

AUD_2014_0079 Ron Ingold 1999-01-02. Interviewed by Marguerite Holloway, January 2, 1991.
Transcribed by Carla Lesh, Hudson River Maritime Museum, Kingston, NY 2023

Ron Ingold: Oh, Henry, Henry can keep a story going by himself pretty much, he could, you know.

Marguerite Holloway: Yeah.

Ron Ingold: Because he was more open. And that's the thing is, you get 2 or 3 of the fishermen together and one of them's a little open, more so than the other ones and it starts.

Marguerite Holloway: It'll start everybody out.

Ron Ingold: Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: Do you want some coffee?

Ron Ingold: No, I've got some here. That's his job, didn't know that did you. [referring to a pet dog]

Marguerite Holloway: That's his profession.

Ron Ingold: We lost our head of security, the Yak and poor old Yakkie would go out to take a poop, he'd fall off the deck and he'd be in a dead cockroach position up in the air. I'd have to go turn him over.

Marguerite Holloway: How old was Yak?

Ron Ingold: 17 or 18 we weren't sure. Maybe 17 going on 18. It was just old age. We had the cable TV guy down to give us a price to run cable down, shot me a price of \$1500 and he's standing here over in the middle of the lot, looking around and old Yakkie goes over, lifts his leg and takes a whiz on him.

Marguerite Holloway: And the price just went up to like.

Ron Ingold: The guy got madder than a wet hen. And then what else, Louie was here the net mender, he looked all embarrassed and walked away. Ritchie, the lobster guy was here, he got embarrassed and walked away. They all left me alone. And there's our head of security, didn't like the price, so just pissed on him. (laughter) I was surprised. Although he's been known to do that once in a while to people.

Marguerite Holloway: I've never had that done to me.

Ron Ingold: Well if he likes you. So okay, we got it on?

Marguerite Holloway: We've got it on. What I wanted to ask you about was what your earliest memories were of being on the river? And your earliest memories of fishing with your father? I think we've talked a lot more about later stuff but not so much about early stuff.

Ron Ingold: Going out when I was 6, 7, 8 years old and just even using one oar and rowing to keep the boat straight. And that was down here in these rows and going up with my mother while she was still alive to the north rows to see how they were doing up to thru interstate she'd drive up, even night. And take me with her and we'd go up and park outside the fish camp and wait for the fishermen to come in because we had a row up off Lambert's Dock in Alpine, or about right across from Mount Saint Vincent in Yonkers.

Marguerite Holloway: And she would come up to bring them food? Or just to see if they were okay?

Ron Ingold: Just to see if they were okay and what they had on a catch. Although that was usually around the beginning of the year. After that the fish were hitting in heavy and she'd go up a couple of times a week because my father was down here with the first row.

Marguerite Holloway: How many rows were there all together?

Ron Ingold: One year we had 7 rows fishing. And I was just steady constant pole crew. I never lifted a net until I was 18 years old.

Marguerite Holloway: Really.

Ron Ingold: Yeah, they had the fishermen to do that. I was the donkey. If I took off from school I was down there on pole crews because we were always getting hit by Cornell which is a towing company, the Trap Rock scows that get towed up and down. So that was endless. And then even when I went up the river, 1960, 1961 they put me up there at least once a week I'd have to come down and run a pole through. They'd send another fisherman up there to replace me.

Marguerite Holloway: How would you deal with the poles by yourself, or with somebody else?

Ron Ingold: No, I'd go out, I'd get a bunch of guys and we'd go out and set the poles, you know, pull out what we had to and then reset them. Sometimes they'd knock the row down, sometimes I've have to get out there an hour before they'd set the net and try to do what I could so they could get the net across the row. Because back then you didn't want to miss anything.

[TIME STAMP 5:00]

Ron Ingold: And that was pretty much my job.

Marguerite Holloway: Did you have to go get the poles also? Cut them and bring them down?

Ron Ingold: No, that was all done at the beginning of the season. All shaved and everything, we were all set. We had spare ones laying in the mud. The mud preserves them and maybe sometimes they'd get a couple of fishermen together and they'd load a pole or two on the boat that I had to go out and replace. Then I'd come down, I'd just run out there with 3 or 4 guys or 6 guys whatever and put it in. Or put a winch on the scow for pulling the stumps out if they got snapped below the waterline. Or sometimes we couldn't do that we'd have to set south of the pole so that the net wouldn't get caught on it and then when we pulled poles, we'd pull them all out and get that one out too.

Marguerite Holloway: I see. So if you had that stump in there, that's right, it would interfere badly with the net.

Ron Ingold: Yeah, that or the 48 hour escapement period back then where we had to, then I'd have to go out and pull it.

Marguerite Holloway: How many poles were there in a row? And was it the same number on all 7 rows?

