

Charles Carevich Oral History

Date of Interview: Unknown

Location: Unknown

Length of Interview: 59:20

Interviewer: MS – Unknown

Transcriber: NCC

Male Speaker: Let me ask you the hard question first.

Charles Carevich: Okay.

MS: Please say your name. Spell it. [laughter]

CC: My name is Charles A. Carevich. I'll spell the last name, C-A-R-E-V-I-C-H.

MS: Charles, what year were you born? Where were you born?

CC: I was born in Tacoma, Washington, December 11th, 1923.

MS: You have been around a few years. [laughter]

CC: Quite a few. [laughter]

MS: Now, how did you get to San Pedro? Your parents, I assume, brought you here or –

CC: Well, we left more or less in March. We came in San Pedro in 1930, March 15th, raining cats and dogs. [laughter]

MS: So, what was your first impression? What was it like? What did you see?

CC: At that time, I was only six years old. Everything was new to me then. Actually, we came down on the Southern Pacific. It took us three days from Tacoma to LA. When we came down, well, I was just a little young kid.

MS: What brought your parents down here?

CC: Well, actually, that was the beginning of the Depression. My father was a commercial fisherman up in Tacoma. He used to fish up in Alaska and stuff. A lot of our relatives that were from his hometown and – well, at that time, when my dad was in – it wasn't called Croatia, or it wasn't called Yugoslavia. They were under the Austro-Hungarian Empire at that time. They were controlled by the Austro-Hungarian government at that time.

MS: But it was similar to where he grew up. What city did he grow up in?

CC: Well, my dad was born in 1833. My mother was born in – no, no. I made a mistake. 1883.

MS: Start again then.

CC: My father was born in 1883. My mother was born in 1887. They came from the island of Brac which was about five miles off the coast of Dalmatia. The biggest town nearest where they were born was called Split or Spalato. At that time, they were under Italian rule. When the Italians took – well, actually it was the city of Venice where they belonged to, that whole Dalmatian coast. My dad came over here in the United States in – let's see. The first time he

came over was in 1904. He came to Tacoma. A lot of his relatives and friends and stuff more or less migrated to Tacoma from the island Brac which was the largest island in the Dalmatian coast. My dad came from a town called Splitska Brac. Well, the work that they had over there was – they were actually farmers. They had vineyards. They also had olive trees. Naturally, my dad wasn't [laughter] very rich at the time. He came over and he worked for a couple of years in the Tacoma area. A lot of the people from that area of Dalmatia all lived in Tacoma. We lived in an area called Old Town. That's in the Puget Sound. The work that they had over there, they had large lumber mills. So, what happened was my dad worked there. My mom was still over in the area where she was born. He came back all slicked up and all that. Then he says [laughter] – then my mama says he came back two years later. He was broke [laughter] as a church mouse. So, then he came again over to Tacoma in 1907 it was. So, my mother's – they were good friends. He was kind of growing with my mother at that time. He had his schooling – when he was going to school, which I found out later on in my life, the school was controlled by the Catholic church. He must have been a pretty smart guy because they kept him there. I didn't know the reason they kept him there. They taught him Latin and stuff. They wanted him to become a priest. But he says, "I fooled them. I married your mother." [laughter]

MS: Got it. So, what are your earliest memories as a young boy in San Pedro?

