home for quite a while. The winter months, he wasn't doing much. There was a lot of ice around. Sometimes it was frozen the ice for six or seven weeks. Nantucket, they didn't have the boats to cut them out. He said, "I think I'm going to go down to Nantucket to dock on Nantucket Shoal and see if we can get some codfish." So, I was on there, little guy. Well, I was around the boat with him all the time. So, "All right, pop." So, we went down. He got eighteen barrels of fish. This is in my story darn right. We got eighteen barrels of fish on Nantucket Shoal.

RL: Just mostly cod?

LD: Yes, some flounder. He had what they called the [inaudible]. They used to...

RL: Put butter on it, you mean?

LD: Yes, coil the line in the tub. That's sitting alongside the wheel box. No piling houses. This was in the catboat.

RL: This was in the...

LD: In the *Mary D*.

RL: In the *Mary D*?

LD: Yes. Well, the *Gypsy May*, which was *Mary D*.

RL: Oh, she was called the *Mary D*., yes.

LD: It was rough as a devil and he had said, "Now, you hold the wheel hard over." He had to give me something to do. So, I got the wheel hard over while he's taking in the net. Now, they had just a winch head and they had rope tow lines. So, he had the two lines on that winch. As he's bringing it in, he's coiling it. Now, he's got all he could do to handle this without watching the kid. So, I'm supposed to hold the wheel over. Well, the sea came along and hit her and it threw me off of the wheel. I fell down into the wheel box. The water was pouring over top of my head, and I was crying. I thought I was overboard. My father was on the winch head. He looked back at me but he couldn't do nothing. So, I picked myself up and hung on until he got the net in. Whenever we got the net in, he said to me, "Boy," he said, "You look pretty tired," he said. "I think you better go down and turn in." Of course, we had been fishing for a while. He'd caught quite a lot of fish then. So, I finally went down and got under the blankets, took my pants off. I got under the blankets anyway, and that's where I stayed. We came home with a boat. We had eighteen barrels of fish. I heard that so many times from him, that was one of the best days

he had had that winter. It just happened to come that good spell. Of course, it was only me and him, so he didn't have anybody else to pay. He made me a present of a couple of bucks, which was a lot of money at that time. So, I thought that was great. When he got the *Gleaner* and I went fishing with, now she had a great, big bow for it when she came from Gloucester. She had two jibs. She had jib jumbo, a big fossil, and a big (macle?). She had a little bit of a gas engine on. I think it was a (36 horse Lake thrip gas?). She had a big engine room. The bunks were divided, so two men to a bunk. But they were big bunks and there was a boarding between each man. Now that was quite something because during the night, if you had to get up to have a leak or something, you had a crawl over that other guy.

RL: Crawl over the other guy.

LD: If that other guy was a grouchy man and you happened to hit him, there was a chance for a big argument to start, right? [laughter]

RL: [laughter]

LD: Well, anyway, they had the torches on deck, big, round torches with big wicks on them.

RL: Did you put kerosene in them?

LD: No. They were about that high. Big, round thing with a handle. Then they had a big torch about that size. Now, you can see the fellows are down baiting their trawl and they're chopping bait on top of the engine room hatch. They had a big hatch that run from the main mast back. Along the sides of it, they had a big piece of the bulk. They'd be chopping herring when they're baiting up in the morning. If the slack was coming, like we'll say at 5:00 a.m., they'd be up at 3:00 a.m. and baiting up. They'd be chopping their bait and putting them on the hook.

RL: Now, I have just understood. Now, you were line trawling.

LD: Yes.

RL: I was getting confused because you did not do any dragging.

LD: Not then.

RL: Not then.

LD: No. This was after.

RL: This was line trawling with tubs of gear.

LD: Yes. So, he had fourteen single dories when he carried.

RL: The *Gleaner* carried fourteen single dories.

LD: Yes, single dories. Seven on one and the other.

RL: How many tubs would a dory take on?

LD: Well, it depended where they were and how much he wanted to set up according to the weather.

RL: Your fish went into barrels then?

LD: No, not then. Not, on her. They went down in the hole in the ice.

RL: They went down the hole. But on the *Mary Rose* –

LD: The *Mary D.*

RL: – the *Mary D.*, they went into barrels?

LD: Oh, yes, we carried them in barrels. Anyway, here the men baiting up now, they got the torches on deck, it's dark. It is 20 or 25 miles of wind in the winter when it was snowing or something, and here's this wetness coming down on you. The men are baiting up, these torches, the wind blowing that smoke down on top of you. What a hell of a thing to go through.

RL: Yes. A lot of guys do not like the smell of diesel fumes.

LD: Yes. There were guys aboard. He had quite a lot of fellows from Boston. There was a guy, Irishman Quinlan. He always wanted to take me in the dory. "Come on, kiddo, come on." But my father would never let me go. At that time, you...

RL: You did not have any life preservers then?

LD: Oh, no. They lost a lot of men in the dory fishing.

RL: Were there any provisions for life preservers or whatever? Did you have anything?

LD: None of these. I was fishing a good way...

RL: In other words, there were some on board but you never used them.

LD: I don't know if there was at that time. I don't think so.

RL: There might not have been. There were no Coast Guard regulations or whatever then.

LD: No, I don't think I ever saw that. Well, they had a coastguard. They had the (Carter and Kushner?), which used to stay in Edgartown many times I saw her.

RL: The (Kushner?)

LD: I think that the regulations then weren't enforced. The fisherman took care of himself. He was a guy that they didn't worry that much about him. Most of the men, they were in dories every day. So, there was nobody better than those people that were in the dories. They knew how to handle themselves.

RL: You mean in terms of everything? Yes.

LD: They did sail them.

RL: What do dories have, a gaff rig or just one small sail?

LD: The sail you mean?

RL: Yes.

LD: Yes. She had a little gaff.

RL: How far would the dories go from the *Gleaner*?

LD: When they would set out the vessel, if the skipper was a decent guy, if he was a good fellow – there were some bad guys, some real rough guys. When the dories would be out, they stretch them out. They'd be stretched out there a mile or so, 2 miles or what. The vessel would jog down to (Lord?) when there was a little bit of wind blowing. She'd stay to Lord at the dories. She'd keep jogging between her dories so that when the men got their fisher board they could sail down before the wind. But there were some of them that were real tough guys. They'd be up to wind it. Then poor bastards had to get up there.

RL: They had to get up.

LD: They had to row whatever way.

RL: You were rowing at 25 mile or whatever.

LD: There were times that snowstorms and things came.

RL: You could not see.

LD: They lost a pile of men. In that business, you look up the record. Because I read one time, and I think it was on a Gloucester book that I read it, of the men that were lost out of Gloucester from the time fishing became a thing up there. That was more men than they lost in World War I.

RL: Is that so? Oh my God.

LD: They lost sixteen vessels one night in what they called Georges North Shoal on Palm

Beach.

RL: On the North Shoals? Oh, I have been up in North Shoals.

LD: Sixteen big schooners. That's 130-foot, 140, carrying [19]25 men aboard. They were into an anchor. There were at anchor. They were all sail then, no power. They were anchored in there, fishing in the shoal water. It came a breeze, northerly wind, or middle east. They did run one another down, some of them getting underway. It was a real blizzard, a really bad one. Eighteen hundred and something, I think this was. Anyway, they lost eighteen boats there that night. They gave the number of men and everything. Now, I had the book on this. I left this book...

RL: This is the book about the Gloucester Schooner Fishery, right?

LD: Yes. I left this book to a man I worked for. He lives in Jersey and his partner. I don't know which one of them got it. I lent it to him and I never got it back.

RL: That is a problem.

LD: When I asked him about it, he didn't know where it was. I said, "Gee, whizz." You lend something like that, it's like you are right-handed because...

RL: I know. Well, listen...

LD: I've got that. You can't get that book today. I can't get that. It's out of print.

RL: It is out of print? Is it really? Geez, that is too bad. Well, now look, do you happen to remember the first time you ever came into Woods Hole?

LD: Well, I suppose first time ever coming to Woods Hole I must have been very small. Because from the time I can remember, I can remember Sam Cahoon because my father used to go there lots of times. We used to go through Woods Hole coming up to come to New Bedford.

RL: When would they go to Woods Hole as a place to land their fish?

LD: The boats in Edgartown had to go to Woods Hole to get their ice. There were no ice facilities there in the Vineyard.

RL: That is one big reason.

LD: We used to go there to get ice. Then he used to go there to get nets and stuff from Sam.

RL: In other words, Sam had the twine and the [inaudible] stuff?

LD: Oh, yes. This was early. This was when I was only very small. But then he got into the big boat. When he got into the big boat, he went to New York City all the time after he got the

Gleaner.

RL: You are talking about your father going into New York City on the big boat?

LD: Yes, he'd run to New York because they were big trips. They couldn't handle trips like that around here at that time.

RL: So, the Woods Hole fishing port handled mostly the smaller boats. Is that right?

LD: Yes.

RL: With boats under 60 feet, would you say?

LD: Yes. Probably, it was broken trips.

RL: These guys were they day boats?

LD: A lot of them were.

RL: Two or three days.

LD: Then there were the boats at the Nantucket Shoals. They'd be out and probably had thirty thousand fish, 25,000 or something, or twenty thousand. It was kind of a broken drip. They'd come in before they had to. They'd run up to Sam and take them out. This was when Sam was starting to come up the lines. I sold fish to Sam Cahoon with my Uncle Maddie in this *B.T. Hillman*. Just before I ever went skipper, I went and cooked with him for a trip. [laughter] When the trip was over, I think we got a quarter or a cent a pound for our fish. My uncle made me a present of a \$5 bill so I could get home. We were out.

RL: You mean you were getting home where, to New Bedford then?

LD: Yes.

RL: Is that so?

LD: Yes. I don't know what kind of trip. I think we had somewhere around thirty thousand a fish.

RL: Now, was this mostly yellowtail?

LD: Yes.

RL: So, Sam Cahoon mostly handled what? Mostly, yellowtail? He was known as the yellowtail king, I guess.

LD: Yes. But during the war, we were scalloping and we gave it up because that black market

was in. Sam wouldn't have nothing to do with it. Sam told me like this, he said...

RL: You mean the black market for...

LD: They were handling up in New Bedford here. Everything was black market. Some fellows made a mental of money at that.

RL: You mean scallops were not supposed to be sold or what do you...

LD: Well, the thing was going on in New Bedford here. Now, I had the chance to be here in New Bedford. I was offered a boat in New Bedford. I was in the *Three and One and One* at the time. We used to bring in three-seventy-some bags for a trip of schoolers, which was 1,500 gallons at the time. Before I would leave New Bedford here at that time during the war, I would be paid a dollar a bag. This was to me the skipper.

RL: A dollar a bag.

LD: So, I would get \$375. Put it right in my pocket before I left the dock. Then there was another, I don't know, \$150 for something else that I can't quite remember. But there was more money in it. All right. We made two trips for Sam, me in the *Three and One and One* and Eli (Fortier?) in the *B&E*. When we got in, Sam paid us \$50 a man over our trip. This was like a present.

RL: Over the trip.