Ron Ingold: No, you had anywheres from shortest row was 36 poles and the longest row was 52 poles, 25 foot apart. Up by the bridge we'd put them 22 foot apart because of the current being so strong. And usually 40, 44 poles was an average row. About 1 200 feet, 1250 feet.

Marguerite Holloway: And they got broken off like that. That was because of a boat? Or that was because sometimes just because of the force of the current.

Ron Ingold: Sometimes the force of the current if they were older poles. But usually the way they broke was your tugs coming down the river with the loaded scows. And the scows were 10, 12, 14 foot deep. They'd come down and they'd just go right over the top of them if they were new poles the hickory would bend and pop back up again. But you get some that would just crack and snap right off.

Marguerite Holloway: The older ones.

Ron Ingold: Yeah, hickory we used because it didn't splinter that bad like oak and it sunk. You can't drive a pole, or it's hard to drive a pole when it's buoyant, it's gotta be water logged. Then it's a lot easier to handle then.

Marguerite Holloway: And that's why you kept it in the water over the winter?

Ron Ingold: Right, and then you could plant, sink them 14 foot into the water. And if you had a floater, eventually from the whipping of the outgoing tide, she'll pop out on you. She'll loosen herself up. So you're better off with water logged poles. Down here. Up there I think they didn't have to worry about that.

Marguerite Holloway: Because it wasn't so strong.

Ron Ingold: Right.

Marguerite Holloway: Yeah. So how many people were in the crew that went out with your dad to liff the nets?

Ron Ingold: The first row we had 5 man crews and I was the 6th row. I'll look in, I've got to go up to the house next week anyhow and I'll go through the thing and see, I've got a picture of me running around 3 loaded boats when I was about as big as Eric.

Marguerite Holloway: Really?

Ron Ingold: Yeah. And I've got a few other pictures of the old fishermen in the lapstrake boats. Right down here at the foot of Route 5 and River Road where the stop sign used to be? That was all river.

Marguerite Holloway: Wow.

Ron Ingold: That was all filled in. That's how much it filled in.

Marguerite Holloway: When did they fill it in?

Ron Ingold: Oh, back in the 1920s.

Marguerite Holloway: So that was all fishermen down in there.

Ron Ingold: A lot of them, yeah, yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: Wow. So if there were 7 rows and they went all the way up to Alpine?

Ron Ingold: Yeah, we had three down here, two just north of the bridge where you were with us. And that was where we fished, was in the middle of the two of them. And then two up by Alpine.

Marguerite Holloway: So there'd be one crew for each set of them.

Ron Ingold: Yeah, there'd be at least 3 men for a crew.

Marguerite Holloway: Wow, so the one set would do those three rows, you guys did those two and then the other guys did two.

Ron Ingold: Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: Wow. That's a lot.

Ron Ingold: Yeah. (laughter) A lot of fish, Used to have tractor trailers come in, pack them out. Put them right on the tractor trailer. They'd load them on a little pick up truck and then from there they would go into the big lot and load them onto a tractor trailer.

Marguerite Holloway: Into Fulton?

Ron Ingold: And then into Fulton or upstate New York where ever they wanted to go. The guys name was I think it was Irving Rappaport. Back in, I think it was in the 1950s. That's when the fish were really hitting.

[TIME STAMP 10:00]

Marguerite Holloway: And it still even having all that manpower it was still lucrative enough to hire everybody and

Ron Ingold: Well you see the way it is you got like during the holidays you had all your Scandinavian people and your Germans, your Dutch, your Irish, your English and over in the old country they were all fish eaters. And you had your poor man's fish over there too. Like a herring, which was plentiful and all that and shad is a member of the herring family. And back up and through the 1940s and the early 1950s a lot of these people were still alive that came over on the boats. So you could get rid of the buck shad then. That's what they wanted. And they'd eat it. But then I presume with all the old timers dying off there isn't that many kids that took, some but not that many anymore. That's the way I think of it. And now it's more of, I don't know, and exclusive restaurant food, boned.

Marguerite Holloway: Did you bone?

Ron Ingold: Yeah. I boned with Chris a couple of times. Boned for our shad bake down here. If I have the time. If I don't I go out to a friend of mine. I taught him how to bone on the fish market and he'd bone them out for me during the course of the season. Wrap them up and freeze them and then we'd have them for the shad bake.

Marguerite Holloway: Who taught you how to bone?

Ron Ingold: Carlo over in Fulton Fish Market taught me how to bone. Sammy Cohen was one of the owners. He had him show me. You go over there, if you stop to look at a boner they'd stop working, they didn't want you knowing.

Marguerite Holloway: There was this guy in Poughkeepsie who told me about going down to the Market and how there was a big guy outside and he wouldn't let him go in. And then he slipped him some

money and the guy let him go in. And he was walking up and down and there were women who were doing all of the boning.

