Marguerite Holloway: So what I want to ask you about is about shad fishing on the river and perhaps fishing for other commercial species and how you learned, who taught you.

James Carey: Well, when I was a young fellow about 13 or 14 got out of school back in 1930 I had an old uncle. Get his name because I'd like to see it in the paper, for his son's sake, if you don't mind. Bap Mitchell is my uncle. And I used to tag around behind him and so on. He took me out fishing when I was old enough and I got into it and as Cal will tell you, once you get it in your blood, if you became a millionaire you'd still want to go back and go on the Hudson and fish.

Marguerite Holloway: What is it about fishing that makes you feel that way?

James Carey: I think being what we call a pointer from Verplancks, we're pointers. If you're near the river you just go down and watch all the men do it and you fall into it. Back in the Depression days, just about everybody had a piece of net in the river in Verplancks.

Marguerite Holloway: Because they were living off the river?

James Carey: It actually, it was our bread and butter. Plus our food. In them days of course, you, there was no ban on any species. You could take and eat the bass as long as they were over 16 inches year around. And sturgeon were abundant and shad of course, came in the seasons. We all went out. But I got into it. But then I went railroading in 1940 and I worked there for 40 years. I worked nights all the time so I could fish days during the regular seasons.

Marguerite Holloway: You must have been very tired.

James Carey: Well, we were younger then, of course, a lot younger. And first when the shad came in the spring by the first of April we would put our stakes in and fish from the middle of April to the middle of May. And we caught bass at the same time which were all legal at that time, except for size. And marketed everything in Fulton Street. There's no market now because we don't catch that many. You know I only fish about one-fourth net what we used to fish with a partner. And with the ban on the bass since 1976 really we have not been allowed to take bass. Is that right?

Cal Greenburg: Right.

James Carey: He knows because he has a license and everything. Cal, same as I do. When the war came we had a lift period you know every weekend. During World War II they told you fish day and night because there was no meat in the country to help feed the people over there and where ever. Immediately after the war, of course the ban went off and now we have the lift period for the shad. Actually, you could make a dollar, you know what I mean, plus your work, pay your taxes, pay your bills and help you out when you were raising a family and stuff like that. Along about 15 or 20 years ago Charlie and I got the notion. We knew the big sturgeon were there because once in a while they'd destroy a shad net. So we had been told in the early part of the century the men caught the big sturgeon. So Charlie and I kept putting bigger nets on and bigger nets until we came across 200 and 300 hundred pounders. But they are seasonal too. They'll come in just about when the shad are done. And we'll fish them up until about the latter part of June.

Marguerite Holloway: What gave you the notion of going after them?

James Carey: Well, Charlie and I like Cal and I, different men, we talked about it, knew they were there

[TIME STAMP 5:00]

James Carey: but never tried for them. So Charlie and I said, let's, Charlie really, previous to me, it was Charlie's idea "Let's get a bigger net." So we brought 70 pounds. "Let's get a bigger net." I'm talking about the size of the mesh, you know. So we started with a 12. By the time we got up to size 18, we were getting them as big as they came. And then the other fishermen began to do the same and so for the last 15 or 20 years we have a little extra income, a few dollars, by going for the big sturgeon. But they have a size on them, 40 inches, anything under, goes back into the Hudson. Anything over, we're allowed to keep.

Marguerite Holloway: So how many would you catch in the season?

James Carey: If you get six, you're lucky. Two men, fishing together, very lucky. Some will fish for 6 weeks and won't get a sturgeon. Right Cal?

Cal Greenburg: Yeah, we got ah,

James Carey: He had one black season and he's one of our better fishermen, believe me.

Marguerite Holloway: You didn't catch any?

Cal Greenburg: Not a fish. I had more net in the river than anybody else did.

James Carey: Charlie and I were fishing about 500 feet of net and he was fishing over 1000. And Charlie and I caught about eight. Cal unfortunately, didn't catch a one. However, he has caught the biggest one yet out of all the fishermen, over 300 pounds.

Cal Greenburg: 330 pounds.

Marguerite Holloway: Wow.

James Carey: He's caught three over 300 pounds. Our biggest to my knowledge was like 290, the female species.

Marguerite Holloway: So then, what do you do? Where do you find the markets and what do you do with the eggs?

James Carey: Well, we have a market for the caviar in Jersey. And we prepare the eggs. We screen them and prepare them, salt them, etcera, what has to be done. And refrigerate them immediately. And we give him a call and he will come up and we make a deal and it helps to pay for a bad season. Since we're no longer allowed to take the bass. And we throw thousands of pounds away every week of bass. Must return them, there's no taking them in. But the sturgeon kind of take up the slack for what we lose fishing for shad. So many bass in this area now in our nets that it isn't hardly worth while fishing for the shad. Would you agree with me on that, Cal?

Cal Greenburg: Sure. Last year I put one piece of net on and I picked 200 pounds of shad out and threw 1000 pounds of bass back.

James Carey: The ratio is about 5 to 1, you'll catch 5 bass

Cal Greenburg: Absolutely ridiculous.

James Carey: To one roe shad.

Cal Greenburg: It's a shame.

James Carey: Some of the men have even quit because the bass are a nuisance to us by being caught. Hard work and no money.

Cal Greenburg: The last two years, that's what I've been doing. I just put a little piece on, if I get a lot of bass, forget it, I don't want to do it no more.

Marguerite Holloway: Is it the numbers of the bass are up or the numbers of the shad are also down?

Cal Greenburg: The bass are up.

James Carey: The bass are all over, actually, aren't they, Cal? Top and bottom simmed.

Cal Greenburg: I started fishing in the early 1970s. And where I fished we were fishing for shad. We were fishing like anywhere from 40 to 30 feet of water. It was rare for us to get a bass. Now, that's all you get. There's so many of them [crosstalk]

James Carey: Previous to the ban, you wouldn't get two bass out of 2000 feet of net. Since the ban, the ratio of bass to shad are about 5 to 1 in favor of the bass. And they are hard work, you've got to pick them out, you're cutting your hands and you've got to return them to the water and try not to kill the bass while you're doing it. You make an effort, you know, because who wants to see a dead fish floating away. So of course, back in the early days, when I started with my uncle, we used to go out. The river would freeze, previous to World War II, that river froze over, previous to the atom plants and all the other plants built along the Hudson. Of course, the winters have been warmer but even

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James Carey: In severe winter she never freezes over no more. We used to go right out in the channel where we fish now, but holes in the ice and put the nets in and fish for perch and bass. That's what we lived on. Like I said, Depression years, we had plenty to eat, fish, but no money. I'm talking about like from 1928 through. Everybody in town in the old days, family wouldn't be working, the river would freeze over, I'd be putting a net here, my neighbor would be putting one outside of me. Just to get something to eat, not for commercial purposes. The river fed us all. The river fed us all during the Depression. Anybody lived in the Valley that I knew of, you never went hungry. My father used to love the perch. And he'd say "Perch again, tonight, Maggie?" Unless you've got 20 cents for a pound of chopped meat or something. That was the situation, believe it or not. And he loved them.

Marguerite Holloway: Did he fish?

James Carey: Huh?

Marguerite Holloway: Did your father fish?

James Carey: No, my father never fished. That's why I say, my old uncle Bap there, he employed men to fish, he'd hire crews. He was a great fisherman. Next to Henry Gourdine. Do you know Henry?

Marguerite Holloway: Yes.

James Carey: Okay. To us, fishermen yet today, Henry I would say is the Prince of the Hudson as a fisherman. Wouldn't you say that, Cal?

Cal Greenburg: That's for sure.

James Carey: Right today, we want to know something, we go see Henry if we're in doubt about anything.

Marguerite Holloway: Can you give me an example of something that you'd go ask him about?

James Carey: Well, I'll take one example. I mend my own nets a little bit but I never got good. And Henry stopped in my yard one day and I was mending my net, right out here and I was tying it every which way. He got out of the car, and he looked at me and he said. Jimmy, you mind if I turn my back? I said, I don't care Henry, why are you going to turn your back? He says, I can't stand here a watch you using that needle that way, give me that. And he proceeded to show me how it should be done. He's a great old gentleman. We love him, don't we Cal? We all do.

Cal Greenburg: Sure do.

James Carey: And we still go to him you know, for a little point of information. He'll come up in the summer time and go over and show Tucker a little thing. He'll come here. There's still one boat in the area where he built many years ago.

Marguerite Holloway: The one over at Tucker's?

James Carey: No, Tucker had it for a while, but now another fella's got it up in Buchanan, one of his old fishing boats, shad boats.

Marguerite Holloway: Do you know who has it in Buchanan?

James Carey: A fellow by the name of Gorman, I'll say it that way. Still has that boat and still puts it in the water every spring and fishes with it. Henry built that I think in 1940.

Cal Greenburg: One boat I've got he built too.

James Carey: You have one too, yeah.

Cal Greenburg: We built two of them, together. We built a 16 foot and the one I've got now is a 20 foot.

Marguerite Holloway: And you built them with Henry?

Cal Greenburg: Yep.

James Carey: I told you his last name is Greenburg, didn't I? So you don't miss it in case you want to.

Cal Greenburg: He's a great old guy.

James Carey: Oh, we love him. He's got a sense of humor, you know what I mean.

Cal Greenburg: He does. He's well in his 80s. If they lifted the ban on bass, tomorrow, he'd be right out there fishing for them. He loves it that much.

James Carey: Oh, yes, he'll go down and fuss around. He's got a son and grandsons I guess.

Cal Geenburg: Grandson's a little bit into fishing but his son don't care, nothing.

James Carey: None of the younger generation. My two boys fished with me for a while. The moment they got old enough to get a job and a car and a girl.

Cal Greenburg: That's it, no more fishing.

James Carey: You going out, Dad? Yeah, I'm going out, you want to come along. Nah, Dad I gotta see. They just never took the interest that the older people did.

Marguerite Holloway: Are there some young people around who are interested?

James Carey: Well, there's one young fella that goes out with me now his name is Bobby Callie and he loves the river too. He's got it in his blood. He likes to go.

Marguerite Holloway: He lives in Verplanck?

James Carey: He lives in Verplank, yes. He went out with me this fall and I'm teaching him more the safety part than I am the fishing. The fishing comes natural. Teaching him about smoking around his gas tank and things like that. And being careful and watching for the ships coming up and down. And he's a good fisher, he will be a good fisherman. He's good now.

[TIME STAMP 15:00]

Marguerite Holloway: What makes a good fisherman?

James Carey: The desire to fish, I would say and nothing more. And a strong back and a weak mind.

Cal Greenburg: Yeah.

James Carey: Tucker says you've got to be a little senile to put in a net in the water. That's his definition. Just a little. You don't have to be, he said but it helps.

