

John Abler: – to help fishing, probably 100 yards away.

Male Speaker: Sure.

JA: All of a sudden, Oscar comes walking over and he says, "Your dad wants to see you right away." I said, "What for?" Then he said, "Never mind, just go over there right away." I went over there. Dad says, "Stop [inaudible]." He said, "The sturgeon came through and I knew it was too small." Oscar said, "That's big enough. Spear it. I'll pay the fine." So, he speared it, and that was an inch too short. He didn't want to take a chance in trying to register it. He says I am going to sneak at home, and you watch the hole while I'm gone. While he was gone, I got a 42-inch – [laughter]

MS: That is one fish –

JA: 40 inches, yeah.

MS: Oh, 40 inches.

JA: It's just that – near that 55. They put the 40 inch. I'm not sure about the size anymore.

MS: Yes. [inaudible] We have been a lot of –

JA: The size is for 30 inches to 40 inches.

MS: This is March 24th, 2006. I am going to be talking to John Abler and his wife, Dorothy, because I know she has got a good fish story. We will be talking about sturgeon and what happened over the years, and stories about his dad. Now, you told me what is the great picture you got here with your dad. I am going to take that along. You were telling me about a story about your dad in 1939. Go ahead and you tell us, going on the lake.

JA: He brought this [inaudible] in the fall of 1939. So, I think this was in the early 40's that it happened. But, yet all the shandy out on the lake. There were a few inches of snow on the ice. He took the shandy out and got it set and everything. He was just about ready to come home, and a snowstorm came up. It's quite windy too. He could not see the shore at all. He is going to try to wait it out. The horse got a little restless, so he started walking with the horse and had no idea where he was going. About a half hour later, they got to shore. He said he was very surprised to see that there were only about 100 feet of where they had gone on to the lake. Now, when he pulled that out, he probably had his stuff in the shandy –

MS: Right.

JA: – and a hand saw.

MS: A chisel.

JA: A load of wood in there maybe.

MS: I am sure.

JA: Stood inside the door probably. You can almost imagine them. Standing in the shandy with the door open, pulling it perhaps, you know, holding on to the horse reins. That's – I don't know.

MS: I think he probably led the horse, if I remember right.

JA: Yes.

MS: That is what he did. He just led the horse and walked with it.

JA: Sure, yes, led the way.

MS: You have got a few years out –

JA: Yes. Never one of any big size. Like the first one I got was 32 inches long and the limit was 30 inches back then. I was 14, and so it would have been in 1943.

MS: Yes. Because we [inaudible] someone lives down here.

JA: [inaudible], yes.

MS: The old guy that lives in Linden Beach. What was his name?

JA: (John Jelinsky?) maybe?

MS: (Jelinsky?). He always had a car [inaudible] took rubber tracks on it. I do not know if you remember that.

JA: I do not remember that, but he fished with my dad and [inaudible].

MS: Sure.

JA: I have the spear today that he built and that he made.

MS: Who is that? (Jelinsky?)?

JA: (John Jelinsky?), right?

MS: Oh, yes. That will be old.

JA: Paid \$12 for his [inaudible].

MS: Yes, it is amazing.

JA: (Oscar Gutenberg?) used to fish with my dad. One day, (Dave Michaels?) and I would tip up fishing about 100 yards away from their shandy. All of a sudden, Astor came walking over and he said, "Your dad wants to see you right away." I said, "What for?" He said, "Never mind, just go there". So, I went over there, and my dad is pretty upset. He said that this sturgeon came through and he was quite sure it was too small. They had just raised the size limit that year. He was not going to spear it and the thing stayed there. Oscar said, "Stab it, stab it." He says, "That's big enough." He says, "If it isn't, I'll pay the fine." So, my dad speared it and sure enough, it was an inch too short. He said he heard these stories about stretching the sturgeon, but he did not want to take a chance. He says, "I'm going to take this home." He said, "Oscar said he'd pay the fine if I got caught." He said, "You watch the shandy while I am gone." While he was gone, I s one that was 42 inches long, so that was legal.

MS: That was out here at –

JA: This is off the (Welling Beach?).

MS: Oh, right off the (Welling Beach?).

JA: Back then. Yes, that's before Fisherman's (World?) was in existence.

MS: Right. There was a lot of [inaudible] down there at the time.

JA: Yes. We usually went down (Welling Beach?).

MS: Oh, yes. I am sure you can drive right off the shore a lot of times.

JA: I think, [inaudible] a lot, probably where the people will go through and he didn't mind, I guess.

MS: Yes, that is right. I remembered Sam fishing when he had a bat that was hanging in his barn. It was a long spear – long handle and it had just one time within one big bird sticking out with it, almost like you would see a harpoon.

JA: Wow.

MS: They stuck it to the roof of the shandy. There is a flap up there like a canvass with a [inaudible] in it in case it was raining or snowing up here.

JA: [laughter]

MS: They stuck it to there. Then we will just wait with that long harpoon.

JA: Did you actually get something with it then?

MS: Yes. We used to fish [inaudible] my uncle, we fish together. He was kind of a loner but

we fished together and drink together. Yes, it was a real, weird time. Is it not?

JA: I remember the [inaudible] fished (Bill Ted Herman?) They used all fish. All in [inaudible].

[end of transcript]