CC: San Pedro at that time must have – there must have been around 50,000 or 60,000 people when we came over. Well, like I said, we came on March the 30th – no, March the 15th, 1930. There were five of us children from my mom and dad. I was the youngest of them all. I had three sisters and two of us brothers. So, when I started school – I started school naturally – I was just six years old. Then when we were – naturally, when we were younger and all, we spoke the – my mother and father's tongue – mother tongue. I spoke – as a matter of fact, I still speak it real well. I started school. I went to school. I came home, and I said "Ma, I can speak English, and you can't." [laughter] That's the beginning. I remember when – at the time when we were there, at the beginning, the union ice plant was on – I think it was Mesa on 18th Street. They were still delivering ice with horse-drawn vehicles at that time. Also, our milkman was – he used to deliver his milk in the morning. He had a horse-drawn car at that time. Naturally, that was nothing to me because we had the same thing in Tacoma at that time. When we moved to San Pedro, we had our friends. Do you know Anthony Nisidic? Well, his mother and father – well, his father is related to my mother. They were first cousins. Anthony Nisidic's uncle was Vincent Thomas. But he wasn't born in San Pedro. He was born in Biloxi, Mississippi. They moved over here. I don't know when they moved over, but I think it was his brother – and he had two other brothers that I don't remember their names. They were a lot older than I was at the time. So, we stayed with Mrs. Nisidic. Her name was Zorka. We stayed with their family for two, three days. Because my mom and dad – my mom and Mrs. Nisidic's husband were first cousins. So, they lived on – let's see – above Gaffey there on 20th Street. So, my dad went house hunting right away. He found a house about three blocks from where Zorka and Tom lived. The house was for rent in 1925 in South Meyler. He talked with the landlord. He says, "No children and no –" he said, "Oh, no. We don't have any children." But this landlord lived in LA. He used to come down on the first of the month between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. every month to pick up his rent. So, the first time he – first and second time – every time we knew he was going to come, my dad hid all the kids in the garage. [laughter] Then what happened was, after that, one time he came unexpectedly a little bit earlier. He caught my oldest sister. Now,

she was – my sister, Catherine, was at that time about 18. He said, "I thought you didn't have any children?" He said, "Oh, but she's big. That's all right." So, that went on pretty good like that for a while. Then all of a sudden, he caught my other sister, my sister Francis. She's still alive. She's 93 now. He said, "I thought you only had one. But she's okay." But we kept good care of his house. Then what we did – we lived there from 1930 to July of 1936. So, we always took good care of his house. Do you know where the Balkans were in San Pedro?

MS: Tell me about it. You tell me.

CC: Balkans in San Pedro was everything below Pacific down to Front Street. So, that's what – we used to say, "Well, we're going to move to Balkan." Then naturally – well, all of us people, my dad, they all made wine. So, during the winter months from September on until December, that whole area here used to smell like wine. We were allowed to make 200 gallons of wine. That was the license. If you didn't – we had applied for the license – they used to come to the house, and he had to dump it. But we had – he had a license. My sister Catherine and my sister Francis got married. My sister Catherine got married when she was 19. Francis married when she was 18. She married John Misetich. I don't know whether you know that name or not. He was a very good fisherman. He was one of the best fishermen in – he started fishing – he came to this country from the same island as my dad. He started fishing in 1923. He started fishing on Cabo San Lucas in 1926. They got to know him pretty well. So, that's when we fished tuna. Our greatest industry that we had was fishing sardines at the time. During the off season, we used to fish tuna. We used to fish for French Sardine which was later changed to StarKist.

MS: I am going to get to that. But let us go back. You are a little boy. You are wandering around San Pedro. What do you do? What are some of your memories?

CC: Well, we used to go down to the Royal Palms area down there. That area used to be really rich in abalones and stuff at that time. They had a resort down there because there's hot springs there. We used to – as kids, naturally, we went down there. They had a nice road going down from the other side up to Royal Palms. Then we used to – when you're kids you're climbing rocks. We used to play down there. That was by Fort MacArthur also. At that time, they used to have target practice with airplanes towing sleeves. We'd sit out at night and watch them shoot at that target area there. That's something really that we'd never seen before, but anyhow. Then we used to go down to Fort MacArthur where they used to have the big 14-inch guns, railroad guns there. Then we also used to – we used to go through and play around those disappearing guns that were on the hill over there. At that time – there were empty lots all over the town at that time. They didn't have any homes above Western Avenue at that time. We used to – the area where I live right now in South Shores, that used to be a big tomato farm area over there. As kids, we used to go over there and have tomato fights. The Japanese, they used to have their shotgun. They'd shoot them in the air. They wanted to tear them down because we were destroying their [laughter] their work.