Ron Ingold: Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: And there was a woman, a couple of women from Connecticut and she agreed to teach him outside the Market. But she couldn't talk to him in there. She passed him a note and he went and I think visited her somewhere else. So he could learn. But it was a big secret.

Ron Ingold: Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: That's wild.

Ron Ingold: They'd filet you back then. Ship you down in a halibut box. (laughter) It's a 500 pound box.

Marguerite Holloway: So he taught you sort of secretly?

Ron Ingold: No. I was like in. I was one of the people that supplied him and I wanted to learn how to bone. And during shad season how am I going to affect there boning because I'm too busy as it is with the hours I put in. The only time I could affect them is in say this time of year, say January and February with the southern fish coming up now. The southern shad or when we get done and Connecticut's hitting them for two weeks after we're done. That's about the only time I could ever affect them. And that would be minimal. I'm not set up for it.

Marguerite Holloway: So they were fine about teaching you?

Ron Ingold: Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: Did it take a long time to learn?

Ron Ingold: Yeah, a little backwards. It took me a while. (laughter) everything is hard for me.

Marguerite Holloway: Did your dad do it too?

Ron Ingold: No, Willie didn't, none of them did. All they did was fish. That was all.

Marguerite Holloway: What was the last year that he fished?

Ron Ingold: 1963 or 1964. Because then Willie took over and I was in the Army then. I went in the Army in 1964, I got drafted. When I got out in late 1966 there was the fire up here so we bought Hotch Lines out too. My brother was in partners with back then. And what they were doing was while I was in the Army they fished the one row down here, right off the barge down off by 125th Street. And when I came back we bought Hotch Lines out. My brother's old partner and that's where I started fishing up there.

[TIME STAMP 15:00]

Ron Ingold: So 1967 I was fishing again.

Marguerite Holloway: So that was a different row than one of the 7 that you had fished

Ron Ingold: Yeah, well, it was the same area where two of them, but we fished right in the middle of the two of them. Right there, there's about 3 or 4 foot more water and the tide, the current, the incoming

tide hung on for another half hour, 45 minutes so it was always a good spot to fish. You always caught them.

Marguerite Holloway: How old was Linus when you brought him out?

Ron Ingold: Oh, in his 80s.

Marguerite Holloway: And how old was you dad the last year that he fished?

Ron Ingold: Late 60s but he was all crippled up with arthritis and rheumatism and he had a spinal operation back in the late 1930s. Took cartilage out of his shoulder and put it in his back. So he couldn't move anymore. And Floyd Clayton, he fished up until he was 72.

Marguerite Holloway: Was there a lot of competition between everyone? Or was there a sense of community?

Ron Ingold: A sense of community, usually. There was a few outcasts. But I could remember where the fishermen, in other words, the other fishermen weren't true to their word, or they were connivers.

Marguerite Holloway: Like what?

Ron Ingold: They'd always try to beat you at things, stuff like that. There was only one or two of them that I can remember. I don't even remember their names. But along with the other fishermen, if you needed a hand, you always got a hand. Or if you needed some help with something. You know, they'd never help you with the crew or they wouldn't get rid of their men. But if you needed to set poles and your scow was sunk. Or you had a problem, you could always go down and borrow one of the guys scows to go up and set poles and all that.

Marguerite Holloway: So there was a sense that there was enough fish for everybody?

Ron Ingold: Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: Yeah. And did the same crew come back to the same fishermen each year? Or did they move around?

Ron Ingold: As a rule, as a rule they did. They liked it and they'd do it and they'd come up for 4, 6 weeks, 8 weeks and fish. We used to get them in from Point Pleasant, Brielle, Barnegat Light. One guy used to write us in February, he'd be on a shrimp boat down off South America in his Dutch language to come up and have a job for me and a bunk ready. His name was Johnson. I forget his first name. Dick, Dick Johnson. And actually, he lived down by, in Manahawken, but he'd moved over here. Big old Swede. And then we had a lot of guys from Brooklyn that came over. And guys up around Bedford.

Marguerite Holloway: That would come down.

Ron Ingold: That would come down and then go back. Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: The guys from Brooklyn would just fish shad season, or they fished a bunch of other places?

Ron Ingold: They'd fish shad season here. Then they'd usually worked on draggers out off Brooklyn or scallop boats. A lot of scallop and all. But you'd get March, April and May, you've got some pretty foul

weather. So you're better off in the river fishing. (laughter) And still make some money. A lot of them were farmers too. They'd get on boats during the winter and during the planting season they wanted to be out of here by March 1, by end of the first week of May so they could go home and plant. And then if everything was going right they'd get a 2 or 3 day trip on a scallop boat. And that's how they offset their income.

Marguerite Holloway: Interesting. So the timing was perfect.

Ron Ingold: Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: What was your dad like?