Cal Greenburg: Well up until this year I always fished out of Croton. I had [unclear 15:27] lives in Cold Spring, we fished together, Tommy Galbraith was his name.

James Carey: Tommy likes to fish.

Cal Greenburg: Oh yeah, he likes to fish.

James Carey: Tommy's what I would call a fair weather fisherman.

Cal Greenburg: Fair weather fisherman, right. He's not involved as much as we are.

James Carey: He's still at the age, he's chasing the girls, right?

Cal Greenburg: Yeah.

James Carey: I'm almost past that.

Marguerite Holloway: Are you fishing with Jimmy now?

Cal Greenburg: Well, I moved down here.

James Carey: We'll be going out and coming back together.

Cal Greenburg: I've got lots of time now to fish, so

James Carey: So have I, I've been retired

Cal Greenburg: When I fished with my partner Tom we always done it after work. I still might fish with him this year, if he wants to fish.

James Carey: Oh, he'll be down, he'll be down.

Marguerite Holloway: What did Henry teach you about building the boats?

Cal Greenburg: Just about everything.

Marguerite Holloway: Everything.

Cal Greenburg: Just about everything.

James Carey: He built a launch one time to my knowledge. And that was a beauty, about a 25, 28 footer.

Cal Greenburg: 25 foot.

James Carey: He used that for his work boat.

Cal Greenburg: I bought that off of him.

James Carey: You bought it. Then you sold it to the guy in

Cal Greenburg: To the lobster fisherman.

James Carey: That's probably still over on the sound somewhere.

Cal Greenburg: On the sound somewhere. That was a well built boat.

James Carey: Yes, it was. Henry actually, his trade was a carpenter. He told me himself his father used to say the father knew he loved the river, you know. And his father would say "Henry, don't go on that river, you take them tools and be a carpenter, you'll always have money. As long as you're a fisherman you'll never have a dollar in your pocket." And Henry said every time he'd see his wife years ago sewing up his work clothes, you know, he'd say "My father was right." But he still never left the river. He's a great guy. It's nice to meet you Marguerite, I told her that's an Irish name or used to be years ago.

Marguerite Holloway: From an Irish family.

James Carey: You are from an Irish family, I can well believe it, yeah. I had a girl in school 60 years ago, her name was Marguerite McGuire. And we would call her Margartta and she'd say "Don't you call me Margaretta,, my name is Marguerite." Well, why didn't your mother name you Margaret, because my mother's name is Marguerite and that's the way she pronounced it. I never forgot. Wonderful gal.

Marguerite Holloway: How long did you do stake netting? Did you do it and then switch to drift netting?

James Carey: Well actually, years back they used to fish for the bass, in what we call the Flats. That's where the water is shallow, near shore. But for the shad, really to catch shad in abundance, you had to

go to the deep water in the channel. And for a while, a few years, a lot of the men fished the channel with stakes also for shad. To avoid the bass. The bass were so plentiful, right Cal?

Cal Greenburg: That's right.

James Carey: And they would get more shad in the channel than you would on the flats. But once they put the ban on bass, nobody fished the flats no more, because 10:1 it would be 10 bass and 1 shad.

Marguerite Holloway: Can you put stakes in the channel, isn't it too deep?

James Carey: We used to, but we kind of got away from that. If you want to fish a lot of net, 1200 feet. Then you would put the stakes. Now you can't get enough fishermen to go out and do the work. One man, even two men can't put stakes in really. It takes a crew of 4 or 5 to go out and put in 30 stakes to make a 1200 foot row. So we kinda got away from that. Because of that.

[TIME STAMP 20:00]

James Carey: Now we go out we fish a line that's there, that's stationary, pick it up and tie our net on it and go out and take the net off accordingly. Little buoy on each end.

Marguerite Holloway: Tell me how that works?

James Carey: Well, you have the say 1000 pound weight on each end.

Marguerite Holloway: How long is the line?

James Carey: 1000 feet. And you have a buoy pickup in between. And you pick the line up and tie the net on as you go along, every 15 feet and you have floats on top, gallon jugs. And the line wants to go down for weight. We put 7 or 8 pound weights every 20 feet and that will pull it down and the buoys will hold it up. And as the tide runs, fundamentally it's the same as stake fishing but one man can do it alone if he wants to put out say 100, 150 feet of net. Where with the stakes you need 3 men and a boat just to put on and haul. It got away from the harder work. But much less fish.

Cal Greenburg: The stakes will catch more fish, though.

Marguerite Holloway: Why do the stakes catch more fish?

Cal Greenburg; The net doesn't lay over.

James Carey: The net won't lay down [crosstalk] Go ahead Cal.

Cal Greenburg: You've got a ring that's around the pole. Tie your net to that ring and that goes down to the bottom. And you have another ring that's up on the top. It's just like a fence, straight up and down, no matter how fast that tide runs, it's going to stay that way. With the anchor net, when the tide runs, the net will lay over. The stronger the tide, the more the net will lay over. A lot of fish will go over the top of it.

Marguerite Holloway: Because the buoys get pulled down.

James Carey: Yeah, the strength of the tide. You've got like a 5 mile an hour tide out there at full strength. But many years ago, previous to World War II, all the shad fishing, shad fishing alone was done drifting. What we call drifting. The men had nets, 1500 feet long. And they were buoyed up, say, 15 feet

under the surface of the water. And you went up and you cast the net say at Indian Point and you drifted down river with it. You timed your tide, you'd drift for 2 hours and then when the tide stopped and started to we call it "setting back", then you began to haul. By the time you hauled, you were almost back where you started and your net was off in your boat. So then you went ashore with your boat load of fish and deposited the fish for the guy to pick up. Shaped your net up, took an hour's sleep or two, and back out you went. 24 hours a day you done that, for 4 weeks. That was the interesting fishing, the drifting.

Marguerite Holloway: Why was that so interesting?

James Carey: Well, there was sport to it, drifting. When you went to get your net in the water and set, you didn't leave it. You didn't go ashore, you tied on the inside of it and drifted along with the net. And you knew you were going to be there 2 and a half to 3 hours and you never knew what you were going to get. In the meantime, previous to World War II, we had ships up and down, but not as big as today. Today they draw 30 feet of water. In them days the biggest ship we had would probably draw like 20. He went over your net. So it was nothing unusual to see a big ship coming up and the guys would row right out in front of them and wave them over. You had a flag there for them to see. But if he was headed for your net, you raced towards him, once you get your motor going. You'd go down, he'd see you and honor it. The ships that come up the river like this and all these at night time when you fished that way you had a lantern on each end, on a board. And he would see your red one on the outside and the green one on the inside, so he knew he had to keep, depending on whether he's going up or down the river which side of that light he had to keep. It was nothing unusual for one of the ride over and destroy half your net and keep right on going.

Marguerite Holloway: Were boats usually pretty nice though?

James Carey: Oh, they honored everything they could, that they could see, but there was times when you almost run them up on shore, especially from here up. But they knew the seasons and all. That would be for 4 or 5 weeks of the year. That's what made it fun, you know. But the tugboats that come up with the barges, the tugboat would try to miss you but he didn't worry about the barges because they only drew 5 or 6 feet of water empty. If they were loaded

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James Carey: then he tried to go around it. And that didn't always work out. I can hear my Uncle Bap use, I can't repeat. He'd be hollering at the captain of the ship. Well, Jeez, I thought I'd missed you. No you didn't. That went on. That was nothing unusual. That's what made it fun too, especially when we were younger.

Marguerite Holloway: So did you know the captains usually?

James Carey: They got to know them after years went by, you know, yeah, sure. There was a family across the river, what's Turks name?

Cal Greenburg: DeGroat.

James Carey: The DeGroat boys. The boys, their father, they were all great fishermen. They went through the same thing I'm talking about. And up in Tomkins Cove there was TenEycks and Springsteds.

All old families, they fished. They're all gone now, them people. Actually that cove directly across from here where the sun is almost now, that was called TenEycks Cove. Actually it's Tomkins Cove but it was named after the fishermen, you know. They were interesting days. About 35 years ago. We had two boys, got run over out there in the middle of the night. Blakely boy, and a McGuire boy. They got drowned. And that was I would say about 35 years ago. After World War II. But they were young lads and they went out at night, to make a drift. And they were run over by one of the ships. And we lost the two of them. And since then, by that time we had started fishing closer to the banks off the deep water with the lines. So if we wanted to go out at night, we went. But we didn't make a practice of it. Kind of put a damper on the fishermen at Verplanck. It was

Marguerite Holloway: How old were the boys?

James Carey; Well, one was only a youth, I had a son his age, at that time he was 15. And the other boy was about 25. They lived right on the river, the Blakeleys. You remember that, Cal, don't you? Or do you recall that? No, you were only a kid yourself then. It was after World War II, about 35 years ago. They were out there. It was two weeks before they came up to the surface. Kind of put a damper on young lads wanting to fish. If they weren't so young I wouldn't want to print that, this is opinion, you know what I mean, mine and the older fishermen. They wouldn't have taken that chance because by that time, the drifting was pretty much faded out. But it was a lark for the older fella and he knew, they had the light on the boat and all, but they got run over. The ship came right into the dock and tied up and the captain went around, whose door did he knock on but the mother of the boy. They lived right on the water, you know. I wouldn't want that down on paper, no you can tell about them having been drowned, yes, that part and their names, but not about the captain.

Marguerite Holloway: This is an oral history, this is just the tape, this isn't the writing.

James Carey: Oh, yes I understand, you just pick what you want to put down. I understand it. But I mean just in case, if you want to put the fact that they drowned and the names, that's all right.

Marguerite Holloway: I'm not going to be writing anything. It's going to be a tape that will be in the museum to be listened to.

James Carey: Oh, yeah, okay. So there's no harm in it because but it put a damper on the fishing.

Marguerite Holloway; I can imagine. That's awful.

James Carey: Now this young fella here, like I said, he was born on Croton Point, where the dump is, and his father worked for the county, didn't he?

Cal Greenburg: Yep.

James Carey: His father is dead and gone now

Cal Greenburg: Was in the thick of it.

James Carey: And they had a nice home down there that belonged to the county.

Cal Greenburg: That's how I got

James Carey: And he fished, and he's a hunter too, which I am not. And he'd done it all and seen it all down there from when he was a young fella. He's got a fish tank. Before you go Marguerite, let him show it to you, he's got two of them. That's his interest in fishing. Plus the

[TIME STAMP 30:00]

Marguerite Holloway: When these two boys were drowned you said that a lot of the fishermen had already moved in and weren't drifting so much in the channel they were using the anchor lines. Why did they start to switch from one technique to the other?