MS: We will go back to Fort MacArthur. Do you remember Big Bertha and that –

CC: Yeah. Those guns were there. They had two railroad guns there. We used to go to the beach – on 22nd Street, we used to go – that's where the fort started. There used to be a big pipe

area that – we used to walk on a pipe all the way to Cabrillo Beach. At that time, the sand was beautifully white at that time. So, we used to go – when we were kids, we used to walk the pipe and go to the beach. We used to swim on the inside because the big waves on our – were too big for us. But the sand was all nice and clean until the city decided to dredge the area that they're going to put sand in there. They put that jockey sand that's in there now. Before, it was really nice. Then we used to play baseball at (Trono?) Field. That was all – the whole Pacific Fleet was anchored there by the breakwater.

MS: Tell me about that. What was that?

CC: Well, there was a place called (Trono?) Field. They had three football fields. They used to have, Saturday, three football games going at one time: Sunday, three footballs. So, there were six football games that we used to go see and for nothing because of the battleship, *Nevada* and *Arizona*, *Mississippi*, and all the rest of them, they had a league that they played with. A lot of these players that played on these teams were Annapolis graduates, plus the regular teams. They really had good football games and stuff. Then they also had baseball diamonds in that area where they played baseball. So, we used to get their broken bats. Then we used to put screws in them and fix them up, so we could play ball. But then we used to go watch their games. During the summertime, they had baseball teams there. So, when they'd hit foul balls over the fence – well, they always had sailors out there waiting. But we had – we fooled them. So, they hit a foul ball. We had one guy planted about every 100 feet. Then he'd get the ball. He'd throw it to the next guy, next guy. So, we got our baseballs that way. [laughter] Then they used to have boxing matches down at the Admiral Leigh Gym. Remember that area there? That used to be over here on 8th Street, I believe –

MS: Tell me about that.

CC: – by the YMCA in that area. We used to go watch their boxing matches and basketball games. We used to kind of – I know that they're on – all the Croatian kids and Italian kids lived down here below the Pacific, okay? So, we used to get the balls and play. [laughter] One time – I wasn't involved in this. What happened was, they had a baseball diamond out there for the Navy and stuff to play in. They had their balls and bats. You know what some of those kids did? They went over there, and they stole that whole [laughter] container of balls and bats and brought it up to the field where they were playing. But then they didn't find out about that until two weeks later. But I wasn't involved in that. Then we used to play down the – what we used to call down the bluff area there. That's 22nd Street now. That's all leveled off now. Then they decided to dredge some more of the field out there. So, that whole area there, they dredged it. Then they pumped that dirty dirt down there on 22nd Street. There was a – one time, we were going to take a shortcut from 22nd Street to go home. The mud was at least 2 feet deep. Every day, we used to be – my mom used to clean up. Then all of a sudden, one day, I came home. I was all full of mud. She says, "Why did you do this?" "I was on the bluff down there playing in the rafts and stuff." So, my mother, she says, "You get in that back tub over there and take your clothes off. You're going to have to wash them." So, we never went down there again. Because we had to wash our own clothes if we got really dirty. But then later on, what happened was that dirt kind of hardened up and stuff. But there were still puddles down there. So, we used to have rafts where we used to push ourselves going back and forth. There used to be all kinds of cattails

down there. So, we used to play down there when we were kids.

MS: Well, there was a ferry that went back and forth to Terminal Island. Tell me about that.

