

Wetland Riders
Frank and Stanley Rando Oral History
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Interviewer: RF – Robert Fritchey
Transcriber: NCC

Frank Rando: It was after the war when we shrimp fished [inaudible].

Robert Fritchey: After the war?

FR: I thought it was after the war.

Stanley Rando: Gee, I wasn't even born.

FR: I know. I think it was in [19]46, [19]47, [19]48.

RF: That's when you started fishing?

FR: Oh, no. I was fishing before the war, back in – when I got out of grammar school, 1936.

RF: 1936? That's when you started? Your dad was a fisherman?

FR: Yes.

RF: He fished all his life.

FR: My dad? Until he got real old, yes, and then he worked for the waterwork, just waterwork.

RF: When he got old.

FR: He was a watchman, you know, up by the river.

RF: He kept this boat at Bucktown?

FR: My daddy? He never had a boat, just a pirogue.

RF: That's what he fished out of here.

FR: Yes.

RF: Yes, I've seen pictures of that.

FR: He had a skiff. Well, he had a little skiff that rowed out in the lake and fished sheephead with a pole. He was the only one who ever did that.

RF: No kidding. What was his name?

FR: Frank. Sheephead Frank, they nicknamed him. People who knew him, that's what they knew him by, Sheephead Frank.

RF: He'd sell them. He was selling them?

FR: Yes.

RF: You used to sell them. Because there are restaurants out there.

FR: Well, no, mostly individual people. They wouldn't catch that many. Some days, they'd catch two or three. Some days, it might only be one, you know. But they can go sell them, get 30 cents, 50 cents, depends on the size of them. A big one, you get 50 cents.

RF: But you yourself, you started in it, say, [19]36.

FR: Oh, I got into it right after I got out of school, yes, fish and crabs, with a pirogue and net, made soft crabs for – when I was 17 years old, 18 years old, crabs for a couple of years, with a pirogue and running nets. Started running nets out in the deeper water for hard crabs, fishing hard crabs.

RF: Those nets like they use now?

FR: Round nets with a single rim on, no double rims. The nets you buy, a lot of them, it's got two rims, one on –

[talking simultaneously]

SR: Deepwater craw fishnet, now it's [inaudible].

FR: I got a hundred of them back then.

RF: You put them out on a line, like a string of them.

FR: You just set them like one here and maybe one, 100 feet away. We set them out in a cycle. Otherwise, you go right on round when you come in, you're right back where you started from.

RF: What do you bait that with?

FR: Use fish heads most of the time. We used to go down the fish port and buy fish heads out of baskets. Sometimes it's redfish heads, grouper, or drumheads, all kinds of – then you had to bring them home and cut them up. We'd salt them down in the barrel and used it to – you could keep it if you salted it. We'd salt them in the barrel and make this like every day, every other day, depends on how much –

RF: You were running out with a pirogue.

FR: Yes, and a skiff.

RF: When did you get your first motorboat?

FR: After the war.

SR: Yes. We rowed the skiff though.

FR: Yes.

RF: You used to row.

FR: Yes. I did that for a few years, fished crab with a row skiff.

RF: When did you get married?

FR: In 1943, during the war.

RF: Your first skiff, what kind of motor do you have in there? Some kind of car engine?

FR: No.

RF: A Fairbank?

FR: No. Red Wing. I had a two [inaudible] and a Red Wing engine, 8 horsepower – 7, 8 horsepower [laughter].

RF: Big time.

[laughter]

FR: They'd run along about 6, 8 miles an hour. It was an 18-foot boat, lee-bottom boat. It was all right. It was good for running [inaudible].

RF: What was a good day there? A couple of hundred pounds?

FR: Crabs? We sold them by the basket. Well, most days, it would be maybe two, three baskets. That was a fairly good day. Yes. A lot of days, you go out and catch maybe a basket, half a basket. When it wasn't biting, you wouldn't stay out too long. You're catching; you stay.