James Carey: Well, lack of fishermen mostly. And after World War II, the bigger ships that came up, if they hit you, they had everything. Previous to World War II, we didn't have the ships come up here like they do today. These supertankers and you could not chase them around, there's no place to go. And then the fishermen, as work progressed, big money, you know, in trades, like in the 1930s when I'm speaking mostly of for this other part, drifting and that. There was no work. It was the height of the Depression which started in 1928 really. So it was nothing unusual. My own father would be out of work and I was fishing with Bap through the ice, middle of January and February. You be careful out there son. Yeah I will Dad. I would say from Peekskill to Croton there'd be, on a weekend, on a day like today with the river froze solid. Half of them were fishermen, half of them were spectators. There'd be 500 people on the Hudson River. Skating, ice boating and if you were hauling your nets, they'd skate alongside of you. You'd almost think you were at Madison Square Garden, for an audience. And you'd throw them some fish, you know. That's what made it so interesting to me. And it wasn't until 1940 when work started to pick up a little, that those who were fishermen and a trade and went to the trade. Of course, old Henry, he done both. He did carpentry work and go fishing at night. He was like myself I guess.

Marguerite Holloway: How did you meet your partner Charlie?

James Carey: Well, Charlie and I are cousins, first cousins. Charlie's grandmother and my mother were sisters. So I think the Irish say, first cousins once removed. Charlie'd look at me, had a big smile. We have a picture of him. I'll show it to you. He would say. What's this once removed stuff, Jim? I'd say, I don't know, my mother always said it. I didn't know what it meant. I brought this along just to show you because my memory of Charlie, I loved him. We all loved him. This is Charlie and I the second year we started. That picture was in, with the exception of me, I wouldn't get in it. In National Geographic.

Marguerite Holloway: Wow.

Cal Greenburg: [unclear 33:10]

James Carey: But I didn't get in that picture because I was working, don't put this down, I was afraid of the IRS. Wipe that off when you come to it, I forgot about it. I'm not afraid of them now.

Marguerite Holloway: What year was this?

James Carey: This would be 15 years ago. About 14, 15 years ago. Just when we got started. And there's a picture of four of them that we caught and one we stunned. We had a hit out there one day.

Cal Greenburg: There's Wallace.

James Carey: And these are extra small ones. The biggest fish there is not as big as the two or three that he has caught. This is Charles. He was big and heavy, he got too heavy, didn't he Cal. He was always over 300, Nobody's as tall as this guy. But he was a wonderful guy, Charlie.

Cal Greenburg: There he is.

Marguerite Holloway: Wow.

Cal Greenburg: A little heavier.

Marguerite Holloway: And this was about 15 years ago.

James Carey: Yeah, that's with one of the big bass.

Marguerite Holloway: That's a huge.

James Carey: That could have been any year, like 10 years back. Yeah, that's Charlie.

Marguerite Holloway: So what happened? His health wasn't good?

James Carey: He hurt his leg and before he knew it he had gangrene. But he didn't know it. We did everything. His sister and his mother came down. You know, he didn't go for doctors and things. I'll be all right, I'll be all right. He told it to me, Cal, all his friends. By the time he finally we had to carry him out, He didn't last a week. They took the leg off, poor Charles.

[TIME STAMP 35:00]

James Carey: Didn't make it. But he had some disposition. Smiling all the time. He could build a boat. He was a carpenter. I mean, an ace carpenter.

Cal Greenburg: The wood boat out here he built.

James Carey: Yeah there's a big wooden one out here, a real crackerjack. Charles had good hands. His father was like that. Charles could turn his hand to anything. But he loved the river. You couldn't hire him to build a house because he'd say Next month I've got to go fishing. His father used to say, Charles, why don't you get them tools. Same as Henry's father. And get out and make yourself some money. I'm getting by Dad. He served time in the army, 3 or 4 years. When he came out of the army he was like a witch. I bet he didn't weigh over 250 and he was like this, oh, my god, he looked like Tarzan. But the weight gradually came back and Charlie just smiled when his dad would say something. Charles, watch your weight. Yeah, okay pop.

Cal Greenburg: He could sit down and eat a whole pizza by himself.

James Carey: Yeah, he could. You know, he was a good cook too.

Cal Greenburg: Yeah, he was, he was.

James Carey: He could make the best clam chowder and sturgeon chowder I ever ate.

Cal Greenburg: It was good.

James Carey: He used to make a quart for me to take to work down the shop. The guys'd get fighting over it. They wanted to buy it and I'd say no Charlie said to bring it down to you guys. First thing you

know, I had about 20 guys wanting me to bring chowder. Charlie said, tell them. I'll give them the recipe, tell them to make their own. He always saw the bright side of everything. He was wonderful. I miss him. Cal misses him too.

Cal Greenburg: Yep.

James Carey: He was a wonderful guy. The river was his biggest love. He had the girls after him. They all liked him. He was a rather handsome looking guy. Sometimes if I came down there'd be two out in the yard. He called them his angels. I'd say, Charlie there's two of your angels out here. Yeah, tell them I'll be out in a little while. Just people that liked him, you know. Good natured.

Marguerite Holloway: So you and he would both take time off from work and go out

James Carey: Well, I've been retired now see 11 years. So we had 7 or 8 years when I wasn't working at all. Previous to that he was fishing with another younger fella you know. And I just had a net of my own in the channel. I'd bring the fish in and Charlie would sell them for me. We always worked out little deals you know what I mean. I had one experience with Charlie which was comical and I'll never forget it. In the days when we were allowed to seine, legally. You go out at night time and go to a beach and cast a seine out, the two of us. And you'd come in on the beach with the boat and one guy stood out where the boat was and held the end. I'm talking about a 300 foot net, circled around this beach. And Charlie we would tie it on the other end, 200 feet away. He'd go over where it was tied with a flashlight. Pick up the line and come towards me and we'd start hauling. So we had a signal. I was by the boat, Charlie went over. When he got a hold of the rope and started pulling the net in and walking towards me, he'd give me the signal with the flashlight. Three on, three off. And I'd start pulling in. So this particular night, Charlie went over to do his job and I'm looking over and I'm waiting and waiting. I saw he had the light on but he didn't give me the signal. I'm waiting. All of a sudden the light went out. So I said what the hell's he doing? Give me that damn signal. So I wait. Then I knew the net was coming in and he's walking towards me. So I started to pull my end of this 300 foot net in. Charles came over along side of me within 10 feet of me on the beach part. It was rocky where he started. I said, what the hell happened to the signal, Champ? I always called him the Champ. To me he was the Champ of the river. He says, I fell in the god damn river. (laughter)

[TIME STAMP 40:00]

James Carey: Well, did the light go out? He said yeah or I would have shined it for you. Him and I laughed. This was like a May morning in the middle of May after the bass which were legal then. We were laughing. I said you're going to have to stop for one minute Charlie, I had a can of beer. I said I've got to drink this can of beer before we go another inch. To me that was the most comical thing ever happened. Where was that signal? I couldn't give it to you. Why not? I fell in the god damn river. I said, that's reason enough. You wouldn't believe it. We laughed for years about that. Every night we'd go in the spring with the seine which was legal I'd say, you got the flashlight Champ? Yeah. Shine it once I want to make sure it's working I would say to him. Yeah, we had a lot of fun. It was good.

Marguerite Holloway: When did they make seining illegal?

James Carey: That was oh, probably like 1970 or so. That went back years before the ban on bass. Seining became illegal maybe 20, 25 years ago, didn't it Call? I can't remember the exact year.

Marguerite Holloway: Do you know why?

James Carey: Well, we had these fishing organizations, there's no harm in saying it. And they felt that the fishermen were depleting the bass. They'd stand alongside of us in a boat fishing all day and watch us. And wouldn't catch a bass and they'd watch us haul in 1000 pound of bass. So they would say to us, no wonder we can't get any, you're getting them all. Now, the bass were there, but the bass weren't biting. If the bass were biting, they'd get 7 or 8 or 10 in an hour's time and be on their way. So they put a law through. They, after many years, they put a law through, put a ban on the seining. Then they go the law to made bass illegal all over. They blamed that on the PCBs.

Cal Greenburg: They're illegal in Long Island.

James Carey: Well you can explain that to her, Cal, about Long Island. Because I could never figure that out.

Cal Greenburg: Me neither. [unclear 42:41]

James Carey: If I say hon, I call my daughters, granddaughters hon you know? Okay?

Marguerite Holloway: It's okay.

Cal Greenburg: They've done studies on bass in the river. They've tagged them. They want to find out where the bass go when they leave river. The bass that were in this river they've gotten them in Georgia, they've caught them in Delaware, they've caught them all over Long Island Sound. They've caught them at Montauk. They've caught them all over the East Coast. They tell us, when a fish comes in the river, you get the PCBs in them. It goes to the skin, the fat and the bone of the fish. And they told us that once the fish gets the PCBs that PCBs is in that fish for the rest of the fishes life one year. The following year, they tell us, that when the fish goes down the river, goes under the George Washington Bridge to the salt water, the PCBs go away. Now I can't understand it. Nobody else can figure it out but they are legal to catch on Long Island. They can catch striped bass on Long Island the commercial fishermen. But we can't. It just doesn't make sense.

Marguerite Holloway: So the fishermen have tried to organize to get the state to change that rule, but there's been no luck.

Cal Greenburg: Well, Jimmy will tell you too, it's political. That's really what it is. People on Long Island have got more political pull that the few fishermen in the river do.

James Carey: Absolutely.

Cal Greenburg: You know, and they got what they want and they don't care about us. They keep tell us that once the level of the PCBs go down, you'll be able to catch them again. And I told my fishing partner, I'm telling everybody else, you'll never see a striped bass taken legally in this Hudson River again.

James Carey: Not in my time and I don't think yours either, Cal.

Cal Greenburg: Nope, you'll never see it. Because they've got it closed and that's what they want so they're going to keep it.

[TIME STAMP 45:00]

Marguerite Holloway: So you're not worried about PCBs?

Cal Greenburg: I eat 'em.

James Carey: I haven't lit up in the dark yet.

Cal Greenburg: [unclear 45:12] is over 80 years old he's eaten them all his life

James Carey: He said if hadn't been for striped bass and sturgeon he'd have starved to death as a young man, and so would we all.

Cal Greenburg; Yep. The fact is, the sports fishermen will eat more striped bass than if we sold them to a store, really. Because if we catch them, they go to the store they're distributed all over. They buy one fish, two fish.

James Carey: Absolutely.

Cal Greenburg: When you get a sports fisherman, everything he catches, he's going to eat.

James Carey: Absolutely.

Cal Greenburg: So he's getting more PCBs than if we were selling them, you know. But they don't look at it that way.