CC: Well, the ferry – see, the majority of the people that lived on Terminal Island were Japanese. They lived behind the canneries. We used to go over there with my father once in a while because we used to have to go to the shipyard at Harbor Boat. All these Japanese had their small houses. Then they had their Buddha temple over there. We were small. Well, we were kind of scared to go over there because we didn't know anything about where they lived. They lived behind the cannery. They used to work in the cannery there. Well, as a matter of fact, when I went to high school, my graduation class, we had 325. Then when the war broke out, in three days, they evacuated all the Japanese from Southern California. So, when they evacuated the Japanese, there were about 250 left in our class which were – all the Japanese were moved out of Terminal Island because of the Navy shipyards. They figured they were going to spy on them. I had a very good friend of mine whose name is Willie Imanaka. His dad – I don't know how – World War I, he was in the American army. He was the only Japanese fellow left here on Terminal Island because he was a customs officer. So, he had a – no, no. He had five or six kids. Only the father and Willie Imanaka – he was my friend from grammar school all the way up until I graduated high school. As a matter of fact, he still lives down by Whites Point area.

MS: What did you think about that when you were a kid?

CC: What do you mean? What did I think about –

MS: The Japanese suddenly having to leave and everything?

CC: Well, all of a sudden, bingo, they just moved them out. They were our friends. We used to play with them all the time. We used to play. At that time, we had a vice principal by the name of Mr. Mann that was – he was a very, very good man. Willie Imanaka lived on the – well, now those houses are all taken out, and that school was expanded. But then that area from the street all the way back to the gate, they had houses there. The Japanese family used to live in that area there. So, we used to always play together. Willie, he was the character. They used to go and play poker under this porch. One time, Mr. Mann caught them and brought them all into the office to show them what the odds were. He kept them there. They had to do – but he didn't catch them anymore because they played someplace else. [laughter]

MS: Talk about the ferry. Is it –

CC: The ferry used to be from the building there on 6th Street all the way across. Now, that was the *Islander* at that time. But then they had two other smaller ones. They used to go back and forth. The *Islander* was the one – the car ferry. During the war, Cal Ship used to be one of the bigger shipyards over here. They built – they used to launch a ship, one ship every four days. Where the Fisherman's Wharf is right now, there used to be some small shipyards in that area there also. They built minesweepers and stuff. Harbor Boat was owned by John Rados. I don't know if you know the Rados family. He was building Torpedo boats over there. So, when the war was over, there was about – he had about fifty hulls that they worked on. So, when the war

was over, the government said, "Well, you could keep those hulls." What he did was he used those hulls which were given to him for nothing, and he built a yacht called the Harco. He sold about seventy of them. That was a clear profit because he had the hulls and everything there. So, all he had to do was put the decorations on. He had two sons. One was Bob Rados. Then his brother Jack was killed during the war.

MS: What was it like in San Pedro during the war? It was pretty busy.

CC: Well, during the war [laughter] I got drafted. So, I don't know too much about what happened in San Pedro. But they had all kinds of shipyards in San Pedro.

MS: Well, talk about fishing. You started to talk about that, the fishing industry.

CC: Okay, the fishing industry. My brother-in-law, John, was a very good fisherman. When he married my sister Francis, I was in the service. I went to the service. So, then when I came out now, the fishermen actually got exempted. Four men on each boat were exempted because of the fact that they were a food producing industry. There were all kinds of sardines out here. What happened was, during the war, they used that oil as a preservative in a lot of the ammunition.

MS: Sardine oil?

CC: Sardine oil, yeah, the real fine oil. So, what happened was the skipper was exempt, the engineer was exempt, and two crew members were exempt. The war started in [19]41, I believe, December the seventh. Naturally, everything – everybody was all in a dither at that time. I don't know if you remember, or if someone has told you about that. But they had – they thought that there was an air raid. Naturally, my father was – he was an air raid warden. There were [laughter] – what happened was there's more than one air raid warden on the block. So, then the other guy didn't know my dad was an air raid warden. So, he kicked him off the block and made him go into the house. My sister Catherine, she worked in the – they had allowed them, I think, five, where they ration gas. They had an A book and a B book and a C book. The C book was unlimited. But she didn't want a C book because she said, "I don't deserve a C book." So, she took a B book. Because she worked at the ration board.