LD: I got \$50. I got the same as the crew. The crew all got \$50 apiece. This was what they were doing in New Bedford. It was supposed to be legal. We made two trips that way that Sam paid us and we got that money. The third trip, Sam told us that we could take the boats and come to New Bedford and do that. But he wouldn't have nothing to do with it because his accountant had told him that it was illegal. Or he had gotten in touch with an accountant, which is John Dunn here in New Bedford. Johnny had told Sam it was illegal and that the government people would be in to look at the books.

RL: Why was it illegal? What was going on with the co-op thing?

LD: Well, there were so many rackets there. I wasn't in the fishing business so I can't tell you that. But it was a racket. Anyway, here's what happened. Sam told me, he said, "My books are there, Louis. There's never been any wrongdoings in the books. I've been in business for so many years. I'm not going to do it now. You boys can do as you like, but it's illegal. I talked to John Dunn and it's illegal to do what they're doing. If we continue this, you all are going to get in trouble and we are going get in trouble. In other words, he was an honest man. He would not do that. So, we went along with it. I was offered a boat up here in New Bedford that Mr. Murphy had at the time. That was my brother-in-law's father. He offered me the *Shannon*. I was told what I would get. I would get the number of bags of scallops I brought in, a dollar for every bag. This was before I even left the dock. Then when the scallops were taken out, you'd receive another \$150 on top of that. Now, this is before you collected for your trip. So, you see

where we guys were scalloping and we would make we'll say \$200 on a trip of scallops. These guys up here were making 700 or 600 every trip. So, it got to the point we said we are not going to do it. So, I came to my wife and I asked my wife what I should do because I had the chance to go in this other boat. I said, "Money is everything. Everybody looks towards the money part of it." My wife said Sam had tied the boat up just in the boat for the *Three and One and One* a short time when I got pneumonia. The children got together, young Sam and Frances and Cynthia and Rebecca. They were the owners of the boat. Each had a quarter.

RL: The *Three and One and One*?

LD: Yes, and the *B&E*.

RL: *B&E* stood for what?

LD: *B&E* was Bertha and Esther.

RL: Bertha and Esther.

ID: Elsie.

LD: Elsie. Bertha and Elsie.

RL: Named after Ms. Cahoon.

LD: Yes. The children all owned a quarter. Sammy was the first, young Sam. Then the three girls. Oh gee, I forget what I was going to say about. Anyway.

ID: He tied the boat up.

LD: Oh, he tied the boat up for her when I had pneumonia. The children got together and said, "The boat stays tied to the dock." She was tied over at Kelly's. She laid there for three months that I was sick. This was wintertime.

RL: You had pneumonia for...

LD: Yes. I had it really bad. I had it in the next year too. They tied the boat up. She couldn't go fishing. Men were going down there, some of my good friends, trying to take the boat away from me. I told Sam that I would get a man to go in the boat. I felt bad the boat being tied up. He said no. The children had decided the boat would stay like she was. She stayed until I got better. Every week I received a check from Sam Cahoon until I got on my feet. Plus, every now and then, a nice big basket of food with about everything you could imagine in it. While I was in the hospital, flowers and things like that.

RL: Where were you in the hospital? Over here?

LD: I was at St. Luke's.

RL: Over into Bedford?

LD: Yes. They took me to St. Luke's.

RL: They would send you this stuff over here?

LD: No, they sent it to my home.

RL: Your home was in Fairhaven?

LD: No, I lived in New Bedford at the time.

RL: In New Bedford.

LD: (Deca?).

RL: But is that not something? My gosh.

LD: (Three Deca?).

RL: It was almost like sick leave.

LD: That's right.

RL: Like getting paid for sick leave.

LD: We had a strike while I was in the *Three and One and One* and the *B&E*. There were two crew of men. Now, you're wondering why I speak so good of this man. Two crews of eight or ten men in each boat. They received a weekly check, every man on that boat, while we were striking against the boat owners.

RL: Through Sam, you mean?

LD: We weren't because he was a great guy. Whatever went on, he would go along with it. But we belonged to a union and they were striking. So, if you are a union member, you got to follow suit.

RL: You have to follow suit.

LD: We had nothing against the Cahoons. But we were union men, so Sam knew we had to do this. But every man on that boat received a check every week. Well, that strike went on and it went on for quite a long time. There's no other boat owner that ever did anything like this. Only one other boat was I in, was the last boat I was in, the *Linus Elridge*. The owner of the boat, Elton Watton, that lives down here in Scoticut Neck walked the picket line with me and did picket duty one day while we were on strike up there. This is about seven or eight years ago.

He's the only other man I ever knew that did anything like that.

RL: Well, the strikes still go on. I do not know.

LD: [laughter]

RL: So, did Sam Cahoon handle yellowtail all year round?

LD: Yes.

RL: Did he get to the point where he had so much fish that he started to ship to New York too?

LD: Oh, yes. He was shipping. He had quite a few trucks. When we were speaking about the broken trips, this was years back. As years went on, Sam was buying a lot of trips, scallops.

RL: A broken trip is having something going wrong and not having as much as you intended to get.

LD: Yes, right. After the thing happened in New Bedford that the Eldridge Company took over New Bedford, then the boats stopped running to New York City. Then there was very little boats going up to New York. After that, they started going into Sam's too selling scallops, selling in the summertime scups. They had a big year down there scupping. Sam was shipping them with his trucks way down to (Isaac Fast?) in Virginia. He had trucks daily going to New York Fulton Fish Market.

RL: How many trucks did Sam have?

LD: Oh, golly. I can't tell you for sure. I think he had about four.

RL: What were these? Were these great, big, freezer trucks?

LD: Oh, these great, big – yes.

RL: When the fishermen came into Sam Cahoon's, did they unload the fish themselves?

LD: Yes.

RL: Then they were weighed?

LD: Well, we unloaded the fish. Our crew all worked. But they had a crew up there in the building.

RL: They had a crew up there in the building that [inaudible].

LD: Yes, they weighed the fish out. They had to put them in boxes. They had to put the covers on them down. They had to ice them and put them aboard the trucks.

RL: Put them aboard the trucks.

LD: So, he had quite a gang there.

RL: The trucks went out of Woods Hole to go to New York. What did they do? Then they went to Providence and then went on a train to New York?

LD: No, no, no. They went right up to New York Fulton Fish Market the next morning.

RL: Because somebody told me they were transferred to a train and that is how...

LD: Same as they were doing in New Bedford, Elridge. (Tshawn?) was buying a lot of fish from Sam Cahoon.

RL: Tshawn?

LD: I told Sam one day kiddingly in there – of course he knew his business. I didn't know it. But I said to Sam, I said, "Sam," I said, "Where's our fish going?" He said, "Tshawn is buying most of it, Louis." I said, "Well, he's making a barrel of money." He said, "I don't care." I said, "He's making a barrel of money in the black market on the fish you're selling him." Because we went dragging after the scallop trips and we didn't get no more black market. We decided dragging would be the best thing. The government had a set price on haddock, cod, flounders, lemon sole.

RL: This was during the war, now you are talking about?

LD: Yes. So, Sam paid us the prices of whatever the government regulations were. But in New Bedford, they paid as much as a dollar something for a yellow eel.

RL: You are talking about the conger eel, you mean?

LD: Yes. My brother-in-law got more money out of eels one time than I got from my haddock.

RL: Why? Where did the eels go? This was just for some nationality that liked to eat eel?

LD: See, they'd bring in 1,000 pounds of eels. A buyer wanted to get that trip, so he's bidding. There are three or four buyers bidding on that trip. So, this guy's got 1,000 or 1,500 eels. So, somebody puts 50 cents on the eels, now that's a good price. So, the next buyer says 75. So, the next guy says a buck. So, the other fish are all in line mostly with the rest of the prices. They might be a little bit higher. But he's got the biggest price on those eels. So, if I buy the eels, go for \$1.50.

RL: You want the eelpout.

LD: Yes, the ocean pout.

RL: Eelpout. I know there was a great Italian market for eelpout at one time. There was a big fishery going on in eelpout.

LD: Sure. So, this is what happened. Whoever paid the highest price for that thousand or 1,500 pounds or 2,000 pounds of eels, got the trip. Now, Sam wouldn't do none of that. So, I came to my wife the time they offered me the boat again. I said to my wife, "Gee, I don't know what to do." Now, I had children I had to bring up back then. My wife said, "Look –" I had to have somebody make up my mind because money can turn you a lot of ways. I said to her, "I don't know what to do." I got a chance to go into *Shannon*, old man Murphy. I stayed with Sam and I said, "Sam won't deal with the black market. He's already told me that. Now, we need money more than anything." That money wasn't too plentiful at the time. So, my wife said, "Sam Cahoon, in case you forgot, and the children, kept that boat tied up for three months while you were sick, sending you a check of every week. Have you forgot that?" That was the end of it. I said no way. So, I went down the pier the next morning and told Mr. Murphy, I said, "I'm going to stay with Sam Cahoon. He's an honest man. He gives me 100 percent and I'll stay as long as he'll have me." That's what I did. So, after the war was over, there was a lot of these guys up here who bought brand new boats and everything else.

RL: This was when, forty-eights or so around there?

LD: Yes, around that time after the walk. So, a lot of fellows bought their own boats. They did a lot of things up here. So, Sam had always promised us a part of the boats. One day we got talking, the skipper of the *B&E* and me, and said, "How can he do it? He can't do it." Yet, we knew he was an honest man. So, one day we were having a few drinks. We went down and sat down with Sam and talked to him. Like I said, the children. There's four children and they had a quarter of each of the boats. Now, how are you going to break into that? You can't do it. We sat down with Sam and told him so.

RL: Did Sam keep liquor in his office for the fishermen?

LD: Oh, no.

RL: Huh?

LD: Oh, no.

RL: But you were sitting down some other place having drinks?

LD: Oh, we were down to the bar, down to Leona's.

RL: I see. Down at the [inaudible].

LD: Yes. We came up to his office. So, we sat down with him. We started talking about it. He said, "Well, I'll tell you boys, I promised you a part of the boat, which can't be done. The children's getting them."

RL: Because this was the children quarter each?

LD: Yes. "So, if you see something you want and you come to me –" I worked nine and a half years. The other boy, he worked I think ten and a half years, something like that. So, I came in one trip after that, I don't know, two or three trips later. When I got in the office, Frances she saw. She couldn't tell me quick enough, "Eli's bought a new house." [laughter] I said, "Oh, yes?" I said, "Gee, (with Freddy?) I didn't think Eli had that much money." Then she said, "Oh, you know." I said, "I know what?" She said, "What pop promised you." Oh, yes. So, I thought this was pretty good. This was three or four trips later. So, before I got out of there that day when I saw Sam, after a while he settled up. He said, "Well," he said, "You're going to have to go up and see Eli's house he bought. He's got a nice house. He's got a brick house, a nice house."

RL: Eli, excuse me, was who?

LD: Eli Fortier. He was skipper of the *B&E*.

RL: Oh, he was skipper. Eli Fortier.