RF: You stay out. You keep working.

FR: Yes.

RF: Where were they going, them crabs?

FR: What would they do with them, you mean?

RF: Yes.

FR: Sell them to the Russians.

RF: Out there.

FR: Yes. We used to get 20 cents a dozen, went up to 25 cents. Now, he's getting 30 cents.

RF: That was big crabs too, probably.

FR: Oh, they had to be choice crabs. Yes.

RF: They had many guys doing that?

FR: No, not too many. Around here, they only had about six, eight, I believe. It wasn't too many.

RF: Really? They had other guys fishing other things?

FR: No, not too much.

RF: Really?

FR: There just weren't too many fishermen.

RF: There wasn't. I didn't know that. I figured there would be more than that.

FR: Oh, years ago, they had a lot of fellows, like when my daddy was fishing. They had more than that. But they all used to fish with a pirogue and run nets.

RF: Crab nets.

FR: [affirmative], making soft crabs. Mostly everybody was fishing soft crabs. Because the hard grass was worth nothing when he was fishing. So, they would throw them back.

RF: They were bringing them hard and keeping them?

FR: Yes.

RF: Is that what they were doing?

FR: Put them in boxes. Keep them in a lake.

SR: [inaudible] crab pots, keep them in a lake.

FR: Yes. Everybody had boxes. They were, like, 3.5, 4 feet wide, or 3 – most of them were 3.5 feet wide, maybe 7 feet long, 8 feet long, you know, 4 x 8 or 3.5 x 7 or something like that, about a foot deep.

RF: Keep them right there.

FR: Keep them in the lake.

RF: You mean, like, far out or right on the bank?

FR: Maybe a block off, for sure. There used to be a big sandbar and shell pile out here along the lake. You could put the fish cars – they call them fish cars – on the inside of the sandbar, and it wouldn't get too rough, you know, behind –

RF: You used to have a bar out there?

FR: Yes.

RF: You go out the canal, to the west.

FR: Yes. When you go out the canal, maybe half a block, yes, from the end of the canal, inside the end of the canal there, they had the sandbar.

RF: Is that so?

FR: It was a couple of hundred feet wide. You could put your fish cars on the inside.

RF: Used to come out of the water?

FR: Yes.

RF: Is that so?

FR: In fact, you could go down the street there, and one place where you could run off the street and ride down on the sandbar with an automobile [laughter] or a truck mostly, not automobile.

SR: [inaudible]

FR: Guys would go out there with trucks.

RF: No kidding.

FR: Well, the shells used to wash in there too and pile up. You go out there with a little truck and scoop up the shells. A truck, I say, Model T Ford, make a truck out of them.

RF: Okay.

FR: I know you've seen them.

RF: Yes, like a buggy, kind of.

FR: Yes [laughter].

RF: They used to have grass in the lake.

FR: A little, yes, not a whole lot.

RF: Not a whole lot.

FR: No, very little. I know what you mean, like, would the crabs get in and shed in the grass and that?

RF: Yes.

FR: They never had a whole lot, very little.

SR: [inaudible], it was.

FR: On the other side of the lake.

SR: On the other side of the lake.

FR: Across the lake, yes, [inaudible] Park, places like –

[talking simultaneously]

SR: They had grass.

FR: Yes. They had grass on that side of the lake. But this side, they never had.

RF: It never did, huh?

FR: No, not that I know of. If they did, it was way before my time.

SR: Them big grass beds they talk – [inaudible] and talk about are strictly –

FR: On that side of the lake.

SR: They're on that side. When I was a little kid, we used to go there with [inaudible] and Jack, scoop the grass with nets. Those grass beds, they weren't all that big at the time, a couple of feet wide maybe down the shoreline.

FR: I gave your Uncle Charlie that little gillnet to catch crabs with. He said they couldn't use it on the grass. You can't pull them down the grass because it rolled up. He brought it back to me, too much [inaudible].

RF: That was on the North Shore?