MS: Well, tell me about the fishing industry. I am going to ask you about the fishing industry and your role and your work in that area.

CC: Okay.

MS: So, you can sit back in your chair there, if you do not mind.

CC: Okay. That's okay.

MS: All right. Well, tell – okay. Go ahead now.

CC: Okay. Well, when the Japanese that were involved in the fishing industry – that must have been about eight or ten boats that were involved. The majority of the boats that were involved in

the fishing industry were all Italian-run and Croatian-run boats. The Japanese had about ten boats. Then the majority of the boats were all run by the Slavic, ones which we had the purse seine. Then the Italians had what they called the lampara which was what they called the half ring net. The fishing industry that was developed more or less for tuna, and sardines were from the Croatian type of people because they developed the full ring purse. The people that were really involved in that were John Missetich, Anton Missetich, and Dominick Missetich. Then there was the – what the heck are their names now – Dragich families and the Mosich families. Now, they're the ones that developed that net and –

MS: Explain what that net is –

CC: The Japanese had the lampara nets. Italian fishermen had the lampara nets also. They were also called the half ring nets. Only half of the net was what they call – when you made a circle on the net and then you pull both wings of the net until you came to the ring part. So, that's what the – while they're closing up the net, which is called the half ring. Then you close it up. Then everything's trapped. Now, the nets that the Slav fishermen used, they had a complete purse which is rings throughout the whole net. In other words, when you make the set on the fish, you start closing the whole net up. Then that way, you have the cables through the rings. Then what you do, you put these – the cable from the stern part of the net and the cable from the ball part of the net and you start closing the net right away. So, when you get the whole net closed, everything that's in the net is yours. But the lampara nets, you're only getting half the fish – that's what you're actually getting. So, that's the difference between the two nets.

MS: Since you are only getting half the fish, why did everybody not use the –

CC: Well, because by using the lampara nets, you have a crew of maybe about eighteen to twenty. You have half on one side, half on another, and you pull it in real fast. You're not losing too much. But anyhow, the way we did, we have the full ring net. We closed it all up entirely that way. Finally, after years of fishing, everybody started using the full ring net. But anyhow, what happened was when – the Japanese, they lived on Terminal Island. Naturally, everybody thought they were like – all of them were spies. So, when we used to go fishing – we always fished at night. The reason you fish at night is because of the phosphorus in the water. When the fish travels in there, it moves. You see a big white spot in the water like you put a spotlight in there. Then you try to corral that white spot to catch that fish. So, then what happened was, I got drafted. I fished from September until December the 31st for sardines. During that time, from September to the 31st of December, I made \$7,000. \$7,000 I made. At that time, my father – they did not believe in buying everything on credit. No one had a credit card. So, a lot of these fishermen that lived down there in the Balkan area that we called, they had money, money, money and money, okay? And my father bought our lot where we lived in, \$900 for the lot. He built a five-room, two-bedroom house with a breakfast nook, kitchen for \$6,000 at that time. Now, that house – later on, I inherited that home. So, what happened was, I got called into service, December the –

MS: You want some water?

CC: That's okay. December the – I got my draft papers. Well, they lowered the draft age from



20 to 18. I got drafted into the service. So, that was the end of my fishing career. It lasted about five months. Then I went into service for about three years. So, I was sent to Camp Barkeley, Texas which was owned – the property was owned by the King's Ranch. Have you ever heard of the King's Ranch? They're the biggest ranch in the world. So, Abilene, Texas is the area where this lady leased their land for a dollar a month. Now, they made a – Camp Barkeley was – they had 80,000 soldiers at one time there. That was the first time that I ever encountered living in an area where there was segregation. I felt funny. I said, "These people are crazy down here." So, then what happened was, I went to Camp Barkeley, Texas. When you're drafted in the service – I guess they must get the alphabet, and every third or fourth man on the list, you go here. So, we got shipped to Camp Arlington which is in Riverside at that time. That was the new reception center. I lived in San Pedro. They had a reception center there. But they sent us to Riverside. We didn't have any clothes to wear, any army clothes, for a whole week because it was a new place that they had just opened up. Then from there, we were shipped to Camp Barkeley on a train. So, we were all 18-year-old punks. We just got out of high school. If you didn't graduate in time, well, they took you in the Army anyhow. So, then what happened was we – all of a sudden, I was training to be a combat medic in Camp Barkeley, Texas. The way they were training us there, it was what they did in World War I. Now, that was all old crap, old stuff at that time. We were combat medics. We had nine weeks of basic training at Camp Barkeley.