James Carey: Well, when they first put the ban on seining we were still allowed to fish with the gill nets for the bass. Now, I had a few friends of mine, plus I know a lot of other sport fishermen, good guys and all that. Who when two guys in particular I went to approached them on the open fish store and I approached them to sell them some bass. Strictly legal. Jeez Carey, he says, I would but he says and he mentioned two sport fishermen, he said they'll get him all the bass I want to sell also. Which was strictly legal, they were allowed to sell them. But they didn't want us to catch them commercially and sell them and there they were, you know in the Hudson River, a hook and liner does not pay for a license. It's free. At least the poor old commercial fisherman has to buy a license and has to do his lifting of his net and has to comply with the law or suffer the consequences. Now a lot of the sport fishermen, two I know of names don't mean nothing. But it was legal for them to sell them. But the part was they were envious of us but still they would turn around and for nothing, when I say no license and go sell them themselves. But eventually they got their way and got the ban on the bass. But I never had no bad feelings towards the sportsmen because they never hurt us that much. They didn't hurt us at all, except to stop the fishing, helped to stop it. That's where they hurt us. They didn't hurt us by selling a couple of fish. Hell I would have taken their fish to Fulton Street for them if they'd asked me, you know what I mean.

Marguerite Holloway: Did you go down to Fulton a lot to deliver?

James Carey: Not myself. Tucker's been to Fulton Street, different times. I've been down a couple of times many years ago.

Marguerite Holloway: What was it like down there?

James Carey: Fulton Street was a very busy place. They treated the fishermen good. You went down, you made your deals. Like in the old days when we shipped trailer loads of shad to Fulton Street, they

brought up all the empty boxes for you before you started. You made a deal with them. They'd say, I'll give you the market price. See, Fulton Street sets a market price. For instance, comes Monday morning and you're a shad fisherman, Fulton Street says roe shad 17 cents a pound. Now you knew that and you sent them, you could pick out one outfitter, you could distribute them to different buyers down there. But they were all good people down there. You sent them down iced up the way they want them and all, 3 or 4 days later you went to the post office and there was your check. Right there, solid as gold. Speaking of shad, and bass also when they were legal. You might go to Fulton Street before the season.

[TIME STAMP 50:00]

James Carey: And go to one company there's several. I won't mention any one in particular and say look I'm Cal Greenburg or I'm Jim Carey, you want all my shad. Yeah, Mr. Carey. Here's what we'll do with you. We'll send you up 100 boxes, send them fish down properly, you know, iced and stacked. They had to be, you just didn't throw them in. The way we want them. Monday markets 17.5 cents I'm going to give you 20 cents. I want all your fish so you made a verbal deal, no contracts, no nothing. And you do business with that man, all during the season. He treated you the way he said. If it came Thursday and the market dropped 2 cents he showed you the market price on the return sheet. You got that 2 cents less and so on. There was never no problem. They were wonderful people to deal with. As far as us people here in the valley are concerned Hudson Valley. My old Uncle Bap between him and another old uncle Bunny they would send down maybe 100 boxes, 100 pounds in each box, half a tractor trailer load or a full tractor depending on what size. And that went on for four weeks. And they went to where, you had to tag them. They'd give you their tags and you'd put your name and address on the back and then tagged it with their name and address showing, you know. And that guy went right down there with that truck. Two or three days later your check was in the mail. We never got real big money out of it, no one never got rich on fishing that I ever knew in the Hudson Valley, especially myself. I'm poorer now than when I started in 1929 I think. But I tell you we never starved anyway during the Depression. That was the big thing. That still is a big thing today. Half of the people in Peekskill too were fishing little nets out in the bay out in the middle of the winter to get a striped bass or whatever. The river was good to us all, plus all the people who love it for other reasons than we have. It's a great old river.

Marguerite Holloway: Did you ever get involved in the black marketing of the bass after the ban?

James Carey: Well, you could say that. I'll tell you a little something about Henry and I. Let me tell you what happened with me and Henry one time. Because he's my friend. I came in here and I had 16 bass in my boat. Now at that time, the law first came out it says if a commercial fisherman has a bass in his net or tin, whatever, he's allowed to take them home for his own use. Fillet them, skin them, whatever. He could not sell or transport the bass. So working under that law I came in one day, I had 16 bass in the boat. So game warden came on the scene, gave me a summons. I went to court with a lawyer. Get my friend Henry. Of course, he's the first guy I go streaking for is Henry. I said Henry will you come up and testify on my behalf. Because you know more about that river than any of us. I will. So we get up there and we're waiting to go in the court room. Someone come over along side of me and says, Carey you ain't got nothing to worry about. I said, why? He says this judge is going to try you, he says, I'll mention his name, Jack McCarthy. He's an Irishman. Of course I'm Irish as Paddy's pig you know. So I said, that's great. He said he's an Irishman, he's probably a Catholic too on top of that. I said, well now I'm really in, I said. I go over to Henry, I says. A friend of mine just told me this judge's name is McCarthy. I says it's gotta a Catholic, when he hears Carey he's gotta know I'm an Irishman and a Catholic. He'll probably go

easy on me. Henry says, well maybe he will Jimmy, in Henry's way, you know. Let's wait and see. We went in, the state testified, they had expert witnesses. Henry got on the stand and he swore up and down, which was true

[TIME STAMP 55:00]

You couldn't a net in the Hudson River without catching a few bass, no matter what you were fishing for, you were bound to catch some bass. After it was all cut and dried and Henry's testimony and la-de-da and all that jazz. First he was going to fine me $4000. But he said because I was an old man, that's 11 years ago, I was 65 then and retired. He says, you're an old man, you're living on a fixed income I'll fine you $500. That was the same as $4000 to me. I had to go borrow it anyway to pay the fine. So he was satisfied with his judgement, boom, that was the end of the trial. So they went out in the hallway to go downstairs and Henry and I walked out in the hallway. There's the state lawyers and all this jazz and the judge is down there talking. And he takes me by the arm and he says wait a minute Jimmy. I says, what. You recall what happened before the trial, he said you telling me he says that you're an Irishman? You're a Catholic? The judge has got to be Irish because he's a McCarthy? He's gotta be a Catholic? Maybe he'd go easy on you. I said yes, Henry, I was feeling kind of blue, you know. I do remember that. He said, I just thought about something. I said, what's that Henry. He said you might have been a hell of a lot better off you had one of my kind up there. (laughter) Now Henry's a Black gentleman and just as nice as can be, but him and I got laughing. We walked down past the other judge and the lawyers, they couldn't understand what in the name of the hell we had to laugh about after me just being fined $500. But that was the best experience I ever had with my old friend Henry. I liked Henry. He has a way, he looks at you sideways, you know. You might have been a hell of a lot better off with one of my kind. I said, Henry, you're right. We couldn't stop laughing. I think the old judge is probably trying to figure yet today what the hell we had to laugh about. He even said, I'm sorry, Carey, I had to do my duty. I said, It's all right judge. It's all right. We're still laughing, you know. It was comical I thought at the time.

Marguerite Holloway: You just had the bass in the boat, you weren't selling them to anyone, right?

James Carey: I not only still had them in the boat, I had done nothing with them except come ashore. He had no right to even get in that boat and take them. Well, he may have. But the law read at that time commercial fishermen was allowed to take them for his own use. Now if I was stopped say going down to Montrose with bass in my car or truck iced up and all. You have an ulterior motive, you're going to sell. But those actual 15, 16 bass I was taking home. You take a 10 pound bass, Cal will verify this. And fillet it and skin it, which is what we do. There's no PCBs in that bass, you know. Once you cut under the dorsal from tail to head that's your biggest part of your PCBs, that's the fact. And if it ain't there. If it is there it may be in the skin, so we fillet them and skin them and that's why we're not afraid to eat them. If I were to give one to someone tomorrow and say let me fillet and skin that for you, Joe, friend whatever. Then there's no danger. But you will only get out of a 10 pound bass, if you get 3 pound of meat, the way we do it to avoid the PCBs, what have you got with 16 bass.

Cal Greenburg: Not a lot.

James Carey: I had about 6 pound of fish for my own use. However, they weren't convinced that Henry found something funny to say that I loved him for it. Yeah he sprung that one on me. He is something. He come in here right now he'd have something to say to me. Critically, you know, constructive criticism I call it. He's something.

Marguerite Holloway: So you didn't get involved in transporting them

[TIME STAMP 1:00:00]

James Carey: No, no, it wasn't worth it. We did know, I realize today that to try and bootleg bass if you want to call it that, that you're only kidding yourself. Because if you get caught, in the old days we used to go out and fish without a license during the Depression. We'd make out a money order and we'd go down and put our money order number on the end of the net and put that in the ice. But then if someone got caught doing something illegal. Like small bass. We were very exact about that. We never took a small bass. Because those are the one's that are growing and going to reproduce. If you did do something wrong an occasional fisherman would be caught without a license. You went in front of the local judge and you paid a $10 or $15 seine and went out the next day and put your nets back in the water. Today they take your nets, your boat, if you can't pay the fine, they put a lien on your house. A man's crazy to do it. You've got to pay. It's understandable if that's the situation, we realize it and go along with it. Furthermore, the local markets, I can't say whether just Westchester, I think in the state, are not allowed to have striped bass in their counters. Unless it's tagged and they've got the proof to show that it came from outside. Isn't that true Cal?

Cal Greenburg: I think it is, yeah.

James Carey: Do you have anything to say on that matter, Cal?

Marguerite Holloway: They can't pretend it came from somewhere else?

Cal Greenburg: Even the commercial fishermen on Long Island every striped bass that they take they've got to have a tag on it. That way you know exactly where that fish came from.

Marguerite Holloway: So there's no way to get around it.

Cal Greenburg: No way to get around it. What they do is when they get their license they're issued so many tags. They use the tags. If they don't use all the tags they've got to send them back. You can't get away from it that way.

James Carey: And you know what the law is with the hook and line, you can explain that to her, today.

Cal Greenburg: Today they're allowed one.

Marguerite Holloway: Right, they can keep one.

Cal Greenburg: One fish a day, yeah.

James Carey: One fish to a fisherman.

Marguerite Holloway: 30 fish a month.

Cal Greenburg: If they wanted to go out there every day and catch one fish.

James Carey: And they do.

Cal Greenburg: They can do it.

James Carey: I've been told, I don't know what truth there is, I read a little in the paper, that several hook and liners have been caught with more than. The limit is one. And I don't know if that includes us or not Cal. I'm not going to take it, how about you?

Cal Greenburg: Not include us. But I know people that are fishermen, sport fishermen, and I know they're out three, four times a week and they eat everything they catch. I don't know.

Marguerite Holloway: So it's really been the ban on the bass that's destroyed the fishery.