LD: So, I said all right. So, he said, "What do you want to do, Bob?" Well, I said, "I see a little boat down here in Woods Hole I was kind of interested in Sam." I said, "I'm interested more in a boat," because if I working with a boat, I can buy the house after I got something working for me. He said, "That's a good thought." Well, he said, "What boat is it?" So, I told him the boat. He thought for a while and then he said, "She's not worth it." He was the fellow that would tell you point-blank.

RL: He said this to you?

LD: He said blankly, "She's not worth it."

RL: He wanted you to get something better?

LD: Yes. Oh, I said, "That's what I want." Now, don't forget, he's making the donation. So, he said, "For you and for your family, your best bet was do the same as Eli, get you a house. Well, you pay for your house. If you want a boat, you'll have it. You get property." So, he talked to me for a while about it. Well, he says, "I got to talk to the missus." He's going to talk with her. No, I was found out when this happened. This was after Eli had got the house. He asked me if I'd seen it, so I'd found out. So, he said, "I'll talk with the missus." So, anyway, while I was out fishing, he talked with her.

ID: No, we had to move.

LD: Yes. We had just come back from Canada. We'd been up in Canada. We came back and we had been living in the house we were in for eight years. The woman's son wanted the apartment.

RL: You were still in New Bedford back then?

LD: Yes. So, anyway, when I came back, my wife had seen this house. Sam said, "Whatever you do, get plenty of land with it." Well, my boy lives next door. That was part of our land, it went up to the next house. When I came in, he said to me, "The wife has looked around and she's got a couple of places she wants you to look at when you get home now." So, anyway, I came home and that's when we bought this house. Today, now my son that's in the textile business that worked for Milliken, he received three different times a bonus of two, \$10,000 bonuses and one of 9,000.

RL: Sam did?

LD: Yes.

RL: I think that was just something that you – this is like a big family business.

LD: A lot of people.

RL: A lot of family here.

LD: This was way back in those years when they didn't do that. But there were a number of people with Sam Cahoon but they never told me. But I know that he did the same thing for them.

RL: Yes. I did not know. It was really something.

LD: He had those same people working for him for years, the same people. It was a big family. It was a well-run business.

RL: He was a fantastic businessman.

LD: Oh, yes. Young Sam, when the father wanted him to take over the business, he used to tell me, "Sam is –"

RL: This was young Sam?

LD: Yes. Young Sam was in high school and the father used to talk to me about him. He used to supply the team there in Falmouth with baseballs and uniforms and all that kind of things.

RL: Oh, yes, he was really active with the sports and football, hockey, and whatnot.

LD: Yes. Young Sam was quite a ball player, I guess. But the father used to say to me sometimes when we'd be alone, "The girl was the whole thing." Frances was a real...

RL: Frannie?

LD: She's the one that could have run that business and been very successful. She knew everything about it. She had been there so long and she was a very smart girl and a real nice girl.

RL: I have a feeling that young Sam was a bit spoiled.

LD: Well, everybody says that. I got to tell you this about him. Anyway, the father used to say he spent more time down the fire station than he did around the fish house.

RL: That was the great BS area there where the fire station was, the (Call farm?). [laughter]

LD: So, what happened, a few years later, I had a little falling out with young Sam. I said something to him. I said, "I knew a Cahoon that was a wonderful person. Oh, I knew a lot of Cahoons that were wonderful people." But I said, "I don't know what went wrong with you." Because we had a little argument that day. But the fall went two weeks after that. He asked somebody where I was because he hadn't seen me. They said, "He's aboard the boat." After that argument, I think he was kind of ashamed to come up and say hello. He said, "Go down and get him." Now, he became his father because that's the way the father was. When he asked to come and get me, then I went up and I shook hands with young Sam.

RL: He came down on the boat then?

LD: No, I went up to his office. I have to say it this way, what happened to young Sam in that business, he didn't want it. He was put in there.

RL: He was not interested in fishermen.

LD: He was put into that business. He didn't really want to go in that business. What happened, from what I hear, and I heard it from pretty good people, that they were scupping that summer and they were shipping a lot of fish down to Isaac Fast in Virginia. Before this thing was over, they kept sending a check up, but they wouldn't send the whole amount. He dropped quite a lot of money. These companies, they owe you so much.

RL: They took advantage of him.

LD: So, they really got at him. But as far as being a nice, young fellow, I took my hat off when at first, I didn't like what he did. But I found out he was a Cahoon. He was a real good boy. He didn't want that business. He was forced into it. I know if Frances had had it, it would have been a different story. But he is a good, young fellow. A lot of people didn't like him, but I did after I knew him well.

RL: What happened to the to the business?

LD: Well, of course he dropped quite a little bit of money in that deal on scup. Then I guess the mother, and they all got together, I guess, in the – I don't know just how it worked out. But the steamboat company wanted that business. They wanted to buy that property. So, the girl

Frannie was married. She didn't want to get in there.

RL: Well, the way Swede Nelson put it was, he said that after – I remember his words exactly – that after old man Sam passed away, he said the family started having meetings. He said it was Homer Smith.

LD: Well, he would know better than me.

RL: Ames from Osterville who was married to Rebecca, I guess.

LD: Rebecca, yes.

RL: He said that there was too much for Frannie and that Ken kind of got her out of there. This was a time, I guess, when the Steamship Authority was also interested in that property. But Swede quoted some figure on the amount of money that was lost. He said that the business went just like this or something. He said there were several people from New Bedford that offered to buy that business.

LD: Oh, yes, I believe that. Tshawn was probably very interested in that too.

RL: Well, Tshawn was one? It is really interesting.

LD: Newport, I think was interested in that.

RL: Newport?

LD: (Paris and Gola?) Price. They bought all their trucks. The big, Mac trucks, they bought them all.

RL: They bought all the trucks, you said?

LD: (Paris and Gola?)

RL: I think Woods Hole could probably use a fishing industry now, today. You see?

LD: Yes. Well, that young fellow started there. You know Borges, it's up here now. He started buying stuff at the end of the town dock.

RL: That is right.

LD: Then they started kicking or something.

RL: He was also over in Edgartown for a while too. Is that the same guy?

LD: He was in Vineyard Haven.

RL: He was a Vineyard Haven. Now, they're talking about putting a T on the end of the town dock and making some place where the boat could tie up. But you still have got the government owns all the property or the MBL owns all the property. One of the only areas left is, once somebody told me, I think it was maybe Ken Shepherd, but it is the area between where Henry Klimm ties up with the super horse and the breakwater coming off the fisheries there. There was an area where you could put in sloops there and have a proper place for fishing boats to tie up. Why is Woods Pole such a good port for a fishing industry?

LD: The way I see it and I'd have to say at that time, New Bedford came later to be the port it is today. But right at the time I'm speaking about, when all this activity was going on in Nantucket and the Vineyard, there weren't too many boats out of Vineyard Haven. Vineyard Haven had one or two boats, very small boats. Sam had a little boat, the *Three and One* too.

RL: There was the *Three and One*, the *B&E*, and the *Three and One and One* that the Cahoon family had part ownership?

LD: Yes. But I think there was money in other boats that we knew nothing about. It was kept quiet. I know he helped a lot of fellows out with boats. But why? Woods Hole was in between. So, the fellows in the Vineyard had to come to Woods Hole to get their ice. Then if they had, say a partial trip in, they could get rid of it and start the trip over. They could get their supplies there.

RL: They could get their gear and stuff there.

LD: They didn't have to come this long hike to New Bedford, which was another hour and a half or two hours to come up here and longer when they only had small power. So, it made a good spot.

RL: I heard the sand did amazing,

LD: On the mainland where they could get their trucks out of there. Then all those little places like Osterville and all the little places all along, Chatham and those, if they had fish to ship out, they could come up through there to Sam's.

RL: You mean Chatham? Is it before they had the Fishermen's Co-op, that used to be down in Woods Hole?

LD: Oh, yes. Well, I don't know how long with that time.

RL: But this was a point to connect to New York, you said, to add on?

LD: Yes, if they wanted. Some of them I think did. He had a terrific business on swordfish and lobsters in the summer.

RL: Did he?

LD: No.

RL: Who were the lobster fishermen around there?

LD: There was a fellow – oh gee, I can't tell you his name. Swede would know. There was a man that was lobstering out of there for a good many years.

RL: Who? Russell Grinnell? Captain Grinnell?

LD: Russell Grinnell?

RL: Yes.

LD: Russell Grinnell went fishing with me on the – he was killed in Gloucester. Is this the same Russell Grinnell you're talking about?

RL: No, but it may be in the same family. Russell fished out of Woods Hole. He fished on the *Captain Bills* too. He also fished squid for MBL with Henry Klimm.

LD: In what? The (Neanic?)?

RL: I do not know.

LD: Was that the Neanic?

RL: Yes. There was a Charlie Grinnell who was years and years on the Harbor and Waterways Commission of Falmouth. Then Russell who lived right there on Bar Neck Road, going out Woods Hole.

LD: Oh, this was another one.

RL: He was Captain Grinnell and he was a lobster fisherman.

LD: Well, the fellow had the little bit of a boat. She was probably, oh, 25-foot, something like that. He used to swing into Sam's there unloading lobsters. We weren't around that much. We used to see him come and go. I always said hi to the guy and he knew me to hi wave at me and like that. If you said, "What's his name?" I couldn't tell you. Then there was a guy down on the islands. (Johnny Olson?), I think his name.

RL: Oh, I have heard his name.

LD: Johnny Olson.

RL: Swede mentioned Johnny Olson too.

LD: He used to come in from Robinson's Hole, I think.

RL: From Robinson's Hole.

LD: Yes, one of them. I think it was Robinson's Hole, Johnny Olson. Then there were a couple of small boats used to come from Vineyard Haven, Oak Bluffs, (Cink?) Boys. Then there was – what's his name? The colored fellow from Oak Bluffs. You know that man?

ID: Who's that?

LD: That I took his boat there a few trips, the colored man. I can't remember names.

ID: That guy down the walk?

LD: He's still alive.

ID: Yes. We've seen him once.

LD: No, no, no, no, no. The *Getrude E.*

ID: Harris Divine.

LD: Harris Divine. He had the *Getrude E.* There might have been a few other lobster guys who came in. But Harris was dragging.

RL: But he handled lobsters all year round?

LD: Oh, yes, and swordfish. I'd seen in the summertime, Maddie cutting swordfish because we were scalloping. Then before we'd come home, we'd take a couple of days and go swordfishing. We had as high as thirty-six swordfish one trip and a trip of scallops 1,500 gallons of scallops. Most, not every trip, but we had number of trips we'd have seven or eight swordfish.

RL: Where were you fishing scallops then?

LD: We were fishing down the northern edge of Georges.

RL: What did you do? You [inaudible] swordfish out?

LD: We'd go off in the deep water coming home.

RL: Oh, I see. Out there in between.

LD: A lot of the scallopers didn't even know where the swordfish was. Us in the *B&E*, we brought in a number of swordfish. I got here about Sam. We brought in these swordfish and what happened was if we had our full trip of scallops, which was 1,500 gallons of scallops, Sam never took any boat share for the swordfish. So, this was extra money for the...

RL: This was beyond shark money almost.

LD: Yes. It was shark money between you and I. We don't say that because you're not supposed to talk about shark money.