Ron Ingold: Good guy. Didn't drink. Didn't curse. Didn't smoke. What are you laughing at? I was the black sheep of the crew. Why do you think they had me up the north rows for? I was raising so much trouble down here they had to put me up there.

Marguerite Holloway: What kind of trouble were you getting into?

Ron Ingold: Drinking and fighting and girls and all the different stuff.

[TIME STAMP 20:00]

Ron Ingold: Never robbed or anything but happy go lucky, didn't care.

Marguerite Holloway: Exiled here.

Ron Ingold; Exiled here. The thing was I liked it. If they left me alone I didn't come down for a week. I didn't come down to take a shower. Because they'd put me to work. Or they'd find something for me to do. So I laid low up there. I always got along with the old timers. And once I got accustomed to being up there I loved it.

Marguerite Holloway: You stayed.

Ron Ingold: Yeah. The day you had to carry the fish up the beach. You had to carry the nets up the beach. You couldn't roll them. Everything was sand.

Marguerite Holloway: Oh, man.

Ron Ingold: You were just standing there with hip boots up to here in water emptying the boats out because you'd pull right in on the beach and if the boat was say two foot low with fish you were in that much water pulling them out of the boat.

Marguerite Holloway: So it was a lot of work.

Ron Ingold: Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: Who were the old-timers who were up there?

Ron Ingold: Oh, we had guys that were bucking almost 80 years old that just mended nets. We had two of them, one of them up there. Then all the other old fishermen they were in their 60s and 70s believe it or not. You know, small, Scandinavians, Dutchmen. They'd run circles around any two guys that you sent up from town, in most cases, you know. They just never stopped. Take an hours sleep during the day,

get up and be out on the mending rack, go out and set the net, come back in, go out on the mending rack. If it was really a bad day then you caught up on all your sleep. If it was a nor'easter where you couldn't do anything.

Marguerite Holloway: Did their wives come to the camps too? Like your mom did?

Ron Ingold: No.

Marguerite Holloway: No.

Ron Ingold: Years ago I heard a woman, you know the guy would be up there where they'd have little shacks up there and the guy's wife would be the cook and then he'd have like sons or other people like working for him. But it was almost like a little shack that you could break down and put up again. That's how they used to fish years ago up there.

Marguerite Holloway: And also on the barges you described once, right? That they would keep moving upriver?

Ron Ingold: Oh, that was my father with the eels and my brothers. My brothers were 17 and 18 years older than me. And back in the 1930s and the early 1940s, the Depression, the garage wasn't doing too good. So my mother ran the garage and he took a barge and he had all these eel pots. And he'd go up, they'd run up to Yonkers from here and fish. But then when they went up to Piermont, Nyack, Haverstraw, West Point, they'd go up and they'd fish an area for two weeks. And then they'd move on. And all the kids from town used to go up with them. And they'd sit out there and eat ice cream and go to the movies and all. And that was gentlemen fishing. You'd be out on the water maybe four hours a day and the rest of the time you had nothing to do.

Marguerite Holloway: They slept on the bargers?

Ron Ingold: They slept on the barges, yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: Were there other fishermen also fishing for eel as they moved upriver? Where they ever

Ron Ingold: Yeah, Henry, Henry Gourdine fished for eels. That's where my father met him. And then he started to come down during shad season to see how we were doing down here. He'd stop down because my father used to pick up his eels and bring them into the market. And bring bait back or him from the market. So they knew each other from before I was born.

Marguerite Holloway: That's great.

Ron Ingold: Like I said, one guy always helped out the other.

Marguerite Holloway: So your dad would drive up to Ossining and pick him up?

Ron Ingold: Well, he'd be up in that area and truck on the way down they'd call and I guess he'd have them ready in eel cars where you pick them up. They'd bring them into the stand that he shipped to. I don't think they shipped to the same stands or anything. And then usually the stand would have skimmers which is a large clam, or horseshoe crabs on the stand there that they called 2 or 3 days

before and they'd get them from the fishermen and have them in the coolers. And they'd load up with bait and go back up the river again.

Marguerite Holloway: That's great.

Ron Ingold: They'd fish for two or three weeks and get enough eels and come back down again.

Marguerite Holloway: And Henry would come over here sometimes.

Ron Ingold: I remember when he used to come down, back in the late 1940s to see my father and Joe Smith, his partner.

Marguerite Holloway: What do you remember about Henry then?

[TIME STAMP 25:00]

Ron Ingold: Not much. (laughter) Not much. I had to put 2 and 2 together to remember who this guy was that came down. This black guy that came down and come in the bunkhouse. And they would always slapstick and talking and kidding around. I was only about 7, 8 years old.

Marguerite Holloway: Chris and I are going to up to Henry's daughter's next weekend and take a copy of all the tapes that I did with him for her so she can listen to them. Because I don't think she has them and it would be really nice for her.

Ron Ingold: And the "Clearwater" should have something on him. I'm quite sure they did.