Cal Greenburg: Oh yeah, definitely.

Marguerite Holloway: It's not that people are not interested so much. They would be interested if there was some money.

James Carey: You'd have more fishermen [unclear 1:03:37]. Explain to her a little more about fishing for the big sturgeon, Cal. You know as much, if not more than I do about that. Say like when this spring comes. You go ahead and explain about that.

Cal Greenburg: There are probably end of May, June, up to about July 4 for sturgeon. We anchor net for them. Use 18 inch net. It's called stretch nets. It's 18 inches square, it what their head goes through. That's pretty big.

Marguerite Holloway: So that's not from the top of the diamond to the bottom.

Cal Greenburg: Right. So you handle them with care. You've got to be very careful with them. Because they are a very powerful fish. They're very primitive fish. There is no bones in them. The only bone that's on the fish is on the skin. There's big plates on the skin that are bone. Other than that, there's no bone in their body. Most of the time, you don't bring them into the boat. You usually put ropes around and tie them alongside the boat. Mainly because they're just too big to get into the boat a lot of times.

[TIME STAMP 1:05:00]

Cal Greenburg: Then we usually bring them ashore. And what you do you hope that they're still alive. Most of the time they've got to be still alive yet. We use a saw, like a reap saw and we take the tail off and let them bleed to death. If you don't let them bleed to death the eggs won't come out right. And you've got to get those eggs out of there quick. You put them in pails and if you can, if you've got ice packs, you put ice packs around them. And you get them in the freezer. And you have a screen and you take the eggs and you put them on the screen. There's a certain way you've got to roll them around on the screen so the eggs will drop out into a pail. Then you take that and you weigh it. You've got to know how much the pail weighs. So you adjust for the pail and you add your salt to them.

Marguerite Holloway: How much salt?

Cal Greenburg: Well, it depends on what the weight of the eggs is. It's quite a bit of salt. As you're putting the salt in, you've got to stir the eggs with your hands. You stir the eggs for like 15 minutes. Once you start adding the salt, it will get very watery. And then you have, it's a very fine screen. It's almost like a screen for a window. It's a stainless steel screen. You spread your eggs out on that and that's how you drain your eggs. That's how they drain them. You drain them off for, usually you do that for probably 2

hours, 2 or 3 hours you let them drain. Then you put them in pails and you put them back in the ice box and then you call the guy up and he comes up and picks them up.

Marguerite Holloway: And how much do you usually get a pound?

Cal Greenburg: It varies with the grade of the egg. Anywhere from

James Carey: 25 to 45

Cal Greenburg: Somewhere's around there.

James Carey: In that area. Average maybe 30.

Cal Greenburg: How wet they are, how dry they are. In fact the guy that we deal with, we've never gotten a top grade egg. He's look at them here and say they're real nice. But when he gets them back, well they were a little wet, or a little dry.

James Carey: He knocks 5 off before he even opens his mouth. And when he's finished talking he's knocking 10 off.

Cal Greenburg: That's right.

James Carey: Cal [unclear 11:07:48] And what can you do about it.

Marguerite Holloway: Look for some other dealer? Sorry.

Cal Greenburg: There really aren't that many dealers around that deal with caviar.

Marguerite Holloway: How'd you find this one?

Cal Greenburg: From Charlie. Charlie found him.

James Carey: Charlie is responsible for starting big sturgeon fishing in the Hudson River, in our area, that I know of. Charlie White himself yes.

Marguerite Holloway: Not Tucker Crawford?

Cal Greenburg: No.

James Carey: Now explain to her how you and any good fisherman fishes for the big sturgeon. On many occasions have taken a spawned out sturgeon and returned her back. Explain that to her how we can tell.

Cal Greenburg: We can tell, you take the fish, what you do is look on her belly. If her belly is caved in a little bit, you know she's spawned out already. And if she is alive, we just let them go. In fact, most of the males. The males get to around 50 pounds. I let all the males go, I don't keep a male.

James Carey: I've been doing the same thing myself. The bucks we call them.

Cal Greenburg: Yeah, the bucks.

James Carey: If we take a buck in or a spawned out female which we recognize. You tell her how much we get for them, I mean, if we get $1 a pound.

Cal Greenburg: If you get a dollar a pound you're lucky.

James Carey: She go half and half, If you bring a 100 pound fish in, you've got 50 pounds of meat. And for say 85 or 90 cents a pounds why take that beautiful fish in and spoil things for the future. To fishermen, every fisherman I know including the DeGroats across the river, they all do the same, they've got a female in that net, ah she's spawned out dammit. Get her all out and she just eases right on her way. We figure

Cal Greenburg: I've even taken, small males and even females that were close to dead and gone to shore with them and just walked back and forth in the water with them, trying to bring them back to life again. And then let them go.

Marguerite Holloway: Does that usually work? Walking them back and forth.

Cal Greenburg: On, yes.

[TIME STAMP 1:10:00]

James Carey: He's done it. We've done it Charlie and I've done it right here in the mud.

Cal Greenburg: Let them go.

James Carey: Charlie was the first one to come up with that idea up this neighborhood. Why bring a fish in if it ain't what you're looking for. Worth a good dollar, a decent dollar. And it's practical, even though at my age I may never fish another year. But maybe my grandson or yours or the other guys.

Cal Greenburg: One thing about sturgeon, they don't spawn every year.

Marguerite Holloway: They don't?

Cal Greenburg: No. The bigger the fish gets, the farther between their they go. Like when a sturgeon spawns in the river, when that egg hatches, it spends 7 years in this river. Which is a long time.

James Carey: Yes, so they say.

Cal Greenburg: Then it leaves the Hudson River. It goes into the ocean. It takes another 7 years before that fish is ready to spawn the first time. That's how primitive they are. And the first year they might spawn every year after that. But then it will be every other year, every two years, every three years, they'll spawn as the bigger the fish gets.

Marguerite Holloway: Where do they stay in the river. Where do you go and set your nets?

James Carey: Strictly the deepest part of the river you can find.

Cal Greenburg: Strictly the channel. Strictly the channel.

Marguerite Holloway: And what time, how long are your nets and how deep are they and when do you set them? How often do you check them?

Cal Greenburg: Check them every day.

Marguerite Holloway: Same time of day.

Cal Greenburg: That's state law. State law says you have to check your nets every day. Usually there's about an hour difference each day. Because you work with the tide.

Marguerite Holloway: What kind of tide to you need to check the nets?

Cal Greenburg: Slack water. Close to slack water, about an hour before slack. My nets, Jimmy's the same, about 30 feet deep. That's pretty much from top to bottom.

James Carey: Pretty much, yeah. Haverstraw Bay ranges between 30 and 40 feet in the channel. The whole area, entire area that's the channel.

Cal Greenburg: You try to get as close to that channel as you can get.

James Carey: As close to the boats, they still run over these nets.

Cal Greenburg: They do, they do. In fact the one net I had last year. When I was on the end of that net, I could have taken a tennis ball and hit a tug when it went by. It's that close. He was running over the top of the anchors. That's how close they were.

Marguerite Holloway: How many

Cal Greenburg: And I never caught a fish. I never caught a fish. I had over 600 feet of net thee.

James Carey: I know you did.

Cal Greenburg: Had a lot of net there.

James Carey: Well, you know what I said, every one you miss I get. I'm upriver from him, you know. (laughter)

Cal Greenburg: That's right.

James Carey: I'd like to say one little thing. Another good fisherman in Verplanck is Jimmy Blakeley and his boys. Jimmy Blakeley. They're crackerjack fisherman.

Cal Greenburg: That he is.

James Carey: And his boys.

Marguerite Holloway: How old is Jimmy Blakeley?

James Carey: Huh?

Marguerite Holloway: How old is Jimmy Blakeley?

James Carey: Jimmy's probably around 50 now but his work keeps him from doing what he would love to do. He'll still come down on his vacations with a couple of his boys and go out and catch some fish. He hasn't got it out of his blood yet.

Cal Greenburg: There was one year.

James Carey: Never will.

Cal Greenburg: That me and Tommy, we were fishing down in Croton, we were fishing for sturgeon, we caught 17 and Charlie was fishing up here and never caught a fish.

James Carey: Charlie and Jim Carey. (laughter) We were kind of shame faced there for a while, you're right Cal. He had a bin.

Cal Greenburg: It's all important the amount of fresh water that's running in the river, where the salt is, where they changeover from salt to fresh. They have to lay in the river for at least 2 weeks before they go into the fresh water, so their body gets acclimated to fresh water.

James Carey: That's where they spend their time in Haverstraw Bay see. The further upriver you go, naturally the more brackish it gets. And they go beyond Poughkeepsie. Right up into the Highlands, they do go. And spawn up there. But coming up river they don't just come in and swim right on up to the Highlands, spawn, turn around and come back. They have to go real slow. We had a man, Bill Dovell he took a survey of sturgeon, Wonderful guy.

[TIME STAMP 1:15:00]

James Carey: And he told us more facts than we even, but he said, there's nothing like the practical experience to really know. But he knew things that we did not know, which were of interest to us.

Marguerite Holloway: What did you teach him that he didn't know?

James Carey: Well one thing we did do, we helped him out. He came in on a survey one year and spent the entire spring time here and the summer on a government grant of sorts. And he hired Charlie to he tagged 3500 small sturgeon. I'm referring to under the law which was 42 inches, still is 42 inches. And he would come to my boat and say, Jim hold what you got and when you're done I'll come up. And he would give me the tags, I had the equipment and we helped him tag. Well, Charlie worked with him, they went up river and spent the summer. We helped him tag 3500 sturgeon for future reference. And some of them tagged sturgeon have been caught as far north as Newfoundland. And they've been caught down along the coast of the Carolinas, Maryland, Chesapeake Bay area. So Bill Dovell, of course he's a scientific man too, you know. He's a smart guy, he knows his business. But he said without the help of the fishermen, not only Charlie and I, several of the other fishermen all cooperated with him. And he got all the information he wanted. And they were upriver, put out special nets, him and Charlie in July, August, caught sturgeon this big, two, three inches long with special nets.

Cal Greenburg: I remember Charlie telling me

Marguerite Holloway: Only two inches long? Wow.

Cal Greenburg: Yeah

James Carey: Yes, this big, yeah.

Cal Greenburg: He caught a sturgeon right down here in the bay and they put a monitor on it.

James Carey: A beeper on it.

Cal Greenburg: So he could follow them. They caught him in the net. The let him go.

James Carey: Coming back, spawned out. Charlie and I caught that thing.

Cal Greenburg: That fish, they tagged it, it came upriver, it swam around a guy's net, went right back down river and got caught in the same exact net again the next day. Same net.