RL: Oh, I see. [laughter]

LD: But this is what happened. I see us one summer we settled up for the scallops. Those days, cash money was put right in the envelope. Then we had 3,000 of yellowtails most every trip. So, we'd get paid for yellowtails and the next thing would be swordfish. This happened I think this summer of this boy I was talking about was with us.

RL: Who? Fog, you mean?

LD: Jess Fog. That was some of the money he got extra.

RL: Well, now, you used an otter trawl for your yellowtail and you used a scallop dredge for your scallops. Then you got swordfish too. So, you had three different kinds of fishing going on.

LD: Oh, no, no. When we went scalloping, the dragging gear would come off of that. We were strictly scalloping.

RL: So, you got yellowtail on your scallop gear?

LD: Yes, we did.

RL: Just like you get fluke in.

LD: Right. Now, I wanted to say so I don't forget it. There are a few things I wanted to say about Sam. I would like to put this in that I used to look at him as he was looking out the window where he sat in his swivel chair. He'd look out the window in the water. Many times, I'd see him. He was so witty and everything. He was so dry and witty about different things.

RL: Do you mind if I take a picture of you while you are talking right now?

LD: Yes. It's all right.

RL: I do not know if it is enough light, but I will just take it.

LD: I never, ever remember of Sam ever speaking bad about anybody, never in all my nine and a half years with him. He was one of those fellows, if you can't say something good about a fellow, why say something other than that. I often wondered who he reminded me of. He always reminded me of somebody, because there were days I went in when his hair was down over his forehead. I asked my wife about it, and I said, "Who does he remind you of?" She mentioned Will Rogers. The more I saw Sam and the more I looked at him, especially when he

had that hair down over his forehead, I thought how right she was. He had the wit to go along with it. He was just a great man. Everybody that ever knew him, that he'd come in contact with, just had to – he wasn't around with the fishermen. He was with the other people that he met. Everybody loved him. I made a special trip down to Woods Hole after he had died to go see where he was buried and say a few prayers.

RL: Did you really? That is in the Village Cemetery.

LD: I did, yes. That little boat with the little sailboat on the stone. Mrs. Cahoon, she was such a nice person. Came down with her white gloves on, some other lady with her after having a tea somewhere. Meet me and my hands all dirty and she wanted to introduce me to the woman. I'd say, "Well, my hands are dirty, Mrs. Cahoon. I'm going to get your gloves all dirty." "Well, what difference does that make?" These are real wonderful people.

RL: That is just amazing.

LD: My wife said many times, "You'll never work for anybody that was as good as Sam." That's the truth. I never have. He just was a wonderful man. Ms. Adams and Frances were in the office. I have to say, for Frances, she was outstanding. She remembered the days of our anniversaries. She remembered on a birthday, the children's birthday. Some of us fellows found out, we had forgot about it, and she'd always remember it. On that day, even when she didn't tell us about it, when we got in, we found out that candy had been sent to the house or flowers or congratulations of some kind. These were things that the skippers of the boat, like myself and Eli, we never mentioned until later years. My wife knows about it now, but at that time, she didn't really.

RL: Really?

LD: Yes.

RL: An amazing relationship.

LD: It must have been around 1941 I went in the boat. I was nine and a half years, so I got out in 1950. But I love Woods Hole. I go down there so often that I think of the, like I say, about the men that worked for Sam. Oh, they were great guys. They were all nice fellows, every one of them. Henry Klimm, what I know about Henry is he's still a heck of a guy. Swede Nelson, well, I can't say enough about him. He was always a real good fellow. Most of the people around there were.

RL: Did you know Buck Handy too?

LD: I must have known him. I can't say.

RL: I am to see him next. He fished out of there about the same period too.

LD: When you were fishing like that, when you were in those boats, you had a job to do. You

came there and this was it. You had to get this thing done. So, the one guy might be a little better than you or something. But there was a little bit of...

RL: Little competition going on there.

LD: Competition, yes. You tried to be up with them.

RL: That is amazing. Did you have anything to do with Clara Adams?

LD: Yes, Clara was a lovely woman. Very nice. Real nice. Oh, yes. You'd go in and she was always so nice to us.

RL: Did you know Millie too?

LD: Millie.

RL: Her husband died. He drowned. She was married. He worked for Cahoons. I am trying to remember his name.

LD: Oh, I must have known him.

RL: I can...

LD: I forget names.

RL: You go ahead and keep talking. I will look this up.

LD: Swede Nelson, did he mention the head man for Sam there on the buy-in, on the cone of the fish?

RL: No, I do not remember his name.

LD: Oh, this man was with Sam for years. Oh, I feel so bad that I can't remember his name because he was such a great old guy. When he was taking out your fish, he had charge of culling the fish out. He's real honest. That's one thing you never had to worry about down there. You got every pound of fish you sold and you've got your weight. The only other place that I see that's like that is Newport. Those Italian boys in Newport worked the same way that Sam Cahoon worked.

RL: Is that so? The Sam Cahoon of Newport.

LD: They were very friendly with Sam. But they're the same kind of people. You can be taken out of trip of fish and walk away and leave it, and you come back and even just 15 pounds or 12 pounds of fish is weighed up. That's the way it was down there.

RL: She is Mrs. Raymond D. Wells now, Millie. Oh, hell, I guess it is on the tape. But I do not

have those notes here. But she was married to a guy. I will tell you what, they used to own a big dance pavilion over in Oak Bluffs. But now where the bank is over there.

LD: Well, what did she do, work in the office?

RL: Yes, she worked in the office in the 1920s.

LD: Then I must have known her. The two that I would see...

RL: Because she told me a very funny story about taking the children over to get Easter clothes coming over to New Bedford. She went over there and her father had given Cynthia and Sammy and Rebecca, they'd given them some money to go shopping. But she took them over into Bedford and she said they went into the five-and-dime store because she would meet (Roy Berg?) over there, the guy used to be with the Coast Guard or something, on a Saturday night. She said that Cynthia disappeared with her money and went off. Then the next morning they sat down to breakfast and when Cynthia came in, she was just covered with lipstick and rouge and everything else. Apparently, she'd gone off and bought all this stuff in the five-and-ten cents store and really decorated herself up. Millie tells this story about that because she was very close to the father who lived above the fish market, the old man.

LD: That was Maddie.

RL: That was Maddie.

LD: That was Maddie.

RL: That is who it was.

LD: Yes, that was Maddie.

RL: Because I read about him the other day.

LD: Oh, he was a nice man.

RL: When he was 95, he was the oldest man in Falmouth. There were a bunch of reporters and newspaper men down to interview him and take his picture and he would not allow them to come up. [laughter]

LD: Well, he's the one I told you.

RL: Is that the one?

LD: Yes.

RL: That is right, because he used to go down to the docks. Yes. So, this was Sam's father, is that the one?

LD: No.

ID: No.

RL: It was Sam's father who lived up there in that apartment.

LD: Oh, no.

RL: Then this is somebody else.

LD: That was Maddie.

ID: That was before you got down there.

LD: That was probably before I got there. Maddie was his man in the shop that did all the cutting of the swordfish and filleted the fish for him. To my estimation, he was Sam's right arm. He did all the things.

RL: This was Maddie.

LD: Maddie. He was the man I told you about, the way I heard the story, that he could have had the place before Sam. But he didn't think he could take it and Sam took it over and he worked for Sam all those years. Sam used him, well, like he used everybody. But Maddie was sort of special. When you start, you're two men start off together, this man, he had a little more for him than everybody. We used to take our nets and our doors and our things up in the field there.

RL: The place field up there? Oh, by the bell tower of the Catholic church.

LD: Yes. There's another thing I want to tell about. We fellows would be coming in on a trip. We'd come in and take the trip out. When the trip was out, they'd be gassing up the little trucks. They had small pickup trucks and they had them in good shape. They were painted an orange and black and Sam Cahoon on the front. They were kept right up. All his trucks were kept up, looked beautiful. They would have one of the trucks or two of the trucks out there, and they'd be gassing it up for the skipper and the men that wanted to go home. There was always money. Frannie would run to the bank to get money for us fellows.

RL: When you came in that summer.

LD: When we came in so we could go right home that night. If we came late before she had a chance to make out the settlement, she would ask me, "How much money do the boys need tonight?" So, whether it was \$50 apiece or whatever, within reason why they got the money. So, the truck was always ready for me to jump into or the other skipper to come home to New Bedford. Sometimes the crew, we didn't get our trip out. I might want to come home or the other skipper might want to come home, or one or two of the men, and the rest of men just will stay in and were held until the next day until we could take out that trip. So, they'd have that

truck all oiled and greased and ready to roll. This was a thing all the time. We came in one time; we took the main mast out of the *Three and One and One* as we were fishing.

RL: You took the main mast out?

LD: Yes. We were fishing in real bad weather. We brought down on a big bag of eels and haddock and stuff. We brought down our main mast, took it out. Our main mast, I'm wrong. Foremast.

RL: The foremast.

LD: We had an awful trying to get on that. We had three or four hours of really bad weather. So, anyway, we got it in. We got into Woods Hole and Sam was at the ball game. He was up to the ball field in Falmouth. So, I called Mrs. Cahoon and told her. The first thing they always asked was this, "Did anybody get hurt?"

RL: If you had some problems.

LD: "Did anybody get hurt? Well, nobody got hurt. The heck with the mast. That was only a minor thing." Now, I worked for people up here in New Bedford, and we had far less than losing the performance of our boat that they jumped up and down and sent you home, that you were almost out of your mind, but not the Cahoons. Anyway, "We won't tell Sam a thing about it because he's at the ball game. How much money?" This was on a Sunday we got in there in the afternoon. "How much money do you need, Louis?" I said, "Well, the boys are all broke." "Well, how much do you think?" Well, I said, "Whatever you can get together, it'll be fine." "Oh, now wait a minute," she said, "I suppose we'll have to have a couple of hundred dollars anyway. So, well, if you can find that much." "Well, we'll look around. So, you don't mind coming out to the house to get it, do you?"

RL: Oh, God. So, you walked up the street.

LD: So, I'd go up the street. It was nothing for me, I was only a young man. I walked up the street. They were so humble. If she told you one hundred, she probably had two or three. "Is this enough?" All she cared about so the men would have enough money to get home. Anyway, this is the way they were all the time.

RL: They had a truck that you could take off and go back to New Bedford, you mean?

LD: They always had a small truck sitting there.

RL: So, you would load this truck with the guys going back to New Bedford?

LD: Oh, yes.

RL: Oh, what a wonderful...

LD: They had one of the men that worked for Sam, I can't think of his name, now, he took care of those trucks. He had those trucks running in tip-top shape. I always did, anyway. I never abused the pickup. I always took good care of it and drove it the way it should. But they were just out of this world. I called them a few times in the wintertime when we were down off on Long Island fishing out there in the deep water in (a hundred patterns?). The first time we put a sounding machine aboard, I got into the New Harbor in Block Island in a blinded snowstorm and a living gale that some boats were missing at the time. When I called Sam, he asked me, "How in the world did you ever get in there?" I said, "Sam, that sounding machine is outstanding. This is a wonderful thing. We sounded our way." He said, "What?" In all those rocks, we sounded our way in there and got into the New Harbor. A man towed me and picked me up in an old car that I didn't even know in Block Island, and said, "Young man, get in the car with me and call your families because they must be worried about you. This has been a terrific storm." Took me in town and I called Sam and then I called my family. Now, the *Three and One and One* and the *B&E* was the first two boats around here that had radio telephones installed.