Marguerite Holloway: Yeah, with Chris you think?

Ron Ingold: Or with Chris or Chris had something to do with it to get it around. I'm quite sure, when you see this guy, ask him about that or any other tapes that they did on the old fishermen. They might have did one with DeGroats father. Which I'm quite sure. They were into a big run then with that stuff. You know, trying to preserve it.

Marguerite Holloway: Right.

Ron Ingold: This was done, I guess back in the mid-1970s, so early 1970s. So there was about 7 or 8 of them that came down and sat at the table and start them talking.

Marguerite Holloway: That's great.

Ron Ingold: And I learned too. Some of this stuff I never heard of. But my father had told me that the way we fished with Floyd Clayton, that was his father that sewed the nets together. They used to have square nets. One net between each pole with a big hoop ring and they'd drop it down. And the thing would go out and then the poles are 25 foot apart. The boat was 26 to 27 foot long, so they could lay it up against the pole broadside and pick the bag of the net in and scoop the fish out.

Marguerite Holloway: That's great. That's a beautiful technique.

Ron Ingold: And then from there he sewed them together one time and just set them like that.

Marguerite Holloway: Why did it make more sense to sew them together?

Ron Ingold: You caught more fish, there wasn't any holes in the middle to get out. You know, in between each net there'd be a space like that.

Marguerite Holloway: About two feet, right. A foot on either side.

Ron Ingold: Yeah, at least. And then, there's something on my mind, I'll probably come up with it, what they did. Oh, and the stories about way back at the turn of the century and before that usually a kitchen was the warmest place in the house. So everybody either washed there or that was the whole big meeting room. And the kitchens were made quite large. And come January and February, the women and the men would sit there and they'd make nets up, hang them on the wall. And just start making them for the next year. And then come March, they'd start fishing.

Marguerite Holloway: So you pretty much needed a new net every year?

Ron Ingold: They always try to have a new net. At least a new net and then they had the older ones too. Nowadays a net wouldn't even last you a year out there, no matter what it is, with the bass, too many. You can't like, they said today the shad fisherman is done in the Hudson River unless they come up with something, because they just took it over. I mean, when I was cutting fish, I used to cut 1 pound lobsters out of 40 pound bass and surf clams out of them. So they eat everything.

Marguerite Holloway: Everett Nack was saying a couple of weekends ago that he has heard that they are going to reopen the fishery, in a year or two. Have you heard that?

Ron Ingold: I've been hearing that for a while.

Marguerite Holloway: For a long time though, yeah.

Ron Ingold: That's part of my problem. (laughter) Big problem. What I'm going to try to do is get one of my friends to get a shad fishing license. Because I'll lose mine and just keep going for the shad bakes. Because you can't make a living off of it now. To make a living you need at least 900 foot of net

[TIME STAMP 30:00]

Ron Ingold: to 1200 foot of net and with the bass population out there we're lucky to get 200, 300, 400 feet of net. Which is minimal. So if I put out 8 poles, I should be able to get enough to just keep the tradition up anyhow, you know. And crab license, they said they weren't going to bother with that, so I'm okay. Eeling I'll be working for the University of Maryland, Scott and I, tagging eels. You ought to give them a call if you want and see if the Hudson, Cornell has anything with because if I have the nets out here maybe I can make some money, you know.

Marguerite Holloway: That would be great.

Ron Ingold: And give me a little, couple of brownie points for the Philistines over in the City. (laughter) The ones that don't think they had a happy childhood.

Marguerite Holloway: I'm sure you're right.

Ron Ingold: I like your haircut there.

Marguerite Holloway: You like it.

Ron Ingold: Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: I'm really glad, it took a lot of guts because it was so long, for so long.

Ron Ingold: Well you're one of them 9 to 5 gals, you have the desk.

Marguerite Holloway: No, I'm in my apartment all the time, but I was just sitting there going like this and I just thought oh, forget it, it's much easier.

Ron Ingold: So now you can get out in the field, you don't have to worry about ticks so much.

Marguerite Holloway: No. (laughter)

Ron Ingold: You ought to go up with Gabrielson or something. Or, I don't want to get up with a whole bunch of guys up there.

Marguerite Holloway: Who else do you know up there? Do you know Tim DeGroat?

Ron Ingold: Yeah, I know him.

Marguerite Holloway: Do you like him?

Ron Ingold: Yeah, I like them all. They're all. You know, with everything going on and all I just like to keep a low profile, I don't need people asking me

Marguerite Holloway: (unclear) with Gabrielson because he wouldn't ask.

Ron Ingold: I talk to Bob, Bob knows a little bit.

Marguerite Holloway: Yeah, but I'm not taping it.