FR: Yes. He lived over there.

RF: They didn't have it in the middle.

FR: No.

RF: Is that so?

FR: I guess it was just a couple of hundred there.

SR: The water wasn't more than knee deep where the grass bed – any deeper water than that, they wouldn't have grown.

FR: The grass, yes, all the way to the top over there. Like you see it in the –

SR: You walk around in knee-deep water, push the [inaudible] net through the grass, catch the crabs.

RF: Oh, man, I thought they had that in like 10-foot of water.

FR: No. Like I say, I've never seen it on this side of the lake, never had, other than pieces of it floating that maybe float from the other side. But they never grow on this side.

SR: Swimming though [inaudible].

RF: How about the do gris, they used to have those out there? Bluebills?

FR: Oh, yes. They still have them. Oh, man, they get out there by the thousands.

SR: They're still getting there.

RF: They still do.

SR: Last few years, they'd been getting more and more.

FR: More and more, yes.

RF: Wow.

SR: Here and Lake Borgne.

FR: We used to live on – down there on the lake, just a couple of hundred (shore?), we lived for a long time. The shrimp season, when the shrimp come in the lake, you could stand on the edge

of the lakeshore and throw – cast and catch shrimp.

RF: They were thick.

FR: They were thick enough [laughter]. You could catch all you want to eat. You couldn't sell them, but you could eat. Right by my house – right by the house, you walked – you headed out there, you'd be by the edge of the lake, that edge of the bank, and stand on the bank. Throw a few clams in the water. You'd catch shrimp, enough to eat, not many big shrimps [laughter] [inaudible].

RF: How about the fish? That's what I want to know. You didn't start fishing the fish until, I'd say, after the war and started working the fish?

FR: Oh, we used to fish with a line, yes, crawfish and trout. We used to sell them out in the West End Park. You know West End Park?

RF: Yes.

FR: Just take them out there on a Thursday or Friday night, Saturday night, but Thursday was the best night because Friday – but we use to go out into West End Park with them and sell plenty.

RF: What, you just set up there with a truck?

FR: No. Everybody made a table, a little table, maybe 4 feet long and so wide. You'd put them on that table, lay them on – display on the table. People come along and buy them. Same way with soft crabs. That's how you used to sell – everybody used to sell. Put them on a table. A lot of them didn't have a table. You spread some paper on the ground, put them on a paper on the ground.

RF: People come right there and buy them.

FR: Yes. Shrimp too, used to do that way.

RF: Is that where the restaurants are now?

FR: Well, most everybody used to go down the other end, most of the people. My dad used to go –

SR: [inaudible]

RF: Oh, yes, like out on the Point.

SR: Out on the Point.

FR: No. That's new.

SR: That (walks?) a big circle?

FR: Yes.

SR: Roadway runs all around – you're talking about down towards the basin?

FR: Yes, down the corner down here, what you call a corner.

SR: Beside the Yacht Club?

RF: Yes. Okay.

SR: Around that end of the park.

RF: Yes. We haven't had a light, used to get by each light, you know? So, you'd have a light. People used to get for each light. Sometimes it would be two or three up one light and then a couple in the other light [laughter] along the park there.

RF: They all come out to get that fish.

FR: People used to come out there. Man, always, plenty of people would come out there and pull up and buy fish or shrimp or crab. Whatever they were looking for, they could get it.

RF: You used to clean it for them?

FR: No.

RF: You sell them whole.

FR: Yes. Don't clean, [negative]. [laughter] They bought them as is, you know.

RF: I'll be darned now. Now, when you're talking about, is that like the late-forties or fifties, they used to do that?

FR: That was before then.

RF: Before then. So, that was before the war.

FR: Yes.

RF: When did you get into net fishing then, for the fish? Bubba said you used to (tram?) on that.

FR: Tram on that. Yes, it was after the war.

RF: You used to do that in your little motorboat. .