RL: They were the first ones, is that so?

LD: They were the first two up to my knowledge now. I'm pretty sure this is correct. There were very few boats we had them in for quite a few years, but we were the only two boats after that other started.

RL: Did they have direction finders?

LD: They didn't. When I went in her, yes, they had a DF. We were the third boat to put the LORAN in.

RL: You had LORAN?

LD: We had it put in by, this was after the war, by – what's his name there in Woods Hole? What's his name?

RL: You mean who worked at the Oceanographic?

LD: Yes. Bob. We put in the fourth one. This is when the LORANS came in after the war. He was selling them. What is his last name? Bob?

RL: Oh, I know who you mean too.

LD: Now, here's what Sam said to me. Listen to this one. We were going to put in a new DF because I was ill. When I got in from fishing. Sam says, "I've heard about they got some kind of a machine over there," he says, "At Oceanographic that they call LORAN." He said, "The way they tell me about this, Louis, you better look into it. The boat could turn over and you'd still get your position where are you at?"

RL: [laughter]

LD: He says, "You see Bob Walden."

RL: Oh, Walden. I know Bob Walden.

LD: He says, "You see Bob Walden." Well, you ask Bob Walden about me. He says, "We'll put in the LORAN." So, I went to see Bob. When I got back, I said, "Sam, I think you're on the right track, because this is something I think we need and we'll forget about the DF." We put in the fourth one. We were the fourth boat. The boat before us was the *Ursula Norton*, *Ike Norton*, *Ursula Norton*, and we were the next. I had to learn it that day while I was in Woods Hole. Bob Walden gave me one lesson on that set, and then he took off and he said, "Captain, now you go ahead." I was there with my oldest boy. He was in high school. I said to the boy, I said, "Al, now you've been here all the time this man was showing me this set. You got to help me with this." He said, "Dad, forget it."

RL: This one had the waves on it and what not recording there?

LD: Yes. He said, "I'll never know that thing. Not the way he told you." When we went out of Woods Hole, I worked on the set. I had a man meet with me. His name was Charlie Conroy. He was a graduate of the Nantucket Nautical School in the Canal. Yes. He was in the Coast Guard.

RL: That was called the Nantucket Nautical School then?

LD: Yes.

ID: Massachusetts Maritime.

RL: Now, it is Mass Maritime.

LD: Yes. He was in the Coast Guard Service, this man, skipper of a 75-foot cutter during his career. After that, he went into the rum business. Mostly, a lot of Coast Guard skippers did that.

RL: He went into the rum business.

LD: Yes, on one of the speed boats. But Charlie was a well-learned man on navigation. He could go anyway. He was with me the time we got into Block Island.

RL: In the storm, you mean?

LD: Yes. In that snowstorm, he said, "What you just did, I would have never attempted." He said, "Louis, you got something, I don't know what it is." This was before all these electronics came to be used. Anyway, where did we get back on shall we now?

RL: With the LORAN?

LD: So, we got the LORAN and I worked on that LORAN. I didn't get a bearing until we got to

Pollock Rip Lightship.

RL: But you had 1H3 and 1H4 then?

LD: Yes. When I got there, I finally got a bearing that looked good enough for me to think I got the bearing, and I think it was. Now, when a man that's well-educated to electronics shows you, at that time, how to run one of these machines, he's telling you in his words how to do it, which sometimes is...

RL: A little technical?

LD: Yes.

RL: Yes, I know.

LD: For a fisherman like myself to turn around and show Charlie how to do this, after I once learned it, it was nothing. I just told him, "You got to have this knob here, Charlie, and this and that and the other thing."

RL: [laughter]

LD: With our own kind of talk. So, there were a lot of men coming into the business and that were buying and then trying to learn, "Oh, these machines, how do you run them?" We fellows that had some of the first ones would call them and say, "Look, you got to do this or you got to do that," when they're having troubles. Before I left Woods Hole, Bob Walden got so busy at Oceanographic that he came to me one day and he said, "Louis." This is after I had been with him for a couple years. He said, "We're sorry, we can't keep you any longer." I said, "Well, who am I going to go to, Bob?" "There's a man in New Bedford and his name is Harold Doll. This is a man that I recommend."

RL: Harold Doll?

LD: Yes. Well, I came to New Bedford and I went to Harold Doll. This man is in business today in New Bedford. I know there's a lot of people here doing it today, but there's nobody that's any smarter than that man on a LORAN. If I had a brand-new boat here tomorrow, and I was going to put LORANs in it, he's a man would do it. But now Bob Walden at this time was the crackerjack, and he's the one that recommended Doll.

RL: That is amazing. I just cannot get over that.

LD: You tell Bob Walden –

RL: I will. I will call him up when I get back.

LD: You tell him that Louis said that when we left Woods Hole that time, he said to me, "I can't take you any longer." The Cahoon boats were noted that when the job is done, you are paid.

There were a lot of them didn't do that. They had to wait a long time. But the Cahoon's boats, the money shipyards, they'd love to see you come there. They knew their money. He said, "Go to Harold Doll in New Bedford." I told Harold this a number of times. They just had an article in about Harold in one of our papers here, I think last year. I don't know if I got it here somewhere. He's a good friend of mine. If you tell Bob that, he's going to laugh and say, "That guy still remembers what I said that day?"

RL: Oh, that is fantastic, Louis. That really is. Well, Bob is a nice guy. I think he is probably retired.

LD: Oh, these types of people are. We felt awful bad when we heard he couldn't take care of us anymore.

RL: He has an old, old Volvo station wagon, I remember that. About a sixty-eight and he still has it, I think. Very, very nice person.

LD: On the bow of the *Venture I* out of Boston, they put an aerial on her bow. This is way back. They were using the DF, I think, at that time. Then you would put this thing on your mark buoy when you were fishing. You could send out a message. You picked that up. You could pick it up on your DF, certain wavelength.

RL: Which vessel was this?

LD: Oh, this was *Venture I* out of Boston Westerbeke.

RL: Out of Westerbeke.

LD: William Westerbeke, the spit up price.

RL: Were they doing research or something there?

LD: No. He had three vessels. He had the *Vagabond*, the *Venture I*, and the *Vandal*.

RL: But he was locating his gear this way. I see.

LD: Well, shortly they just started to work on it and it was starting to work out very good. We guys were saying, "This is going to be great." Suppose we go off on our buoy, we use our DF to pick it up. The government came in and stopped it. They couldn't do it no more.

RL: The government stopped that?

LD: Yes. It was interfering some way with...

RL: In other words, the signal was interfering with some other radio frequency or whatever.

LD: Yes. So, they blocked it. Of course, after that the LORANs came out. Now, I got a story

right here where I always thought it was your friend, Mahoney, put that in. But he says no. If he read the article, I think it would bring him back to it. But while I was in the Eldridge, we lost a net. We lost the complete works. A few weeks before that, I picked up a rig from out there in the deep water that a Stonington boat – no Point Judith boat had lost.

RL: Point Judith boat?

LD: Yes, and we brought it in. They came to the other house and got it. I lost the net complete, all but the doors but we parted our wires.

RL: Whereabouts?

LD: On the shoals.

RL: On Nantucket Shoals?

LD: Yes. The minute we lost it, of course as soon as I could, they dropped the buoy. But we had drifted quite ways. The tide runs in the middle of the ocean. So, my mate was coming on. I left my mate in charge to make some tows back and forth. There was another boat there with us, and I told them what happened to us. I called them on the phone. I said, "We're going to rig on our doors with a wire and put out a couple of anchors on it to try to hook this." But this is looking for a needle in the haystack. Well, anyway, it was the end of the week, so we had plenty of time. They would have paid us to come home. We had part of a trip in, so we did this. We rigged it up. Mate was on his four hours towing, trying to pick it up. This man was under the boat. He was engineering with me and mate. Was a very conscientious and good man. He worked all his watch. When I got up, he said, "Louis, you might as well forget about it and we go home." I said, "No." I said, "We still got plenty of time, Al, to get home. I'm going to put in my watch anyway and see what I can do." So, I started running tows on the thing. I put the jack and I put paper down and felt about where I was fishing. I had a better idea than him because I was on for eight hours when he was only one four. I think I made three tows or four tows. The fourth tow I hooked it. Now, I hooked something which I didn't know whether it was it or not. So, I gave her the power, and then we stopped hauling back and I kept her coming ahead so she wouldn't unhook. We got the net back. I'm wrong on my story because this was – I think we put in something like ten or twelve hours before I finally did that. Anyway, we got the net back. Of course, it was a mess. We had lost 100 fathoms of brand-new cable. It all went. When she parted, she parted everything. What happened? We weren't using that much cable there, but we had run our wires off.

RL: She parted wires to the doors?

LD: We run off our wires to rewind them because it was loose on the drum and it fell over. So, we ran them all off of the drum, which was old wire, and then we started to bring it back. As it was steering it on and we just got it on good and tight, before we got the old wire on, parted.

RL: You mean?

LD: We fetched up and she parted. One wire went first. We thought sure we were going to get it, come over the top of the other wire, but no, sir. Before we could swing around in the tide, bingo, the other one went. We rigged up the old wire and we rigged up with an anchor and we started to abort it. We got the gear back, all 100 fathoms of cable. We mended up the twine. We even took, and we opened the cart-in, the fish was still good in the cart-in, everything was good. We put about three needles of twine back in that net and put it back overboard and finished that trip. Mahoney says he didn't write it. I'm sure it was Mahoney that wrote that.

RL: It was Mahoney that wrote, you think?

LD: Well, he didn't write it. What he did was notify the newspapers and they took it from there.

RL: Jack would be into this. I can see.

LD: Oh, they were nice filaments. I always get the wound good when I'm down there.

RL: How are you?

ID: Fine.

RL: Tired?

ID: No.

LD: I'm trying to give them as much information as I can, that's really all.

RL: Oh, it is really amazing. We were just talking about Bob Walden who installed the first LORAN that he ever had on the boat.

LD: Before that we had a DF and Bob –

RL: The direction finder.

LD: We put in the either the third or the fourth, I think it was the fourth LORAN. So, this was the best thing that ever happened for fisherman when they put that in. I thought the sounding machine was, when I told Sam.

RL: What kind of a sounding machine did you have?

LD: We had a regular fathometer.

RL: This was the Raytheon Forter, the old one?

LD: That's right.

RL: The flashing one with the red...

LD: That's right. That was the first one. The first device we had of sound. I was in the *Three and One and One* when that went in. Before that I had been in the *Isabelle*, then I was in the *Sanctity*, then I was in the *Gay Head*. I spent about six years in those boats with no sounding machines. We used to have the lead.

RL: There are a couple of things that I want to ask you about. One thing, did you know any of the people from the from the Bureau of Fisheries in Woods Hole, the old BCF?