James Carey: They took him out and let him go again.

Cal Greenburg: And they finally followed him down river.

James Carey: And he spent, that fish spent about 8 days in Haverstraw Bay, coming back, spawned out, they knew because they recaught it. Finally one day, she left the west shore over around Grassy Point where DeGroats and them fish. He was following it, came back out to the channel then headed on down, when they quite following it it was George Washington Bridge, heading back out to sea.

Cal Greenburg; Back out to sea.

James Carey: They had the beeper reading in the boat.

Marguerite Holloway: Cal, when did you first fish for sturgeon?

Cal Greenburg: That was the '70s I guess, middle 1970s when I started.

Marguerite Holloway: I mean in the whole time that you've been fishing for them, has the population gone up, gone down, has it stayed the same?

James Carey: Well, actually, it's hard to say. Because, you mean the big sturgeon?

Cal Greenburg: Yeah.

James Carey: Fundamentally I'd say the same, wouldn't you, Cal?

Cal Greenburg: About the same, yeah.

James Carey: Pretty much the same. But I think they're concerned about, outside now, the men with the drag nets. I understand what they used to kick overboard and call them trash fish, now I understand they're marketing, because any fish that swims today is a target.

Marguerite Holloway: So you mean off the coast where they're dragging.

James Carey: I mean down in the Atlantic.

Cal Greenburg; [crosstalk]

James Carey: Down in the Atlantic. I'm referring to the pound nets and that.

Cal Greenburg: At one time they were considered a garbage fish.

James Carey: Trash fish.

Cal Greenburg: And they used to kick them back.

James Carey: They had no market value because there was so many cod. Now fish are scarce so they're taking anything that comes in the net. Which is sad.

Cal Greenburg: Yeah, it is.

James Carey: Yes, it is. That's our main reason for

Cal Greenburg: One year, me and my partner were fishing down in Croton for sturgeon and we weren't getting sturgeon. And they weren't catching sturgeon here. We weren't catching sturgeon.

[TIME STAMP 1:20:00]

Cal Greenburg: We went out there with a depth recorder, a fish finder. We found sturgeon two more yards down from our net and we never caught a fish.

James Carey: [crosstalk]

Cal Greenburg: Unbelievable.

Marguerite Holloway: Most of the equipment you use tho isn't modern like the fish finders, right? I mean it's very old techniques.

James Carey: Just the old way. We're still doing the same thing we done 60 years ago. I've been out there more than 60 years. Cal knows, from the day when he was a kid.

Cal Greenburg: The latest thing that happened is the anchor nets. That's been around a while.

James Carey: Oh yes.

Marguerite Holloway: So when did that start? Who introduced anchor nets?

James Carey: Well, my old uncle was great for that. We used to anchor fish all winter if the ice would let us out. He was one of the first anchor fishermen. The DeGroats as I mentioned before and the boys over here, the Springsteds and Jake Stout.

Marguerite Holloway: And where did they learn from?

James Carey: Probably from their parents and what not. You can go back as far as I can remember. I remember old timers. There was an old gentleman on Verplancks, Arthur Conklin. He fished year round. That was his living. Which none of the present day fishermen do. You'd starve to death in a week if you tried it. He even fished for carp in the summer and so forth. He was a great old fishermen, one of the real originals.

Cal Greenburg: I think Jimmy will agree with me, the biggest thing that I liked about fishing is you never know what's going to be out there. You never know.

James Carey: That's the way it is.

Cal Greenburg: You never know.

James Carey: You're absolutely right.

Cal Greenburg: You never know what you're going to catch in the net.

Marguerite Holloway: So there was a time when people actually could live year round and make a living, just be a full time fisherman.

James Carey: Yes, there was a few old timers like Arthur Conklin whom I just mentioned. Not my uncle. My uncle run a saloon and fishing, it was a hobby, he loved it but he'd hire fishermen and pay them more than any other man along the valley would pay them. But he had to be there, and he had to try everything out that came along. He built a boat too. His son has a place that his father had before him, coming in Kings Ferry Road.

Cal Greenburg: Even today, if there was a market for eels and bass, you could live off this river.

James Carey: Don't dare touch an eel, you know.

Cal Greenburg: On, no.

James Carey: Because of PCBs. And it's true they are being a mud fish, you know, mud all winter and the cats.

Cal Greenburg: Yeah, the catfish.

James Carey: They get a high reading I can't quote it but where a bass might be 3 parts per million and eel or catfish will be maybe 57 parts per million. Anything above 6 parts you're not supposed to eat at all I understand.

Marguerite Holloway: So when was the last year that people sort of could fish all year round and live, that that could be their profession.

James Carey: Ah, well, that goes back, I don't remember from the time I went with my uncle, Except for old Mr. Conklin, a couple old gentlemen across the river. But in them days they could pay their taxes with $100 and so on. See the money situation today I won't quote mine, well, Cal I don't know if he owns property or not. Today either get out of Westchester County or die, because you can't afford to live in it. That's off the cuff, but it doesn't matter, it's true as hell. It's the truest thing I've said so far.

Marguerite Holloway: Did you ever work with any other scientists like Bill Dovell or ever worked with the State to help them with other studies that they were doing or survey?

James Carey: Bill gave us a lot of information and he was he had a nice personality and you just had to help him because you knew that he was there for your own good or the good of the future fishing in the Hudson.

Cal Greenburg: The State never done anything to help us.

James Carey: State does no good. No the government don't do nothing. They really and truly don't. The laws are there. I can understand the people being told about the PCBs and can even understand bans but for quantity in striped bass

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James Carey: there's more striped bass in the Hudson River these last 5 or 10 springs than I ever say in my life.

Cal Greenburg: That's right.

James Carey: To a point where's men quite shad fishing because it's breaking their heart to throw 200 pounds away to keep to keep 50 pounds of shad. And the work involved of course.

Cal Greenburg: There's a lot of work involved, is right.

James Carey: You're a hook and liner besides being

Cal Greenburg: Yeah, a little bit.

James Carey: I wouldn't know how to take a bass off a hook believe it or not, and I've caught tons in my day. What's the biggest hook and liner you ever caught, Cal?

Cal Greenburg: 33 pounds.

James Carey: Where'd you catch him?

Cal Greenburg: Croton Point.

Marguerite Holloway: Wow.

Cal Greenburg: Big fish.

James Carey: That was the time you won a contest wasn't there a contest?

Cal Greenburg: Yep.

James Carey: And he's as honest as hell but he went to one market place in Peekskill where a sporting goods store. And he said I want to enter the bass in the contest. And the guy took his word for it and weighed it and he won. He took the same fish, same day, went downriver to Ossining.

Cal Greenburg: Ossining right.

James Carey: And said I want to enter this bass in the contest. You know what the guy says? Not you pal, you're a commercial fisherman but I know different. I know Cal would not take a fish out of a net and enter it. But this guy wouldn't believe

Cal Greenburg: That was before I was a [unclear 1:26:54] fisherman.

James Carey: Tell her how it was, I remember you telling me.

Cal Greenburg: But when he took a look at the fish he said you took that out of Goudine's net. No way.

James Carey: Poor Henry got blamed for that.

Cal Greenburg: Wouldn't do it.

Marguerite Holloway: He blamed Henry? That it was Henry's net?

Cal Greenburg: Yeah. They said it came out of Henry's net.

James Carey: That's what the guy said, you got that in Goudine's net. (laughter) But you won the contest in Peekskill there.

Cal Greenburg: Ball and reel.

James Carey: They catch them up to 35 pounds on the hook and line. It's nothing unusual for us to catch a bass, two or three during the shad season with a plug or a hook and line in his mouth where somebody had him and unfortunately lost him.

Marguerite Holloway: Can you remember other things that came up that you went to ask Henry about? These are funny stories.

James Carey: I told about that Irish judge. (laughter) I tell you, I don't care who was there that day that they didn't get a kick out of it. He made my day. I didn't pay the fine to the judge. I agreed to pay it, I said could I have a little time, he says sure Jim, take all the time you need. I said well I just need the first of the month until I get my pension check. I saw Henry looking sideways and smile a little bit. He's a comedian. He's got all the know how of anybody. Top man on the Hudson River ever to my knowledge, including my uncle.

Marguerite Holloway: What makes him such a good fisherman?

James Carey: Hard work. When he was young, I didn't know him in his young days.

Cal Greenburg: He's been at it so long.

James Carey: He's been at it since he was a kid. I think he's about 86 now, if I'm not mistaken.

Cal Greenburg: I can remember him telling me that when he was going to school, his mother used to make him wear a dress, so he wouldn't run to the river. And that still didn't stop him. He still would go to the river.

James Carey: I believe it.

Cal Greenburg: Yep.

James Carey: He told me about his father that I said before. Get rid of them nets and get them tools. And my brother Bill worked with him in Croton, knew of him when Bill was in Croton. And Bill said to me, with tools, carpentry tools he could build anything. But he'd leave the tools aside when it come spring and head for the river. He had an old partner who retired.

Cal Greenburg: Retired, We were in Croton shad fishing with my partner it was like 3 or 4 days when we had real high winds, there's no way we could get out to haul net. So when the wind laid down we went out in the boat, we hauled. And there was a little piece of net left

[TIME STAMP 1:30:00]

Cal Greenburg: I think maybe 200 feet of net left that we couldn't get off that night. So this was during lift period. You had to have, we were supposed to take it off by 6:00 the next morning. So I told my partner, he couldn't get down so I told him, I'll go out in the early morning and I'll take off whatever's left, right. And what we were doing was just bringing everything right into the boat. Net the fish everything just piling it all right into the boat. So I did and I'm out there doing this and it's so heavy that a lot of the fish you just couldn't lift it because it was so heavy, right? So I went to pick a few of the fish out until it got light enough to get it into the boat. So I pull everything into the boat, I got it all in the boat. I bring it into shore and I got into shore. Who's standing there waiting for me but the game warden. He says what do you got in that boat. I said if you're looking for bass, there's a lot of them

there. You couldn't take no bass at the time, with the wind blowing you were going to catch bass, right. He says, what are you going to do with them? Nothing. Clean the net, get rid of them, throw them away, right. So he came up to me, he followed me right up to me putting the boat on the trailer. He got right in my truck, to make sure I wasn't going to go nowhere, right and he drove right to the house with me. So I'm standing there and I'm pulling the net out. As I'm pulling the net out I'm picking the fish out, throwing them in the pile on the ground. So most of the net was destroyed, it really wasn't any good anymore. So Henry came. So he stopped, he was fooling around with it, he was helping me pick some of the fish out. We got everything picked out, took all the fish to the dump, threw them away. We came back and the game warden says to me, he says, if them fish were a little bit fresher I would have gave you a summons. Well Henry turned around and he walked up one side of that game warden and down the other side. He said, you lousy this and that, this guy is killing himself trying to get these things out of the water and you're trying to give him a summons. You're a no good this that. Boy, he really went after him. I'm telling you. Unbelievable. The game warden backed down.