FR: No, we used – with a skiff. Once I had a motorboat, we used the motorboat to tow the skip until we got out in the lake. We'd get out to the lake, and we'd go along the shore, mostly in Lake Borgne. The fish in Lake Pontchartrain, it with the same. But that was before the war. We used to fish buffalo and carp in the lake here.

RF: Buffalo and carp in the lake.

FR: They don't have no more. But they used to have them in the lake.

RF: Was that here on the south shore you were catching them?

FR: Yes.

RF: How would you find them?

FR: Well, we'd just go out there and make a blind set.

RF: Is that so? Catch plenty?

FR: Sometimes. Sometimes you catch plenty. Sometimes you'd only catch a couple. But we just go out there and make a blind set, pulling that in.

RF: Now, who was buying buffalo?

FR: To the market – the market buys them, nickel a pound.

SR: [inaudible]

[laughter]

FR: Some of them 25, 30 pounds. Man, that's a good, big fish. You'd get plenty of money for them.

RF: When did that quit then?

FR: That was years ago. Yes.

RF: The lake used to be totally fresh.

FR: Yes. That's what it was. There was very little salt in it. I think what really helped to make it salty, the ship channel really increased the salt in the lake. But, like I say, it used to be almost fresh.

RF: That was good for the crabs.

FR: I guess they're good for the crabs. During the war, I came home on leave in 1943. My brother-in-law used to live right in – not this this house, but the next house. He was fishing crabs. He'd go out in the morning and catch 15, 20 baskets and all beautiful crabs, fish crabs. I didn't get to do any of that because I was in the service.

RF: You were in the service? You were overseas?

FR: Yes, I went overseas for two years.

RF: Because nobody was fishing them, I guess.

FR: They had a few fellows for fishing, the guys that didn't have to go and serve. Yes, they were fishing. In fact, most of them did real good. The price went up and didn't have too much trouble selling them.

RF: I've read somewhere that Lake Pontchartrain, maybe in the early thirties, the whole thing, there was no commercial fishing allowed.

FR: It wasn't open to commercial fishing.

RF: Like sports too?

FR: It was closed to commercial fishing.

RF: When was that?

FR: It didn't open until in the forties something? I think it was in the forties when they opened it to commercial fishing.

RF: For the finfish?

FR: Yes. I guess it was for everything. Because I suppose the fish – the marshals, they never did try to stop you, like fishing groupers and trout and shrimp and things like that. Nobody ever tried to stop you.

RF: They didn't.

FR: No. I guess, because they know they had enough of it. Conservation, they never bothered nobody, if you go shrimping and fishing and things like that. Now, you're right –

RF: [inaudible] why they did that or when they did that, when they shut that down.

FR: They come out with a law, and they made it up, commercially. Up to now, you know yourself, only certain parts of it is open.

RF: Yes. Bubba was telling me that. They had made the sanctuaries in there.

FR: Yes. Right.

SR: The sanctuary is 3 miles.

FR: Four miles. Remember you had to go past the first hump? Four miles off the shore, you had to go before you could fish.

SR: It's probably 4 now.

FR: Yes.

RF: Still, the fish are up on that bank probably.

SR: [inaudible]

FR: You can still fish close there.

RF: You can.

FR: Against the bank even. But it's so polluted, you never get anything. I have no idea anybody catching any shrimp or anything against the bank.

SR: No.

RF: Well, how about the redfish? When did you first start working there?

FR: Oh, yes, went into Mexico. Like I said, we used to tram on that right after the war, between Lake Borgne, not this lake.

RF: He was telling me they got a good shoreline on the south side of Lake Borgne.

FR: Lake Borgne, yes. Yes. You're right. Well, on the North Shore, we could. Yes. We used to fish from Bayou Bienvenue, most of the time, to The Rigolets. Well, sometimes we'd go down the path of The Rigolets. But most of the time, we'd fish – our biggest fishing was from The Rigolets to the Shell, in that section. But most days, we would catch a few redfish.