LD: Gee, no. My crew used to go over once in a while and met up with some of those fellows. They brought them aboard the *Albatross* and some of those boats and they had supper with them.

RL: Aboard with the *Albatross III* or the *II*?

LD: No, the old *Albatross*.

RL: The *Albatross II*. The old *Harvard*.

LD: Yes, the old one.

RL: Which was the old *Harvard*.

LD: That's right. What would happen, that I don't know, they'd go for a few beers and then they – that's when we were dragging. It was in the dragging business and we'd be laying in Woods Hole and during the evening, well it was either go to the bar. There was nothing to do in the wintertime. So, the boys would go up and have a few beers. But it seemed every time that happened, I was never around. I don't know whether I came home or what. But I know they went aboard. Well, they knew some of them. There was a fellow from – lost.

RL: Did you know (Bob Goffin?)?

LD: No.

RL: He's married to (Nick Medallas?).

LD: Well, Nick, I know Nick.

RL: You know Nick?

LD: Oh, yes. He got into it in the end, didn't he? He was at it. There's a fellow down there now that's going – oh, Eddie. Oh, God. Anderson, he's down there now.

RL: Anderson, yes.

LD: Eddie Anderson. Great, big stuff. It's all about young size.

RL: Did you ever know of a guy named Bill Royce or Bill Harrington?

LD: Oh, I've heard of them.

RL: You heard of them [inaudible].

LD: If I'd met him, I probably only met them once.

RL: But you did not know any of the Setis? Did you ever know of Seti who did all the work on mackerel off this coast named Oscar Seti?

LD: These was some Oscar, yes.

RL: Did you ever know him?

LD: Is he kind of short?

RL: Yes, that is right.

LD: That is the guy.

RL: He did a hell of a lot of work with – you must know Bill Schroeder.

LD: Huh?

RL: Bill Schroeder from the Oceanographic?

LD: Yes, that name sounds familiar.

RL: He went out with Henry a number of times. The one that discovered the deep-sea lobster, the deep-sea crab. They used to go out up to 700 fathoms and drag on the old *Captain Bill*.

LD: You got to remember that Henry was with him. This was a great thing for Henry. He got with them.

RL: To get these steady contracts with the Oceanographic.

LD: Well, he is a Woods Hole man. It was good he got it and I'm glad he got it.

RL: But he is a fine guy.

LD: Yes, he is.

RL: I think that some of these younger guys, I don't know whether they really respect him or not. But I think he probably taught them a lot of things that they know, some of the hard-bottom fish and whatnot.

LD: Yes, he sure has. He's a very successful man. Of course, his father before him was in it. But it seemed like whatever Henry touched, it turned to gold. Even in his filling station there that he had.

RL: Who? Henry had a filling station?

LD: Well, yes. He bought that place there. I don't know. They made an underground. Did they make an underground, the garage or something? Do you know where Hanks is?

RL: Right there behind Cahoon's, you mean?

LD: Hanks is here and then there's a garage next door. Maybe it isn't there now.

RL: There is a garage here. That's what the extension has.

LD: Is it Texaco?

RL: No, it's Gulf.

LD: Gulf. Henry fought that a number of years ago. Now, this is the way I heard it. Henry will probably tell you something different, but this is the way I heard it. So, Henry bought it. He had it one summer, I think, and he changed it to some other. It has always been a Gulf or whatever it was. Whatever it was, it had that gas. I think it was Gulf. So, he changed it to some other thing. This man comes to Woods Hole every summer. One of the head men of the Gulf Oil Company. Got a big estate down there. He comes down, he drives by there, he sees another gas. This is the way the story was told to me. I'm pretty sure it was true.

RL: I think that sounds right.

LD: He told Henry, "You've got to find out who Henry was." He looked him up. He says, "You changed that back to Gulf. I've been coming here for a number of years, and I want that changed back to Gulf." Henry's a businessman. So, they'd come together and he told Henry about parking cars there in the summer that he would go to work. There was some say that he was going to build so they could park cars underneath the garage and do a lot of things. But he would put that station in a one shade, and he would do a lot of things. Anyway, but Henry agreed with them, and I guess he got a little piece of change for it. I think Henry sold after that. Whether he sold it back to them or how he did it. But they said he got it.

RL: Might have [inaudible].

LD: You know, with his boats now, and all the boats I know, the little *Captain Bill* when he had her, that's the one that – what's his name was in them a long time?

RL: Who? Swede?

LD: Swede used to take it when Henry didn't go. When he sold her, he made Swede quite so mad. He made way more money than what she cost. Then he had the other *Captain Bills* and every *Captain Bill*. That's why you could see that he wants that *Captain Bill Dave* on there, because every one of them, he made a load of money, even to the last one he sold up here.

RL: Of course, now he's getting the same things from the Gulf money.

LD: Henry must have left.

RL: Well, he has got a nice place there over on Ransom Road there.

LD: How many children did Henry ever have? One boy, was it?

RL: Well, there is one boy who was on the boat with him.

LD: Yes, there was a boy that was on the boat with him. That's his family. Or was there a girl, do you know?

RL: I am not sure. I do not know this. I should.

LD: Well, that's the only one I know too. The one that's on the boat. Is he running the boat now, is he?

RL: He and his wife had the little house there below the school there when they started out in 1934. You see these guys started in 1934.

LD: I remember his father.

RL: Henry came from Hyannis, Swede came from (Pitoms?), and Ken...

LD: Ken came from the Vineyard, didn't he?

RL: Ken came from the Vineyard, that's right. They all started there during the Depression about 1934 and fishing out of Woods Hole for Sam Cahoon.

LD: What is he doing now, Ken?

RL: Ken?

LD: Is he retired?

RL: His back is in pretty bad shape. But Swede told me that he was with him when the ice came down on him and hurt his back. Well, he worked for the Green Boatyard for a while building on some sort of a special skiff there.

LD: When my children were small, Frannie used to come every Christmas and send them cards,

and then she'd come to the house here and leave presents for the children.

RL: She would come over here?

LD: Yes. The last time she was here, she was buying – they had dogs down in Scoticut Neck here. They were hound dogs. She was buying a pack for Sam. She came up to buy when she came here first. For me it was Frannie more than the others because I used to see them. They used to come once in a while. I can remember Cynthia, because during the war, her husband got out of the service and that was a big celebration.

RL: When Homer got out to Maine?

LD: He was coming home. She came in the office. Is this on?

RL: Yes.

LD: I don't want to...

RL: Okay. Now, you were talking about Frannie and Cynthia. But I think we have covered that. Now, there is one other thing that that I wanted to ask you about. Loretta, when she was talking to me, told about your dad. How it was during the Depression and he had a lot of mouths to feed and so he started his rum running. She said she was always very teed off at the guy at *The Vineyard* who wrote this up. Was it Edward Allen who wrote this up? I am not sure. But it was somebody because he never pointed out that it was during the Depression and that guys had to make a living. She said that he did not want to break the law any more than any other man did.

LD: Right. Absolutely. I'll tell you exactly what it was like. I was with my father at the time. Now, we were working for a man here in New Bedford that had a barroom. He had a speakeasy or whatever. He owned this boat, him, and this other man. This other man, Mr. Rose, he went skipper the boat. He had diabetes or something, and took sick. The boat was brand new, and they asked my father to take the boat. He took the boat that winter, and he done really well in it. The *Atlantic Fishman* magazine, he was highline boat for this area in the *Addy May*. I got the clipping somewhere here in the book. We were rated as a high boat in this area for yellowtails. She was only a small boat. Anyway, so the next summer, Mr. Rose decided he was well enough to go netting in the boat, and he was going to go swordfishing. This boat is brand spanking new. So, my father gets through because he knew when the man is well enough to come back. Well, that was the agreement. So, the boat went down to Atlantic City, New Jersey netting. They didn't do much. They didn't find too many fish. The man was sick most of the time.

RL: When you say netting, you mean they were not dragging?

LD: Catching mackerel.

RL: Oh, they were seining?

LD: Yes. Not seining, they used to set these.

RL: Oh, gillnets.

LD: Gillnets. So, what happened was the boat came back to New Bedford and now they've had a poor season at netting. Now, my father had her all winter dragging and done really well in it. They're spending this money now. So, they get back in town and they're rigging her up for swordfishing. Mr. Rose is doing his best to try to go back in the boat. Every day, he's getting worse. After a month or so when they getting the boat ready, she's almost ready to go, he can't go. So, the first thing, my father was in some other boat, and they waited until he got in and they approached him and asked him if he would take the *Addy May* swordfishing. Because he was sword fishing for years with the fellows out of the vineyard. But he wasn't too happy about doing swordfishing. He had enough of it. They had their good years and poor years. He thought that dragging was the best thing to do. But now they got the boat all rigged. If she wasn't rigged, he could have talked them into changing oil and whatnot. She was rigged, so they wanted to go swordfishing. So, that's when I went netting and then I'd come swordfishing with them. Now, we went swordfishing. We had a very poor year. Nobody had a good year that year.

RL: You remember what year this was?

LD: Well, I was about 19 years old now. If you can go back from 1911 until I was 19, say 20.

RL: So, it would be 29 or so? 1929?

LD: Yes, around that time. So, anyway.

RL: But there was no swordfish then is what you're saying.

LD: Well, everybody had a poor year that year. The Gloucester boats had a poor year. We all had a poor year with swordfishing.

RL: In other words, the fish was no good. There was nothing.

LD: No. We had one really good trip and the rest was very poor. So, we came up to New Bedford and we're going to go dragging. So, they rigged the boat up. Now, they're going to forget Rose. He's too sick to go. So, Mr. Jay said, "Louis, we hope you stay in the boat." So, he said, "Yes, I will." So, we're going to get her ready for dragging. So, we went out and we made a few trips dragging. We had good trips, but no prices. The bottom fell out in the spring of the year. It does every year.

RL: This was also Depression.

LD: It does right now. In the spring of the year, everything drops. Prices of last year, they had to put fleet. They tied up. They were raising the devil above the prices. We've seen that every year. You get a glut of fish and that's it.

RL: Well, this is during the spawning season for the cod, the haddock.

LD: Yes. The old man knew inside the Sounds like a book. He knew Nantucket Sound, Vineyard Sound, and all in places because years ago, where they used to have to go. So, one day it was blowing hard wheels off of Norman's. There was a lot of yellowtails off of Norman's. So, we had a part of a trip and it came a strong northwest wind. So, pop said, "I think we'll go inside." The fellows fishing inshore, he really had to know that place because you could lose the net and all that stuff. So, we came off of Quick's Hole and we stopped towing around there. He was getting marks on the land, houses, and things. So, while we were towing, they're the first thing we fetched up. We had made two or three tows and we were getting quite a lot of flounder. So, we fetched up and he couldn't take enough of them. There's no hangup here. He got his bearings together and everything. Come to find out, we fetched up on a rummy that they had lost a couple of nights before that fourth boat. So, when we brought the net back, we brought back part of her rail. The name of the boat was the *High Queen*. We brought her rail in. Now the bums and everything were brand new. You could see the wood was brand new. So, we had this little Portuguese fellow engineer, and he said, "I'll bet that was Frank Butler's *High Queen*. He lost her here last week sometime and was loaded. So, this is how we got in the rum business. Now, see, I know the story.