James Carey: He was absolutely right.

Cal Greenburg: Sure he was right, I mean, you know.

Marguerite Holloway: That's great.

Cal Greenburg: Unbelievable.

James Carey: It was always nice to say to Henry I've done it on several occasions, what would do if you were, like the predicament where I paid the $500 fine. What would you have done? Well, he would tell me what he would have done. But he says, you asked me what I would have done if I were you. He said I would have never brought that g.d. bass in the first place. But he would have fought that case. But the only thing is, paid $500 fine, it cost me $600 for a lawyer, I could see another thousand dollars for a lawyer.

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James Carey: Cal why don't you give her your number also because, now that you're retired, if you ever want to call, talk to me or Cal, you have my number, take Cal's number also because my daughter works and my granddaughter works half the time I'm either on the river or chasing girls and ain't having much luck with either. (laughter)

Marguerite Holloway: Okay, I can just take it down.

Cal Greenburg: 736-5921

James Carey: That's 914.

Marguerite Holloway: So what else can you tell me about fishing?

James Carey: Well, Cal might think of a little something more to say there.

Cal Greenburg: Just like I say there it's different, that's for sure. You never know what you're going to come up with.

James Carey: That's the big one.

Cal Greenburg: We've caught all kinds of salt water fish out here.

James Carey: There is one thing I would like to add. This year and last year the blue fish are becoming plentiful in the Hudson River any time after say, what time would you say, Cal?

Cal Greenburg: June.

James Carey: The hook and liners do real good down at Croton Point.

Marguerite Holloway: Why is that do you think?

James Carey: Well I think they're cleaning the river up. I'm referring to chemicals [crosstalk]

Cal Greenburg: The mossbunker. The mossbunker is a plankton eater if you've got plankton in the water and the water is getting cleaner and there's more plankton growing in the water, it's drawing the bay fish and the blue fish are just following the bay fish. I know a guy used to go to Long Island blue fishing, they go in the river now.

James Carey: They go to Croton Point.

Cal Greenburg: They go to the river.

James Carey: I have them come up to me when I'm hauling the crab traps and ask me where is the best blue fishing. I said on the reef at Croton Point. They turn around. People from down below, you know.

Cal Greenburg: They've started to get wheat fishing them now.

James Carey: I never saw one until about five years ago.

Cal Greenburg: I never saw wheat fish before.

James Carey: Now you get one or two a day. That's the ocean trout the wheat fish.

Cal Greenburg: You go down the river a little bit further, just below Ossining there and they were taking black fish.

James Carey: Which are uncommon to the area.

Cal Greenburg: Very uncommon in the river. I hauled a little bay [unclear 3:07] down at Croton once in a while. And I'll get sea robins in the river. Which are very uncommon.

James Carey: I've caught one in my lifetime. You know what I had to do? Bring it up to the fisherman above me and ask him what the heck it was. Cause I never ocean fished. He knew it right away. He said that's a sea robin. I said, when did they start swimming, I always thought they were flying. (laughter) He said that's what it is Jim. That was Norman, you know.

Cal Greenburg: Sea robins, yeah.

James Carey: The river is very much alive and cleaner than ever. Of course you can't see chemicals but for garbage, oil, anything. Fifty years ago the river was dirty looking on the surface with oil especially. Today it's an unusual thing, you read it in the paper where there's an oil spill and then you may see the

slick. But years ago there was a continuous slick on the tides. The tideline is what we called it. Looking at the river, cleaner than hell and every boatman that you talk to will talk about he'll have his bag for his empty beer cans. The boatmen are doing wonderful. I'm talking about the pleasure boaters. Never see anybody even throw a little piece of paper over no more. It goes in the bag. They're cooperating 100% with the environment and it's nice. And the marinas, like Freddy down here in the Viking Marina, he has regulations on there where you cannot even pour gas out of a can into your tank with a tank where there's a danger of a spill.

[TIME STAMP 5:00]

He won't even have you in the yard if he sees you breaking one of those rules. There's a man, top shelf. That's the Viking boat yard, Freddy Johannson and Molly. They and they have the separate garbage cans for this and separate for that. He cooperates 1000% him and Molly both. He even told myself when I had my boat there. Jim, no more pouring gas on the boat. You take your can home or where ever, get it filled, seal it and then you put it in your boat or you go to a gas station, a gas dock and get your gas there. Very cooperative, Freddy and Molly. She's chew you out more than he will if she saw you. If you threw an empty beer can in the water. She'd say, None of the that here. Which is good. I'd say the average boatman today is helped a lot by being careful and so on. And just wanting to see the river clean too, I'm sure. Which we all do.

Marguerite Holloway: When there was so much pollution, like 50 years ago, were there very few fish then?

James Carey: No there was just as many fish, but it was a different type of pollution, you know. There was a lot of raw sewage in the old days. All the cities and all the villages, none of them, they run the raw sewage in. Today it's all got to be treated first. That's helped a lot. But the PCBs is something that never should have happened. And how it could have went on for 33 years and then all of a sudden the whole world gets up in the air. To be allowed to run right out of the trough in them GE plants and into the Hudson. I like the way that everybody that I know cooperating to keep her clean. John Cronin does an excellent job. He's our River Watcher you know. Hellofa nice guy. Any little thing you see, he'll tell the people around in the boatyard, give me a call, I'll be right there. And he's Johnny On The Spot too. We think the world of him, don't we Cal?

Cal Greenburg: Sure do.

Marguerite Holloway: He fished with the DeGroats right? He fished with the DeGroats?

James Carey: Yeah he came down, they're good fishermen.

Cal Greenburg: The first year he tried fishing he was shad fishing, he put a net on and a tug ran right through it. That was his first and only experience he had fishing. Hauled the nets right out. I think he chased that tug halfway up the river trying to catch them. (laughter)

Marguerite Holloway: Have you ever seen people dumping or polluting and reported them and called Cronin?

James Carey: I personally never have but I know it's happened. You know, we get wind of it or sometimes if it's an oil spill up around Peekskill Bay where they unload, it'll be in the paper. But they get

the call and they boom it in and do everything possible to keep it from spreading or not. And they fine these companies. In the meantime the railroads been fined and the railroad's been ordered about certain things.

Cal Greenburg: I heard today when we were out hauling we were out in the channel in the deep water, if you got a tow coming up the river, by itself, most of the time, he will slow right down, you know.

James Carey: Yeah, they honor us very good.

Cal Greenburg: If he sees you.

James Carey: They go by us.

Cal Greenburg: They go by, it's very easy to knock you overboard.

James Carey: They're all good.

Cal Greenburg: They'll slow down.

James Carey: They know the time. You know, spring.

Cal Greenburg: You'll hear us, If you're not looking for them, you're really hauling the net, you hear them, you'll hear them slow down, a lot of the time he'll blow a horn, you'll hear a beep. The worst ones are the sailboats.

Marguerite Holloway: Why?

Cal Greenburg: Because they can't see anything in front of them. They sail almost absolutely blind. You're constantly listening for bells.

James Carey: (crosstalk) One guy run right through our net one day, Jack and I were hauling and after we went through, Jack is screaming. I am too by the way. He went by us and he looked right over the top of the buoys because we had the net down pretty good.

[TIME STAMP 10:00]

James Carey: He says where the hell did you guys come from. And I says put a window in that damn sail will you. A lot of them have the Isinglass you know.

Cal Greenburg: They can't see.

James Carey: He's totally blind on the one side. Jack told him where we came from in no uncertain terms. (crosstalk) We were sitting there dead in the water.

Marguerite Holloway: What happened to you? Were you almost hit by them?

Cal Greenburg: Yeah. I was busy hauling net. Not looking for any boats, busy working. I hear bells, I turned around and looked, he's 20 feet behind me heading straight at me. I give a yell and he just missed the back of the boat as he went past. Unbelievable.

Marguerite Holloway: What's the scariest or most scared you've ever been out on the river? Each of you?

Cal Greenburg: With me it was when the water was coming over the bow, that's how much weight was in there from the fish. I had water coming over the front. I told my partner, we're taking on water. Well then throw the fish back, get the back down a little bit.

Marguerite Holloway: How many pounds of fish?

Cal Greenburg: We had over 1000. We had over 1000 pounds of shad that day. That was the one you had, the 16 foot that you bought off me.

James Carey: Still got it, there it is, right there.

Cal Greenburg: The wood boat.

James Carey: Oh, the wooden boat. Yeah, I sold that.

Cal Greenburg: The wood boat. Right up to the seats we had so much fish in there.

James Carey: We had a squall out there one day. When Texas Instruments had a contract with the State and they had a place right around the corner from here for surveying the bass. And they were going to replenishment by taking the big ones and spawn in the tanks, etc. We were out there one day and anytime they wanted to go with us we'd take one guy. Couldn't overload the boat. I had this young fellow with me, he was from Texas Instruments. And his orders from the boss was, the life jacket never comes off, puts it on when he left the plant and he's not allowed to take it off until he gets back. And it was spring time, late spring about the middle of May, had a shad net on and we had sultry weather for about 3 or 4 days. You know, you get that sultry weather. Just hanging, waiting for something to happen. Calm, dead calm. And it was hot, like I said. And he used to take the jacket off. I didn't care. They were buying the bass, giving us a good price that they could take into the plant. That was all legal, connected with the DEC. So we go out and we start to haul and he's got the jacket off thrown across the seat and he liked to help me, see. We started to haul. Must have had about a couple of hundred pound of fish on the boat. I hear something, see, but there's nothing. But I can hear a noise. I look across the river. I'm right dead center channel, you know where I am, at buoy 16. And across the river I can see the water going like this, not down, but up. Being picked up. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I'd never seen this before, this was about 5 years ago when TI was here. However, I says to the kid, I'm hauling over the bow see, I says, and I was taking a piece of net off to put a new piece on. And I got it half off. I've got another 100 feet to go. I said put that jacket on, get down on your knees in the boat and I give him the pail. He says what's the matter with you Mr. Carey? I said there's something wrong over there. There's a storm. And within I took the knife out and I cut that net right in half, I got half in the boat. I cut it right in half. I said, just do what you're told and get on your knees and hold, I had the big rail in the wooden boat, and hold onto that rail and start bailing. I threw the line overboard and in half a minute the waves were 6 feet high. That's a lot on the Hudson. And she came across the river, but more northwest than west which was unusual. I thought she was coming up the river. Well everybody else is doing the same thing I am, hauling time of the day. It was broad daylight like 4:00 in the afternoon. First thing he did was put the jacket on, he got down. He didn't know where it came from. He couldn't believe what he saw. And neither could I.