MS: Because we are running out of time, I want to go back to San Pedro.

CC: Okay.

MS: We are interested in your experiences there. You fished for StarKist. Tell us about the story. What is StarKist? Tell us about your career as a fisherman for StarKist.

CC: Well, when I came back from the service, my brother-in-law, John, sold me 10 percent of the boat. I owned 10 percent of the boat with Ronnie M. He was one of the better fishermen in San Pedro. But he only had one deficiency, that he was born in the old country. He wasn't able to take all the tests for what he needed on the boats. They were always repairing the boat and getting it in first-class condition. So, naturally, they needed a navigator on the boat. So, I took the test for that, and I became the navigator. They needed a radio operator. I knew they were going to – they're putting all this new equipment on the boat. They needed a radio operator. So, I went to the library and got a book. What the heck? I was a punk. I was 22, 23 years old. When you're young, you go out at night. Then come home and go to bed and go to sleep, right? So, I used to read a chapter about once every week or so. Then we started fishing down in South America. We were fishing in Mexico all the time. Then (Dominick?) says to me, "Chuck, we're going to have to get a radio operator. We're going to have to go to school." Well, we were in a shipyard getting our boat ready to go down fishing in Peru in Chile. So, I took off. They opened a testing area at the post office here in San Pedro right up the corner. I was the first one to take the test to – as a radio operator. I got a third-class radio operator's license. So, I said, "Well, hell, I've been going through this now for ten weeks. I'm going to take the test." So, I took the test and got 89 on it, 89 percent. You only needed 70 to pass. So, then I came back on the boat and Dominick said, "Where have you been?" I said, "You want to go to school, you go to school. I'm not going to school." He says, "You have to." I pulled out the paper and said, "Here it is." He says, "Well, hell, you got the paper. I'm not going either." So, what happened is when

we fished for StarKist, it was at – well, StarKist first started out at French Sardine. The old fisherman's style is – Martin Bogdanovich was the president of the company. His son, Joe, was the second vice president. He had five sisters. So, what happened was after I went into service, Martin Bogdanovich passed away on Father's Day, nineteen – well, whatever it was. I was over in New Guinea at the time. But what happened was John was my brother-in-law. He said, "We're doing this. We're doing that. We're doing this." And I say, "Well, John," I say – then I had to take another test for – to get my license as a navigator. That's when I found out I had high blood pressure. Because they wouldn't pass me because I had high blood pressure. I had to have it cured before they would offer me the license. So, what happened was, we used to always leave around – to go fishing – maybe at the end of February or beginning of March. Then we started fishing down below in Chile in South America. So, I studied quite a bit. I was able to navigate from San Pedro all the way down to South America, all these different areas and coasts, because of the fact I was interested in it. Then when we had the – let's see – we went down to Peru and Chile. Then we were down there at one time. John tells me – he used to call – because I was the navigator, he used to, "Capitane," he called me. That's the captain. I knew right away he wanted to move. I say, "Yeah, what do you want?" He says, "I want to be up in Mexico on the 450." That's the area where the – there's a fish area where we used to fish. He says, "I want to be there on March the 15th." I say, "Well, I'll have to go up and figure out how long it's going to take us to get there." We only had 60 tons of tuna on board when we were down in Chile. We were down there – it took us fourteen days to get down to the fishing grounds – we were in South America – day and night running. Then, the next day, I said to him, "Well, we're going to have to leave on March the sixth to get there on –" I had figured – the area that we had to pass by had chubasco. You know what a chubasco is?