RL: I think that is something. I cannot get over that.

LD: So, we came in the Pier III. During the night we moved the wood from the boat into our shanty. We had a shanty. There were about twelve or fifteen shanties on the dock then. We moved it in, cut it in half so we could put the two pieces in. We wanted somebody to look at this at new it. Frank Butler was our man. Frank was in the fishing business for years. Made a pile of money from it.

RL: Well, did you bring this bullet up or something or what did you do?

LD: It got caught on the net, so we brought it up. The top rail of the boat, one piece of it. So, we brought it in. So, Louie Sears got in touch with Frank Butler that night. Now, we're at home. We lived up near St. Luke's Hospital at the time. I was just married then. It was me and my wife, was living with my mother and father. So, first thing, this great, big limousine drives up and they want to see my father. You just looked at the car, you know who was driving those kind limousines.

RL: [laughter]

LD: You know Peter Grant from Nantucket, Commodore Grant of the yacht club. Peter, he made a pile of money in the business too. Peter was a lieutenant, service in the Navy.

RL: Is Bob Grant of that family?

LD: Bob was Peter's son.

RL: He was on the yellow cross for Bob.

LD: Well, Peter was the commodore of the yacht club there in Nantucket now. So, anyway, Frank Butler was like, "Pete –" he was, well – so, Frank had looked at it and he said, "That's my boat. Where the hell did he put it." Now, he sunk the feed before they got to beach. They hit the beach and then they jumped to shore and run up on Penikese. Not Penikese, Cuttyhunk.

RL: On Cuttyhunk.

LD: Cuttyhunk or Robinson's Hole, one or the other. I guess Robinson's Hole on Pasque. The boat drifted off. Well, she went off and then she sunk. So, the Coast Guard was firing at them. They had been firing at them. So, anyway, they had everything in them boats in. So, they had two Liberty motors, you go like a son of a gun. They had smoke they used to put up.

RL: Smoke screen? [laughter].

LD: Yes. So, anyway, what happened, there was another fellow that made a lot too, Tom Murray. He lived in Point Judith. Now, these are regular people. But they became very wealthy through that time. Anyway, so Frank comes up and sees my father, him, and a couple of other fellows. He said, "Louis, where did you get it?" I said, "Well, I know where I got it." Now, everybody needs money. Frank, we see them down the dock every day. They're going out on those speed boats. The Coast Guard is right there looking at them. They go out, you know where they're going. That night they're in, they're all down there with all sport cars, great, big limousines, everybody. Oh man, if you could get into that, but nobody could get in it. There were only certain ones they took in. So, my father said, "Well, what's it worth it?" Well, he said, if you can find a place, it'll be worth quite a little money. So, the old man said, "Well, all right." He said, "I got to get with the other fellows now and talk to them." So, Frank goes and he sees the other crowd and he talks with them. So, the deal was this, we got \$100 a day, whether we put our hands in the water or whether we didn't \$100 a day. My father got \$200 a day. He was skipping the boat. I don't know what the boat got. I know what I was getting. I know what the old captain was getting. They put two divers aboard from Crown and Shield Shipyard in Fall River. Now, we weren't doing anything unlawful. All we were doing was finding the object. They could do what they wanted after we found it.

RL: They could salvage it.

LD: So, we went out and Johnny Olson and (Nash Island?) he was in with them. They were all connections. Johnny was in on that deal. Johnny every week was making a report. He'd see us going out in the morning and see what we did. They would come into Robinson's Hole and we knew the keeper there. The keeper was Mr. Norton. We'd stop and we'd go to the farmhouse at night, play cards, and have a few cookies that Doris would make, and we'd have a good time. Of course, they didn't know what we were doing. But I think Doris knew my father was too much of a fisherman to be fooling around off of the island there. They knew something wasn't quite right, because they had known my father for years. He knew them when they were kids. But Johnny Olson was in on the deal with us. Well, we spent, I guess a week or just short of a week. We had her all hooked up. We had her ready to lift. That was our job. After that, we put the

divers down. We had the divers down one day when we had to haul them in a hurry, the Coast Guard was coming down on us. So, they were smart too. They used to go around the shipyards every morning. When they came to my father, they said, "What are you doing here? You've been here for a few days." He said, "We lost our net. We lost everything." Well, they said, "Is it worthwhile, all this troubles?" "Yes, with what gear costs for a boat." But then the fellow from the Coast Guard boat went down far. We had put the divers in this bunk and cover up. So, they came down far and the petty officer he just looked and he said, "Hey, Tom, when did you come from Crown and Shield?" They knew those guys like we knew them. They knew those divers. So, then they came back to my father wanting to know, "Can you afford to put a diver down for this net?" So, my father said, "Yes, we can." But then they start watching us closer. So, finally the thing got to the point, they wouldn't leave us alone. We couldn't put the divers down. So, we had a rough time and we left. We got home. Then Jerry Vincent –

RL: Oh, Jerry Vincent.

LD: – from Woods Hole got the job. Jerry got the job. They talked to them. They got the boat up on the beach. They went down there with speedboats and divers, and they unloaded every bottle was in that boat. Mr. Fitzgerald, in our custom house here, was blowing his top. The papers were lying how he was going to have that boat. They went down with Taylor's lighter, took the brand new 80-foot rumrunner and brought her to New Bedford and he was going to have – they didn't even find a stopper in her.

RL: She was empty all the way.

LD: Not a stopper was left in her. The boats were gone and everything. [laughter] But we got a week out of the deal. Jerry got, I think, a little more than we got. I think he got a week and a half or two weeks. He got a little more money than we did. But nobody knew Jerry was even on this. I'm telling you something that they'd probably – but that was the two.

RL: So, was this the beginning of it then?

LD: So, then, now we're connected with them, right? So, now the two speedboat captains are on a bunk. [laughter] They had two speedboats. They had the *Hobo* and they had the – what was the other one? *Frank Korea*. So, the owners approached my father. Now he said we had a chance to go pick up all the booze. Two trips like that we'll have our boat paid for. We've got a sick man here that's dying. He's got every dollar he ever had into this boat.

RL: This was Rose?

LD: This was Rose. Mr. Chase, of course, was in that kind of business. So, it wasn't new to him. He was a very nice guy. Very nice man. So, this was Depression times. Fish was sold for quarter of a cent a pound. We were a big family, so many problems for the fishermen. This was the only time because he really loved this country. He wouldn't do anything to hurt this country. But after people talking of him, and so he did it. The results were that we made three trips. On the fourth trip, we were not taught.

RL: Where did you use to drop it off?

LD: We dropped it right there just beyond Falmouth where the breakwater is there. [inaudible]. The guy had a nice, great, big house there. We used to go right under his cellar with the boats.

RL: You mean you too had a boat that went in from the...

LD: Small boats came to us.

RL: Small boats.

LD: We'd just go outside the breakwater. Then when we were offshore, of course, the big boat would come up and we'd go and load up.

RL: What kind of a boat was this you loaded up to?

LD: The (Kamasia?) was her name.

RL: What was her name?

LD: Kamasia.

RL: Where did she come from, the Virgin Islands or something?

LD: No, she came from Saint Pierre.

RL: Oh, from San Saint Pierre?

LD: Yes.

RL: From Saint Pierre? Oh, Jesus. I did not know that.

LD: The island off of Miquelon.

RL: Off Miquelon.

LD: [inaudible] What do they call it?

RL: Saint John?

LD: No. Saint Pierre.

RL: There is another out here. I know where Saint Pierre is though.

LD: Yes. They had two men on the pilot house with glasses looking all the time. They had radio apparatus on board. Here's what happened to us getting caught. Now, here's how that

worked. This is the truth I'm telling you. People were paid off to let you do this. The night that we were taking our load that we got knocked off, the skipper of the cutter, the 75-footer that was patrolling Vineyard Sound and Nantucket Sound would stop. Nobody knew about his boat but him. He would stop in Vineyard Haven and put a call in to our owners. They would say, "Our load is going to come through tonight through [inaudible] channel bound for the Falmouth or wherever." You'll be somewhere else. Now, this is why he put the call in. Now, he had no witnesses. Nobody could say that man wasn't on patrol. He would be patrolling probably in between Mosquito Channel and Nantucket when we thought he was coming up for Falmouth with no lights and running inside. We were a slow boat. This is how the thing was done. In New York City, there was a boat, the *Kathleen*, great, big dock, 80 or 90-foot long, big schooner and another one. They never got caught during the rum time. They were running steadily to New York City and up in Long Island. From the reports that we know were true, some big people right in Washington D.C. had money in this.

RL: Loretta said you would be surprised of some of the big names in Falmouth that were in this business.

LD: Now, this was supposed to be thrown out. It was thrown out. After the thing was over, it was tossed one side. It was nothing. We never spent no time in jail.

RL: I remember reading about it in Snow's book as a matter of fact.

LD: But I thought that. I didn't think. Now, here's what happened. Mr. Snow came down to Loretta's house to give an interview with my father. He brought about a dozen people with him, from what I understand. My oldest sister, Margaret was there. Margaret's sort of the spokesman for all of us. Rightly, she was never in when the deals were going on with the booze like I was. Now, I was at sea at the time. I was in the *Three and One and One*. I could have been in some other boat at the time. Never mentions me at all in there, that, "Oh, I have a brother that's —" some little thing about me. About my brother being lost at sea is in there. But it says very little because I think Mr. Snow had wanted to get in touch with me. My wife, she was there, but she said there were so many that you couldn't talk the way you wanted.

RL: Oh, you mean you could not relax at all.

LD: No.

RL: That would drive me nuts.

LD: Too many. My father was very old at the time. So, this is how we got into this thing. Believe me, if it hadn't been for the way it worked out, that the owners were in it, they wanted him to do it. Boats weren't too plentiful at the time. I'll tell you how bad it was at that time. I had a 29 Ford, and we took the back seat out of the car, and we went out near up towards Horseneck Beach, Westport. My father went into these farmers and asked him if he could go in the back and cut some wood that long for our furnace in our house. He showed us a place and he said, "Cut away." My father said, "How much do I owe you?" He said, "You see me when you're done cutting." My father started cutting, and I helped him. That's when I was on the boat

with him. I helped him chop the tree. Then after we chopped down five or six trees and we had enough to load the back of the car, and I loaded it right to the roof, I started for home. He had made bends all around the cellar, right clean around. I started loading them. We filled our cell a chunk full of those pieces that long. When we got through, we went to the farmhouse. My father said, "How much do I owe you?" He said, "Did you get you enough to fill your cellar like you told me you wanted to?" My father said, "We got plenty." Well, he said, "If you give me \$6," he said, "I'll be very happy." \$6. That's right. So, we filled it up. Now, many time after that, I had to go to that farmer and bring him codfish and stuff like that. My father appreciated what he did. We went out there a number of times bringing in codfish and flounders and stuff. But he wouldn't have got into that mess. That's how he got into it. At that time, my mother would make a soup bone, which she was a wonderful cook. She'd make a soup bone. I think the cost of it was 69 cents. That fed about eight of us. She made a barley soup. We still make it in this house. It's wonderful.