RF: You'd see the fish?

FR: Yes. You would see them. You can just put up – see them take off. You could see them run. Or you could see them moving along the shore. When they had a school, they make a wave, the middle one around, and you see them make a pretty good size wave.

RF: You row around them.

FR: Oh, yes. Get ahead of them. If they go in that way, you get ahead of them a little bit. Put one end of the net and go around them. They don't even know they're in the net. So, you start closing it up.

RF: You pull it. You guys pull it in.

FR: Yes, we pull it in.

RF: You sell them right there then? Where would you sell the reds?

FR: We used to take them into the city, (Brigillo?), Battistella, or Ferrara. We used to go to all of them, any of them. Top price was generally about – anywhere from 20 to 25 cents sometimes, 28 cents a pound.

RF: When did you quit the reds?

FR: You get 28, 30 cents a pound, that was real good price.

RF: So, the redfish they used to buy them, though. People used to eat them.

FR: Oh, yes. Man.

RF: They used to serve that in restaurants?

FR: Yes, up until they stopped.

RF: Yes. What's up with these people?

FR: We never had trouble selling them. We could always sell them. We'd catch – sometimes we've got to catch maybe 600, 700 pounds, 800 pounds. Once in a while, we'd catch 1,000, 1200 pounds, you know, one school. If we caught one school, we'd come in. We wouldn't go look for more. We'd be satisfied with that one school of fish, you know. We never carry ice coolers. You catch a school of fish, come in. Don't let them get bad.

RF: You fish them 12 months a year?

FR: No.

RF: When do you fish reds?

FR: Just in the summertime, like June, July, August, when they come ashore. The fish would be right along the shore.

RF: What would you do the rest of the year then?

FR: Fish crabs. Most of the time we fish crabs, shrimp, a lot of crab fishing, quite a few months.

RF: Where would you buy your gear, like your net, since you tram on that and stuff? Where did you get that stuff?

FR: Well, we used to buy from [inaudible] the French market. [inaudible] Yes, we used to get a lot of our stuff from them. They were big hardware – fishermen's supply, that's what it was.

RF: They said these old coonasses from Golden Meadow used to come up there too. I guess that was the only place around.

FR: Yes. They used to do good business, real good business. They had two places down there, [inaudible] and – I forgot his name. Were they fishermen's supplies? There were two places down in the French Market. Yes. Right across from the French Market, in fact, across the street. French Market is down this side of the street. They're on the opposite side.

RF: Did you ever sell any fish at the French Market?

FR: Yes. We used to take them down there sometimes. We'd call them up. If we caught some fish, we'd call them up and ask them if they want them, before you go running around. Find out who wanted them. Whoever wanted them, we'd just take it to them, like I said, Brigillo, Battistella, Ferrara, even – who was that – (Christina)?

SR: Christine?

FR: Yes. They used to buy them. They used to buy them too.

SR: Sal (Deli)?

FR: Yes. His brother used to be there with him too. He was shorter than Sal, but he was big and – but then wide too.

SR: Sal is as wide as he is tall.

FR: What do they weigh? About 400? 400, 500, huh? No kidding, that's what he weighs.

RF: Well, you fished. That's all you did, was fish?

FR: Just about. In – let's see – 1941, things were rough. I mean, we could hardly make a living, fishing. So, I went and joined the Merchant Marine. I went to sea for a year and a half. The war started in [19]42 – [19]41.

RF: I'm not sure.

FR: Yes. World War Two started in [19]41. I went to sea until middle of [19]42. Things got kind of rough in the Merchant Marine. So, I come in, and we're building the landing boats in that. I went to work for Higgins for about six, eight months. I got drafted. Instead of going

home, I went to the Marines.

RF: Oh, wow. Then you went right back to fishing.

FR: When I got out of the service? Oh, yes. That's when I got a motorboat. Like I said, I had a little two-cylinder Red Wing engine in an 18-foot boat. It was a real good boat for crabbing, fished crab with her for a couple of years.