Ron Ingold: Just so he's got an idea of what's going on. Because we always kept it like if we, you could ask him, hey Ron I can't rid of my fish, well ship them to my guy, you know. And he found out, geez all of a sudden he found out the guy treats him a little bit better and all. The next thing the two of us are shipping to him and this year, or last year he wasn't going to fish and he had that guy from Connecticut that bones the shad for Chris. And he wasn't, with the bass problem. So he called me up and said, would you ship them, give him some fish. I said yeah, because I was thinking of trying to knock the market out myself, get out of it. They were really giving us a honson over there and I should have got out of it quicker, that's all. (laughter)

Marguerite Holloway: In retrospect.

Ron Ingold: Yeah, you know, and I talked to the guy and I said as soon as Bobby's in, that's the end of me. If you do need, you go through Bobby and if it's okay with him, I'll give you the fish, you know. But I'm not going to jump on his bandwagon.

Marguerite Holloway: Right.

Ron Ingold: You don't do that. You know, that's where you create problems. And as a rule if you're ambitious enough you can always find a market for someplace. But the thing is getting them there and shipping, which is money and so on.

Marguerite Holloway: Well, I'll try to organize something then just.

Ron Ingold : Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: That would be great.

Ron Ingold: Not on SuperBowl Sunday though. (laughter)

Marguerite Holloway: you'll have to remind me when that is.

Ron Ingold: Typical board. (laughter) No I'm only kidding.

Marguerite Holloway: No, that's quite all right, I have no embarrassment about

Ron Ingold: Well, you know me (crosstalk) I'm having fun too. Some of them are into it more, my ex goes on my tickets. I've got 4 season tickets for the Giant games.

Marguerite Holloway: Wow.

[TIME STAMP 35:00]

Ron Ingold: We've had them since the Polo Grounds in the family and I can't keep them up. Plus with the hip I'm not going to walk a mile. So my one friend dropped out of it and she picked it up. Her and her boyfriend's got them and boyfriend uses them (unclear) then the guys that I used to play football with, they go like New Year's they went out to the one guy's house just to watch the college games, yesterday it was. Or the day before and Eric stayed down. And some of them go. So I know everybody that goes on them. They aren't delinquent people, they're business people. And they enjoy it.

Marguerite Holloway: That's great.

Ron Ingold: So fine. As long as they're paid for and nobody's getting drunk or you can lose them. They're nice to have.

Marguerite Holloway: Who's playing today? Who's game is it today?

Ron Ingold: Jets are playing next week, they've got a biweek. It's Buffalo at Miami; Green Bay at San Francisco; and tomorrow is Jaguars at I think they're playing New England; Atlanta, no Atlanta's got a bi too. There's another two teams in the National Football League. So in other words, you've got two games on today, two games on tomorrow. And when they knock each other off you'll have one game on Saturday next week. One game on Sunday next week and the following week you'll have one game on Sunday or two games, or one game. There will be two games the last week. Then the winner of those two games play the Super Bowl. They have a week off to beat the shit out of each other. I loved it. (laughter) I get my bells rung and get back up and then ring somebody else's bells. I could get off on the hitting and being hit, you know. And that's the name of the game.

Marguerite Holloway: Yeah.

Ron Ingold: You like it.

Marguerite Holloway: It feels good to get that out.

Ron Ingold: Yeah, get a few shots in, a few shots in on you. You ache like heck when you're done. I used to play against guys from Morgan State and Grambling 300 pounders.

Marguerite Holloway: When did you do this?

Ron Ingold: Back in the 1960s, early 1970s, before the back totally went on me. Alls I'd do is tangle up in them. I was like a spider. (laughter) I always ended up on the bottom anyhow. For a little town like this, we played towns that populations quadrupled and I think the 6 years I played we only lost about 3 games.

Marguerite Holloway: Wow, that's impressive.

Ron Ingold: We were a bunch of determined people down here.

Marguerite Holloway: Yeah, okay. Umph.

Ron Ingold: Yeah, Go Riverfront. (laughter) We were all mutts, a little bit of everything. We weren't purebred like the mountain people up here, Colony Creekers. (laughter)

Marguerite Holloway: I love the fact that you don't have a door on the outhouse.

Ron Ingold: Wave to everybody. (laughter) They look at me they'd laugh anyhow. I don't care. I paid my dues. (sound of bottle opening) Want me to open it for you?

Marguerite Holloway: Yeah, thank you, thanks.

Ron Ingold: Okay, lets get on with this. What other questions we got here.

Marguerite Holloway: Well, let's see, when your dad would go off on the barges to fish for eel, was that the only other species that he went for aside from shad? And that was just because the garage wasn't doing well?

Ron Ingold: Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: He never fished for anything else?