[TIME STAMP 15:00]

James Carey: However, I'm going to go with it and I'm going to eastward shore. There's only one thing wrong. I couldn't see the shore for heavy rain and whatnot. We started down through, 10 minutes, it was all over. And I'm down past, way past Oscawana station. That's how far I went just motor running and just going with it. I says if I hit shore, no problem. But I've gotta hit shore somewhere. That darn thing just stopped, it was what we call a squall but actually I think it was part of what they call a twister.

Cal Greenburg: Tornado.

James Carey: Because that water actually rose, went up. You could see it going up, not coming down. And it wasn't that black, but then it got terrible black and the first thing you know it was all over. The kid was whiter than a sheet and I bet if you asked him so was old man Carey. So he says Mr. Carey I never saw nothing like that in my life. I said I don't think you ever will again. So I said in the mean time, keep your eye open a few other fishermen, some above me, some below me. We checked around. All of a sudden, Charlie was out with somebody, whoever was helping him. Charlie came up to us, Oh, you're all right, old timer. Yeah, I'm all right. But he said Buddy Conklin didn't come down.

Cal Greenburg: He called you Pops too, huh?

James Carey: Huh?

Cal Greenburg: Did he call you Pops too?

James Carey: At that time. He used to like to do it to get my goat.

Cal Greenburg: Yeah, me too.

James Carey: But it was a miracle that some of us didn't lose our lives that day. That kid told me you know something Mr. Carey, I ain't ever going to take that jacket off again. I bet if he's with TI he hasn't taken it off. I bet he sleeps with it. He was scared. I was scared myself, of course. But that was an experience, in broad daylight I'll never forget. A good experience, it taught me a little lesson. I didn't even have a jacket. I probably should now. (laughter) As usual. That was something. We were back up and I took the rest of the piece of net off. It just came and went, in a matter of 10 minutes it was over with. Boats upside down they tell me down along Croton there where the marina was wide open in them days. But nobody lost their life. It was a miracle. I'll never forget that kid. He was about 21, 22.

Cal Greenburg: That's probably the time down in Croton when they had the tornado went through Croton.

James Carey: Yeah, I've heard about it.

Cal Greenburg: That came down the river, right about the same time.

James Carey: This I could see. I never saw that, the water was being picked up.

Cal Greenburg: I lived down there. There was a thunderstorm or something coming through, I could see it getting real dark, right. I was standing outside and I could hear a wind but there wasn't a breeze blowing. And it was just, it was there and it was gone. It wasn't there no more. So about 15 minutes later, Farner, a friend of mine, he comes in the house and he says what happened here? I said what do you mean what happened, nothing happened. He says nothing happened? He says the park down here looks like somebody just dropped a bomb into it. I says really? He says yeah, the trees and everything

are all snapped off. I said let's take a ride, so we took a ride down to the park, trees uprooted, twisted right off in half. The building that they had down there for a ticket booth it looked like somebody had a bomb in that thing because that just disintegrated that was all over the park. It just zoomed right through went out to the river. It must have been a tornado. That's the only thing [unclear 19:02].

James Carey: Oh yes, my mother used to talk to me when I was a kid, she would refer to the day of the big wind. Now I'm going back to 1926. She'd be telling about it. She lived on George's Island, where the brickyard used to be. And one day they must have had a tornado. And of course there would be a house here and a half a mile another house. In them days back around maybe 1900 or a little later. And that day of the big wind, she'd say. A couple of boats, One boat they never found. It was up on shore but they still never found it. And I said to myself, that must have been a cyclone, you know what I mean, went through. Everything was leveled on George's Island that day she says. Sheds, the roofs blew off the brickyard sheds.

Cal Greenburg: That happened one time in Croton. I had an aluminum boat.

[TIME STAMP 20:00}

Cal Greenburg: That I kept on an anchor out in the river. And there was a thunderstorm, you know, a bad thunderstorm. And the chain broke and it came up on the shore, the boat. So the waves were hitting it and it was filling full of water. So I'm down there and I'm sitting on the side of the boat with a pail and I'm bailing it out, right. The next thing I know, I'm in the river, lightening. Hit the water someplace. It traveled right through the water and I was in the water, just boom like that, you know. Bill was telling me one time that he was unlocking a fence one time and he got knocked over by lightening. I got knocked over by lightening.

Marguerite Holloway: What did it feel like?

Cal Greenburg: A tingle. Like electrical shock. Just like electrical shock. (crosstalk)

James Carey: On a metal boat.

Cal Greenburg: I never even knew I don't remember falling overboard. I just one minute I was sitting there and the next minute I'm laying in the water. It was quick and I said well, that's it, no more bailing. I'm a little leery about lightening storms after that.

James Carey: Oh, I bet. I had another little experience about 5 years ago that's probably worth mentioning. I was crabbing in July or August and I'm down along where I had my lines 100 feet off shore and there's a little airport around the corner, a seaplane base. So all that week this guy is coming down, going up, coming down, going up. What I found out later the guy who owned the plane was demonstrating it to a guy he was going to sell it to. This came out later. So I'm in pulling my traps and I hear a motor roaring and I said there he goes again, you know. So all of a sudden, just like that, no noise. So I stopped hauling and I looked over and I keep looking and there's the plane out there, it was red and white, half red and half white. And the red was on the bottom, it was one of those boat type of planes. One motor up mounted between right up on top. Geez I say all I saw was red, I said what the hell, that don't look right. And I look again, you know, upside down he was. Holy Geez I says. Throw my nets over, threw the line over, out I goes. Sinking too he was. He was pretty well out in the bay. So I run in right. One guy was on the wing, sitting on it and had these struts whatever the hell they call them. He's

holding on. I said you all right? He was bleeding, he only had a caught hair but his whole face was like (unclear 22:55) He says, yes, I'm all right. So and I look over where the door was and the plane was sinking going down. So there's a guy, he's outside the door all right but he's hanging on and he's standing on there was whatever the hell he was standing on, part of the wing part. So I said jump in my boat. So the guy, I run right up under the sinking part, he got in the boat. Then we pulled around and I said lets go get your buddy out. So we go over, he was in shock. I could see his eyes just looking like he was looking at nothing. And he had a lot of blood on him. So we go over, I went to talk. I says you all right? You know what I mean just dead shock. So I says to his friend there I says I don't whether he's got any broken bones or anything but grab him by the arm. I said, the planes going down. So he grabbed him he said what are we going to do? I said throw him in the bottom of the boat. Suppose he's got a broken leg, I says if he's got a broken leg, he's going to drown with it. So we threw the guy in the bottom of the boat and I fixed him up on the seat. And I says anybody else in that plane? He said just two. I said two more? He said no just us two. I says okay. So I got them in the boat. The fire whistle's blowing like hell on the Point. And I headed in. I had the one guy on the seat. He didn't come to even after I got him in. And the other guy was sitting on a box I had. I says, hold on to him. I said he could topple overboard. So we're going in, 100 boats is coming out. Summer time you know, they saw it happen. And the whistle blowing. I just got in to Freddie's dock, that's the Viking Boat Yard. When the ambulance came. Well the guys come rushing down with the stretchers and all and got them out up to the hospital. The plane sank until the motor got in the mud. But the one guy from the fire department stopped and I slowed down.

[TIME STAMP 25:00]

James Carey: He says, what happened out there? I said nothing to worry about. I got the guys there. Oh Jesus he said but they went out and they grappled. But fortunately, and I got them in, they took them up to the hospital and they had minor cuts and this and that. One guy stayed I guess a while. The other guy they let him out. But you know what did happen in the end. Jimmy Martin. He owned the place, he came over. He told me he said, I said did that guy ever buy that plane Jimmy? He said he not only didn't buy it, he ain't never going up in another plane as long as he lives. (laughter) It was comical. I had a write up in the local papers about that. But to see that guy in shock. I never saw a man really like that. He just stared, and he couldn't talk. That's about the height of my experiences, that and getting arrested about a dozen times.

Cal Greenburg: Never go arrested.

James Carey: Like Cal's friend. Not arrested, no summonses.

Cal Greenburg: I never got one of them even. I got close, but I never got one.

James Carey: Well you never do nothing wrong.

Cal Greenburg: Just that one time, that's all.

James Carey: But actually if it weren't for the game wardens the local ones, we know them all they're just doing their job. And they gotta do it. And we know that we can't bootleg bass and we don't do it. We take one in for ourselves which he says is okay. And it's an undesirable job I'd call it. In a way, you make enemies, if you can't make a friend. Hunting and all is the same thing. But they're just doing their duty. They overdo it a little.

Cal Greenburg: Gorgeous day to be out there, huh.

James Carey: Beautiful.

Cal Greenburg: Beautiful.

James Carey: Years ago we could fish 12 months a year. They stopped that. When we used to fish for the regular sturgeon, 40 inches or better in the fall. Along about December 1st when the temperature of the water dropped down around 40 or 42, anything below 45. You could fish for 2 months and catch 2 fish, sturgeon I'm referring to, in the fall. But come December 1st we had bitter weather, the water temperature dropped. You could go out there and catch some nice sturgeon. They're like 4 feet long, you know, 48 inches. You'd never catch a real big one because they weren't there. But you could really catch some nice ones. So when they made the new law, we are not allowed to put a net in the Hudson River from December 1 to March 15. And that's when you could go out. Like I said in Depression times and lower that net down to the bottom of that river. And you could have your choice, you could have either bass, sturgeon or perch for supper. And that fella knew I ate my share. Perch again tonight, Yeah Barney, that's good he'd say. My father never got tired of eating perch.

Cal Greenburg: Well.

James Carey: You work for the times or do you just like freelance.

Marguerite Holloway: No I work for a magazine called Scientific American.

James Carey: What is it?

Marguerite Holloway: It's called Scientific American.

James Carey: He's a magazine man, this guy, he gets the sports magazines. I reread, I read them after he's done. When you retire you can't afford them. Scientific?

Marguerite Holloway: Scientific American.

James Carey: American, I'll have to ask Sonny Mitchell that.

Marguerite Holloway: Do you want me to send you one?

James Carey: Well, not if it's going to cost you anything.

Marguerite Holloway: No, no, I can send it to you.

James Carey: Yeah, mail me one. What is it a monthly?

Marguerite Holloway: It's a monthly, yeah. What is the zip code here?

James Carey: 10596. You got Cal's mailing address?

Marguerite Holloway: No.

James Carey: Would you like to have it?

Marguerite Holloway: That's a good idea.

James Carey: I think he'd appreciate one.

END OF INTERVIEW