RL: Where you had the stock, you mean, and then you put...

LD: Yes, you use the soup bone. My wife makes that.

RL: It literally cooks for hours. My mother did this in the chest iron pot.

LD: We put barley. Well, we never went on welfare. Well, there was no welfare, but we never went to any aids of any kind, which there wasn't too many at that time. There was eight of us in the family. I'll tell five girls and three boys. We never had to beg. During the big strike here in New Bedford, they had soup lines in the mills. We were living here at the time. We never had to go with a pale to get a pale of soup. We managed to live and we never went hungry or we never were cold. My mother and father were both wonderful to support the children. When I got big enough to work, I worked. I didn't have to. My father had that big boat then, I didn't have to. He was going to buy me a new car when they lost the boat that year. But I worked every summer. I wanted to work. I wanted my own money.

RL: How much did you get paid for rum? Did you only get you \$100 a day?

LD: Oh, no, no. That was on that wharf.

RL: (That was on Nantucket Sound then?)

LD: We got so much a case.

RL: You got so much a case?

LD: Yes. At that time, I think they were paying somewheres around \$4 or 4.50 a case.

RL: It would be sold for a fantastic amount.

LD: Oh, yes. We had assortment of liquor. We had all kinds. You got to go back in that time. Our cargo was worth somewheres around \$100,000 the trip that we were caught. I had one

bottle at home here when I had six compartments, all different kind of liquors.

RL: But the thing was now...

LD: We had eight-forty-some cases.

RL: You had eighty-forty cases. What would they get for it ashore then?

LD: Oh, we don't know.

RL: But they got plenty, did they not?

LD: Oh, absolutely. We were the bottom of the heat. They got the money. But that was big money too. Usually, on a trip the crew got about \$150 for a night's work. Really, it was a night's work. That was big money.

RL: Did you know a guy named Prince Stewart?

LD: Say it again? Stewart?

RL: Stewart, yes. Prince Stewart.

LD: I can't think of the fellow who was down there in (White Quad?). But I'll tell you something...

RL: That is who it was, I bet.

LD: He had a big H on his back that he went to Harvard College and we went down to Cape Cod after this. We landed between Palmiet River Station and Cahoon's Hollow. They landed something like fifteen or eighteen hundred cases of liquor there that night. The Coast Guard come in and took us about 3:00 a.m. They got twenty people. They could have got us all, but they didn't. The station was tied in on it. But when the guy came on duty, they thought we'd be out of there at 3:00 a.m. We weren't. The cottage where we had this liquor, the bottom fell out of it. We had come from the big ships and dories landing the stuff on the beach.

RL: This was in [inaudible] you are talking about now?

LD: No, this was between Cahoon Hollow and the Highland Light.

RL: Highland Light.

LD: So, it was all a Boston gang. But anyway, we landed this on the beach. They put it into this cottage, and the bottom of the floor dropped out. So, then we had to remove this to another place. This delayed us. So, we would have been out of there. The commander of the station was paid off and the rest of the men were paid off, all but one. His name was Snow.

RL: His name was Snow?

LD: I'll never figured his name.

RL: [laughter]

LD: Oh, no. He fired a rocket in the air when he came on. The story goes, as it was told, that these two big brutes of men met him, put a gun to him, and told them they were going to blow his head off and all this kind of stuff. It wasn't so at all because I was right there when the deal happened. We were together with the two owners because we were running with probation on our back. We were on probation. So, they had to have dory men see and they used myself and my father and this other that was with us. They had three dories and we were doing the dory way. They were coming up to here in the water as we came ashore. You know what the Highland's like. The surf that runs there. Grabbing the dory so we wouldn't swamp. Well, when they approached this fellow, this guy from White Quad and this man from Boston, his name was Rosen. I think he was something to do with Grove. He had a stationary store in Boston. That's where we used to meet. But that was just a block. Oh, a big, beautiful stationary store, that's where we used to meet him. But they approached this young fellow and they told him, "Look, hey, that car." This kid only had to do was name his price. He should have known. What did the other guys do that was on duty all night. How come they didn't turn it in? So, what he did, they couldn't talk to him. He said, okay, he's going back to station. They said they would put the money wherever he said. They would meet him wherever they said. Just name his price. He agreed. When he got about a half a mile from them guys, he let off the flat. You know what that did? That lit that place up like daylight. When he approached the captain of the station, what could the captain do? He had the captain. The captain had to, "Come on fellows, let's go."

RL: Let's go.

LD: So, then he contacted the Cahoon's Hollow Station. So, the two stations came down on us. But believe me, they came in there and this is what they were hiking son of a bitches hike. Well, we were about one-fifty men there and boots on and everything. We were lucky to get away because I was wearing boots. But the guy from White Quad had a big H on his back. One of them Harvard –

RL: Harvard shirts?

LD: – football that they use in the cold weather. I stood with that H. That green H Boy, I kept my eyes on that. I grabbed him by the leg a couple of times because I was slipping back that up the hill.

RL: [laughter]

LD: Well, you know, the funniest thing look, they could've got us all, they were shooting blanks in the air.

RL: They were shooting blanks in the air?

LD: But they did get about twenty guys from Dorchester, Mass. I was so happy. Most of them were Jewish boys and they were around telling everybody what to do, Mr. Rosen's crowd. So, when we got all through and counted up, they had a halfway house. We got to the halfway house. A selectman in Provincetown took me to the halfway house and we picked up a gang because the road was covered with Coast Guards and everything. They were patrolling, state police, everything. So, we got to the halfway house and everybody was wandering in all day starving to death. They were cooking for us. They never did get there, but each one would come in. "What'd you hear about the guy in the Cape? How's the boys from Wellfleet? How's the boys from Turo?" This was the crowd was with us. We had guys in gasoline stations that was with us. "How's this crowd from Howard? How's the gang from Chatham? We heard all good reports. Somebody reported that coming in. They're coming in." The only ones we couldn't check was anybody that got caught was all the Boston gang from Dorchester.

RL: You mean the Rosen Bunch. That is fantastic.

LD: So, they did, they got about twenty of them. Plus, they got all the cars, they got all of them, left the cars. The only one who got away in a car was the guy Rosen from Boston.

RL: You mean the fancy car, you said, in the sports car?

LD: He got in a car and I'm telling you, it was terrific. We saw him go. When word got to him, when he saw that flag go, he jumped in his car. He had a big powerful car, brand spanking new. I'm going to tell you, I said to myself, "I hope to God there's no Coast Guard who falls in front of him when he comes down to that road." He went tearing down through there. Boy, they got out of his way. He got away. But the guy with the Harvard shirt, he was the other partner, which the silent partner. My father, him and me were under a shack. [laughter] It was bordered up underneath. It was a little place; we'd get under there. We were laying there soaking wet, cold, coming on daylight. My father said, "Damn shame all that liquor." He said, "Here we are freezing to death. What'd I do for a good drink of liquor right now?"

RL: [laughter]

LD: We never even got a bottle. The boss went and he pulled out a quarter out of his shirt.

RL: Who? The Harvard guy?

LD: The Harvard guy.

RL: He said?

LD: This is a thing we would have gotten pneumonia if they hadn't had that. So, then we drank that. We all took a good swing of it. Then when we got the chance, we talked it over, "We're going to get caught here. They're going to go over these grounds. They're going to go under all these camps. We got to get out of here." We got out of there. We went through woods I don't know how long. Finally, we came to a farm house. We dotted across the road. The road was

big. Every few minutes a Coast Guard was going to buy us up. We scooted across that road. We got into the barn of this farm house. I'll never forget it. The father had his jackknife. He had white turnip sitting there. That's how hungry we were. Pop took out his jackknife and he started a peel the turnip and he was eating a turnip. We all were eating a turnip. [laughter]

RL: [laughter]

LD: When there was a kid in the barn. My father said, "Go call your father and tell him to come out here." So, the boy, he was only probably 10, 12 years old. He went in the house.

RL: This was when you were escaping and getting away from it.

LD: Yes. So, he came with the old jam. They told him the story. "You know what's going on down the hill?" "Yes." He knew all about it. "Well, are you going to help us?" You help us and we'll help you. Guy, Mike White, he told him, he said, "I'm a man they're going to want." So, farmer said, "Come into the house." Brought us in the cellar. The woman started cooking. They cooked a big breakfast. I had breakfast with them. Then they said, "You get on the truck with the young fellow." They had another boy who was about 20 years old. "You go to Provincetown; you get in touch with Selectman Rogers." He owned a gasoline station there.

RL: Rogers?

LD: Rogers. So, I got the Provincetown. They got the little diner there. Oh boy. That's where they were putting the guys in the jail out there in Provincetown. That's where they had the twenty Dorchester guys. The guys said that Mother of God, that they don't grab me. So, I called him up. Right away I said, "Come and get me." I was scared to death I was going to be nubbed. Well, had to take the chance. Somebody had to do it.

RL: You were with your dad then?

LD: My dad was with the guy in the farmhouse. I had to go down and pick him up. So, Rogers came with his car, boom. At the time we went. They were piling the whiskey on the end of the town dock. The whiskey was being piled all up there and were bringing it in.

RL: They confiscating it off the old boats?

LD: Yes. So, they had Rogers come and he got us. We went down and picked up my father and this other man. I knew his name and I can't think. I thought the last name was Boardman or something.

RL: Boardman? Worthington?

LD: Seemed to me. They had this big place. Now, we went right under his cellar. He had a big police dog, great, big police dog. [inaudible] police dog would knock you down when he heard a car coming down the road. He'd come right up to you, put his paws down, knock you down until you get – that's different times when we were down there. But anyway, here's what happened.

So, they got the crowd and we picked up more along the road as we were going and we took them to the halfway house. The halfway house was in Orleans.

RL: It was in Orleans?

LD: Now this was a gunning shack. Every day we had to take the grounds while we were there for three or four weeks. We had to make bleed. We gun it. They had another place there in the walkway, a big gunning shack that some millionaire would take. What a place that was. They had about forty men there. Every day they had – even the outside, the bushes so they could sit to fire up. They had decoys so they could fire up the geese as they come in. Beautiful place.

RL: Oh, this is a big hunting –

LD: I don't know the place they had. They had their trucks down there.

RL: Was there a place beyond Nautical Point coming down from Woods Hole that had a high tower on it? There is a place called [inaudible] Corner there where Oyster Pond Road comes down. Do you remember a house there? We heard that was a look out there, that house. The house was burnt down.

LD: I don't.

RL: You do not remember that?

LD: No, I don't remember.

RL: Well, those are years that you remember, but you want to forget.

LD: Yes, right.

RL: Louis, do you have any photographs or pictures? Anything to do with the Sam Cahoons or Woods Hole or the boats or whatever?

LD: Yes, we got a number of pictures.

RL: Do you?

LD: Yes.

RL: Could I borrow these from you sometimes and get copies of them? Would that be...

LD: Yes, I think...

RL: I could come back and get them.

LD: I don't think we got the negatives.

RL: What we will do, we will have the pictures copied and make negatives.

LD: What we got...

[end of transcript