Ron Ingold: No. It was usually a slow time. I guess back then it was slow. I was never there. I wasn't even born yet. I was born in 1941. So back in the 1930s, 1935 on that I just heard (crosstalk)

[TIME STAMP: 40:00]

Ron Ingold: They had a marina here, Carlocks Marina that goes back to my father's mother's side of the family the Knickerbocker Dutch side right here. Right where the fill line goes out and still have some pictures of that. Great grandfather I think Abraham Carlock. He had a shoe factory down here, back in the 1850s, 1860s. And he invented what they called the Gentleman's Shoe and he got two freight car loads of shoes down South when the Civil War broke out. That's what broke him. Then he became a peddler.

Marguerite Holloway: Whoa! What were Gentlemen's Shoes?

Ron Ingold: I haven't a clue. And in my mother's family, they (unclear) Tatler the English, Scottish, Welsh, they came over in the late 1890s, early 1900s and settled up in Fort Lee on Jones' Road. Then from there moved on down on the Fort Lee Hill where you come down. They owned a house there. That's with the family. Now you get DeGroats and all, they were DeGroats all over the place during the Revolutionary War. There was a big family of them out here at Hackensack. They've been since before the

Revolutionary War they've been over here. So it's something to poke at them a little bit. See what you can come up with there. That's an old family.

Marguerite Holloway: How many sisters and brothers did you have altogether?

Ron Ingold: Just two brothers. I was the unwanted one. (laughter) I guess.

Marguerite Holloway: You're so much younger.

Ron Ingold: Yeah. (laughter)

Marguerite Holloway: Did your mom ever go out on the water? Did she like being out there?

Ron Ingold: Yeah she (unclear) tow barges around. She'd remember or she'd bring the power boat. She knew her way around. Like I said, she ran the garage. She basically was the brains of the family. That's why we ended up with everything we had because of her.

Marguerite Holloway: She could foresee what was going to come and was being

Ron Ingold: Yeah, knew all the politicians too and all. Just very intelligent woman. So you say, what about a woman for President. I said I wanted somebody that had combat experience or someone that at least had service experience. And you've got all of them around now, you know. That's about all. And you see where it came up what I told you about him giving a lot of secrets to China? Missile stuff?

Marguerite Holloway: Yeah.

Ron Ingold: He hasn't any clue. A good president, yeah but you come down in the European part and all, that stuff kills.

Marguerite Holloway: What do you think is going to happen with the Senate?

Ron Ingold: I really don't care. I get tired of it. I think the man should be out. He's too much of a liar. And then to keep on going the way he's going. I mean politicians gotta be the lowest form of life on earth. They'll lie, beg, scabble and steal. And for that position you've got to set a precedent. There isn't anybody that's perfect or anything but I just don't care for him because he's a draft dodger. Fine if he went up there and got out of Vietnam and all, okay well more power to you. But for a Commander in Chief no, no way. Okay, what else?

Marguerite Holloway: Sturgeon, did you guys ever fish for sturgeon? Did anyone in this area, that you know of, fish for sturgeon?

[TIME STAMP 45;00]

Ron Ingold: Only when they were caught in the nets years ago.

Marguerite Holloway: Only a bycatch?

Ron Ingold: They would use it as bycatch. Then even the old timers started throwing them over. Because there was a certain beauty to them they liked. If they were alive, they went back in. Up the river they fished for them, a lot. Down here, through the, at least when I came in on it, there was very little ever taken. I think we only took a couple of them, big ones and shipped them down.

Marguerite Holloway: The Atlantics.

Ron Ingold: Yeah, the Atlantics. But you know, when I got tied up with Bill Doble and I learned about sturgeon and their spawning patterns and all, we took one after that. We threw that back in the water and did the back stroke up the river so we went on up, it was towards the end of the row, you know, lifting the net. We chased that down and got it back. It was belly up. We brought it in and smoked it.

Marguerite Holloway: How'd it taste?

Ron Ingold: It was pretty good.

Marguerite Holloway: What do you mean about a certain beauty to them?

Ron Ingold: I don't know, you look at them. They're prehistoric, everybody thinks they're ugly as heck, but they've been around since the oceans were shallow seas. They have the same vertebrae as a shark. And it takes 14 years from when they're produced to when they come around to reproduce. They'll stay in the river for 8 or 9 years I hear they're back and forth and then they come back again and they make their run up the river. You look in their eyes, it's like looking at a depth in them or something. It's a beauty in them. And they're sleek and they're fast and they're powerful, very powerful.

Marguerite Holloway: They look like dinosaurs to me.

Ron Ingold: Yeah. (laughter) And the only way they'll hurt you is if you pull them in the boat and they hit you with their tail a couple of hundred pounder. Outside of that.

Marguerite Holloway: Why do you think people down here, didn't want to fish them and were more aware of what you're describing?

Ron Ingold: They fished them back then, I'm quite sure they did, way back. But there was a lot. They used to be known as Albany Beef years ago. There's pictures of them stacked

Marguerite Holloway: You've said that they stopped it I guess two years ago now.

Ron Ingold: They did.