MS: Tell me.

CC: Chubasco is a hurricane, called the hurricane area. So, they used to come across the peninsula. They would start below – maybe by Costa Rica and work all the way up to the coast. So, we always had to be on the alert when we were out fishing because of the chubascos that were coming up during this time of the year. Well, let's see. Well, this chubasco area is starting here now. So, what happened was – oh, a chubasco came here and hit San Pedro. We had hurricane weather here in San Pedro. That was in September of 1939. A hurricane hit here in San Pedro. There were fishermen that were fishing out here with these smaller boats that lost their lives here in San Pedro when it was – when the hurricane hit. At that time, my sister wasn't married yet, my sister, Violet. She got married later on, to John Rudan. They were having a beach party at Cabrillo Beach at that time. When the hurricane hit, it hit about 8:00 p.m. in the evening. People were sleeping at Point Fermin during this hurricane time, for two weeks – how hot it was – sleeping right out in the open out there. And us kids, we were down there swimming in Cabrillo Beach. All of a sudden, rain started coming down really, really big. We hitchhiked home. The truck picked us up and took us to 17th Street where we lived. So, then what happened was, my sister had their beach party. After the hurricane was over – it was over by 11:00 p.m. – they all went back down the beach again.

MS: What happened when the hurricane hit?

CC: Well, the hurricane hit – a lot of it – it was blowing – oh, well, a hurricane is 75 knots or

greater. It hits and then after that, it calms down. In other words, it goes on or breaks up. The biggest deal is when we were working the Mexican area, Mexican –

MS: Let us go back to the San Pedro hurricane. This is –

CC: Oh, that –

MS: What happened to the town? Was it damaged?

CC: Well, no. It was all full. We were flooded, the area where we had the rain. A couple of the smaller boats sank out there. They never found them. I know [inaudible] his dad was lost in that hurricane. You never hear too much about the one that hit San Pedro. That's the only one that I remember that ever hit San Pedro. That was in 1939.

MS: Like hurricanes today, were rooftops torn off or streets damaged, cars –

CC: Well, what happened was we didn't get the full force of the hurricane. Because as it's working up and it gets in colder water, the winds aren't going to be as strong. But it hit here enough to sink a few boats that – the smaller boats, and they were lost. We always had to – so, I was the navigator. I always by the radio to – because I had to have – I used to take my sights in the evening and in the morning and at noon. I'd take a line of position during the daytime also, so we knew exactly where we were at. Because sometimes you'll find a school of fish in this area here, you always want to go back to that same area. So, John, my brother-in-law, he always wanted – he says, "Chuck," he says, "I want to be here at 7:00 a.m." So, I used to have to get up at the – as a matter of fact, I still do wake up at 4:00 a.m. I used to get up at 4:00 a.m. every morning and have my coffee then go out and stake the stars in the morning. Although, later on, we got a satellite navigator. But a lot of times, they go out. If you don't have a guy that knows how to take the sites – well, you're out in the ocean. You don't know where the hell you're at. There are no stop signs or stop and go signs out there. Your stars are your stop and go signs. So, what happened was, one – let's see. The last time I was fishing was the –

MS: What ended your career as a fisherman?

CC: Beg your pardon?

MS: How did your career as a fisherman end?

CC: Well, you may skip this part. What happened was we were in the war. Our countries were always worrying about someone else. Our career started to end when I got out of the service because of the fact that we're going to have to help the Japanese to get back on their feet. We're going to have to sacrifice the fishing industry. Now, we were asked to sacrifice a living that we've made all our lives because the Japanese were bombed at Pearl Harbor. What the hell? So, we got mad because we even had – what the hell – when they told us that we're going to sacrifice our industry. We had even where they sent the senators over here and then they explained all this and that. We developed the industry. Tuna fishing was all developed by the fishermen here in San Pedro and San Diego. The Portuguese used to fish hook and line poles. We fished with

the nets. As a matter of fact, we were at Cabo San Lucas – let's see. When was that now? June the seventh. What the hell? I forgot the date and the year now.