Marguerite Holloway: And now they can't do it anymore. They were getting worried, especially because up near where Everett fishes, around Hudson there were bunches of people. Like four big operators and then the guys down in Haverstraw and they got worried. Everett feels very strongly that there are plenty of them in the river and that it shouldn't have been closed but people don't

Ron Ingold: Everett's got his ways. He's got a strange way. He's a hunter-killer type person. He'll go until it's almost done. That's why, as I said, I don't care that much for the way he operates. That's all. I'm quite sure you'll hear it from some other fishermen too.

Marguerite Holloway: A couple, although Bobby feels the same way you, Gabrielson that it should have been shut down. He was glad to see it shut down.

Ron Ingold: Well, years ago you used to see 40 or 50 of them in a season, in the nets.

Marguerite Holloway: And now?

Ron Ingold: Now we're lucky if we see 8, 10 in the whole season.

Marguerite Holloway: What about the short nose? Do you see those?

Ron Ingold: More short nose than Atlantic.

Marguerite Holloway: What's the strangest thing that's ever turned up in your nets?

Ron Ingold: That little fish with the sucker on the bottom from the Bay of Fundy. (laughter)

Marguerite Holloway: The one that you showed me last time.

Ron Ingold: Spiny shark. Boston mackerel. But even though they say there's a hole up in years ago up in the Tap where they caught whiting. Whiting is a cold water fish that's off shore usually and doesn't come in.

Marguerite Holloway: All sorts of things end up here.

Ron Ingold: Yeah.

Marguerite Holloway: Do you remember reading that article about the whale that went up the Hudson.

Ron Ingold: Yeah, had to laugh. (laughter) I believe it. We saw a seal out here.

[TIME STAMP 50:00]

Marguerite Holloway: You did?

Ron Ingold: Oh, yeah. But you don't say that to anybody because, it was in June and Louis Lasher and I were out and all of a sudden from me to you, a big pair of brown eyes and the whiskers. As we were lifting the crab traps and I was tempted to feed him, give him some bait. And I wouldn't.

Marguerite Holloway: Why?

Ron Ingold: It would keep him around and then if you hit the shore or go into a marina and say hey, there's a seal down there at such and such, you're going to have 90 boats down there and the poor thing will get run over. So you can't go saying "hey, I saw". But they saw it up in Englewood and Yonkers I think too. But some stuff you don't mention because it will only. The curiosity around here. So if they dropped the atomic bomb in the middle of Manhattan they'd be more people killed running over the see the hole. (laughter)

Marguerite Holloway: That's great. So when did you see the seal? How many years ago was that?.

Ron Ingold: About 5 or 6 years ago.

Marguerite Holloway: That's great. And nothing really unusual since then?

Ron Ingold: Spiny shark. Different type fluke, your flat fish I think there's 333 species of flat fish in the world. Your fluke, your flounder, your halibut, your yellow tail flounder, your summer flounder, your sun dials and all that. See sun dials in here. We see different, see about 5 or 6 different species of flat fish in here. Which, Chris has some of them, or the museum has them, I don't know whether he gave them to the museum or not. Something what I did was for the not so much the research. At the shad bakes he has this table where he shows different fish that come up in the river and it's increasing the knowledge with people. So say if we get 2 or 3 sun dial fluke or flounder that's about that big, we'll keep one of

them for him. I'll stick it in the freezer. Then herring. A black fish if we get one. A blue fish. Buck shad, A roe shad. A regular fluke. Anything that's different. And then he takes them and I told him how to put them in a brine so they can keep them for maybe 2 weeks. A cold water brine like they do with the mackerel so it doesn't lose its color. Years ago they used to haul them like that a lot of snow and a lot of ice. He takes them and puts them on the table on a bed of ice and shows them. Tells the people what's in the river and where they're being caught and so on and so forth.

Marguerite Holloway: But they only last for those two weeks

Ron Ingold: Then he puts them in I guess he freezes them and he either pickles them or whatever and hangs them up.

Marguerite Holloway: Did you give him the one that was in there?

Ron Ingold: No I haven't seen him. Give it to Uta when she comes down. She says, we'll get together, we'll come down and have supper together the three of us. Okay, you know. When you came in I guess there was a little bit of a bawling out because I haven't heard anything from her.

Marguerite Holloway: You haven't?

Ron Ingold: No.

Marguerite Holloway: I saw her on the street and she said she was going to call you so.

Ron Ingold: Okay. I'll give her a call. I should wish her a happy new year. I think she's really lonely. But god I don't want her trailing down here all the time when she has nothing to do. She'd drive me nuts. She just follows you around and she yak-yak-yak-yak. You know, with the ideas. I got enough ideas, I don't need any more ideas. I don't need any help to get myself into trouble. It comes very easy.
(laughter)

Marguerite Holloway: I should turn it off to ask you this.

END OF RECORDING