MS: Well, what were the circumstances? I mean, you fished for 30 years. I mean, what – how did your career come to an end? What was the story of that?

CC: Well, it came to the end when they started moving the canneries out, moving them to – they moved the canneries into Puerto Rico. There used to be 17, 16 canneries here in San Pedro. Then they moved the canneries – let's see now. StarKist moved the canneries to Puerto Rico. Then they also had canneries down in Peru. Then they closed those canneries down. Then they moved them to Samoa. Then what happened is after they moved them, after they moved these canneries from San Pedro to different foreign countries – well, I'm not going to go – what the hell? I'm 65 going on 70. I'm not going to go to Samoa or the Philippines. So, then what happened was there are no more canneries over here. They just moved them all out of the country. And now, you know where the canneries are? China has one. In the Philippines, they have one. They have another one – I forgot what is – in other words, it's over in that area there. So, what has happened, now you take these canneries that are over in these countries over there, now we're buying contaminated fish from China that we're eating right now. They have catfish farms over there. They're contaminated. I know when we had our boats and stuff – you take, for instance, we had to have all of our tanks steamed, sterilized before we could go out fishing. Then when we came in, we had to present our health certificate to – the certificate that comes to the cannery to make sure that we had the health certificate before we left. Now, who's picking up their certificates over there? Look what's happening to our farming. My father-in-law was the – he is an old Dutchman. They have a dairy farm up in San Joaquin Valley, Doug Maddox. Now, he married – my father-in-law's brothers –

MS: I think we are running out of time, unfortunately. I just want to get one final –

CC: Okay. What do you want to know?

MS: I would like to know, you were a fisherman for a long time.

CC: Yes.

MS: You must have liked it. What did you like about fishing?

CC: Well, what I liked about fishing is – the fishing part is – I even dream about, a lot of times. We used to make a set – our biggest set that we made was over 200 tons of tuna. We only needed 40 tons. We loaded – we brought the fish in. We found this school of fish outside of Cabo San Lucas about 6 or 7 miles out. Then John said – naturally, we're discussing. I'm one of the partners also. He says, "We're going to get out there at 4:00 a.m." It was really stormy out there. So, usually, at daybreak, it kind of calms down a little bit. So, what happens? We went out there. We saw this spot of fish that was there for three and four days. A lot of boats were there. We made that set, and we got 220 tons of fish. We only needed 40 tons. So, what happened? We loaded up our boat. Now *Sea Pride* was out for – their license was due. In other words, their license was good for seventy-five days for a Mexican license. They were due to

expire. They either had to reorder another license to fish there or come home. So, we called the *Sea Pride* in. We gave them 105 tons of fish. Then we had another 70 tons of fish left over. John tells me, he says, "Chuck," he says, "we have another 70 tons of fish." My brother-in-law, Steve, was on the *American Boy*. We gave him 70 tons of fish. That's all he came in with, was the fish that we gave him. The next day – there's a boat called *Lucky Star*. The funny thing is my brother-in-law, John, used to own the *Lucky Star*. He built it during the Depression. Naturally, it was sold later on. A Japanese crew bought that boat. They made the set outside the (Kabul?) there. They didn't know how to do it, and their boat sank. Because the mast came down and it punctured a hole in the boat and sank right there. No one got killed. But the boat sank because they didn't do it properly.

MS: So, we are going to have to stop I am afraid.

CC: Okay.

MS: If you could take your chair and slide it to the left a bit. I am going to take a still photo of you.

CC: Okay.

MS: Sorry we ran out of time.

CC: Okay.

MS: So many stories.

CC: Okay, here we go.

MS: Very nice smile. That is good. And one more. Smile. Good. One more. One more.

[end of transcript]