RF: So, you got your skiff then, and you start fishing traps and all that?

FR: Well, it took a while to get a bigger boat [laughter]. It was rough. My wife and I both worked. In 1951 – in 1950, we built this house, between my wife and I. My wife was working as a waitress. I was fishing crabs and working in the gambling house at night. Like I said, between the two of us, we managed to get this house built. We built it ourselves.

RF: Oh, you built it yourself.

FR: Yes.

RF: Bought the materials and built it.

FR: Bought the materials on credit [laughter].

RF: On credit [laughter]?

FR: Yes. I couldn't pay for it, cash. So, he said, "Well, I'll give the stuff. When you get the money, you pay me." You couldn't beat that. No.

RF: No way. What were you doing in the gambling house?

FR: Shill. In other words, you sit around the dice table, and you roll the dice. They give you a handful of money to play. Yes. They get three or four of them around the dice table, three or four shills. It entices people. People that's in there, they think you're playing. They don't know the difference. So, they get there, and they start playing it too. If they've only got a couple of people – yes, they've got a couple – you roll the dice. They'd bet their money on you. What the hell is the difference? That's all they want.

[laughter]

RF: Where was that?

FR: Right around West End Park.

RF: No kidding.

FR: Isn't that funny?

RF: Well, you just, at one point, quit with the redfish.

FR: Well, there wasn't too much of anything going on. Things were rough, really rough. I was making \$35 a week in the – down in the [inaudible] Club. Gambling house is all it was, \$35 a week for that, 30, \$40 a week, crab fishing. Between the two of them together, I'd make maybe 75, \$80 a week. I said my wife was working. She'd make maybe 25, \$30 a week, waitress. Things were rough.

RF: Yes, man. Have you seen the lake fall in productivity, you think?

FR: Yes, I guess it did. They did have – I think they had more than they've got now, say, croakers. Man, you can go out and catch all the croakers you want. They had them croakers. You don't see any school of croakers anymore in the lake.

RF: I don't see croakers anywhere.

FR: The dredge boats tore the bottom up so bad that the croakers just aren't there. Or they just played out, or what happened, I don't know. Same way with the shrimp. For myself, I don't think the shrimp would be scarce if they weren't stopping from coming in at The Rigolets.

RF: What, the butterfliers?

FR: Yes. They kill them before they come in.

RF: Oh, they push out.

FR: Any way they can catch them. I still say it would still have the same amount of shrimp in the lake, if it wasn't for that. They're destroying –

SR: It really fell off when the night rig –

FR: They destroy them before they get here.

SR: – the night rig started with white shrimp.

FR: Yes. Right. Exactly.

SR: When [inaudible] brown, they're still a good way shrimping.

FR: Yes.

SR: Then they started pushing –

FR: For white shrimp.

SR: – white shrimp too.

FR: They say, "Oh, they don't come in the lake." No. It's not that. It's they kill them before they come in the lake, destroying them. You take, man, 30, 40, 50 nets or more. That's just a few. The Rigolets is locking it -- locking the whole damn opening. And the shrimp, they got them too. The shrimp, they just can't make it through that. They're destroying them. But you couldn't tell that to the – you couldn't tell it to Conservation. They don't believe that.

RF: Well, those guys had too much (pull?). You get a bunch of guys. They've got some pull.

FR: Oh, yes. Sure

SR: Part-timers, [inaudible] of a part-time fisherman going at you. [inaudible] to make it a dozen?

FR: A dozen fishermen, yes.

[talking simultaneously]

FR: Mostly a lot of them are farming. The guys has day jobs, butterfly at night. They've got day jobs.

SR: You'll never see them other than [inaudible].

FR: They don't take them things off their boats.

SR: You don't see them trawling.

FR: Leave them on the boat.

SR: You don't see them crabbing. You don't see them fishing. The only time you see them is [inaudible].

FR: Getting easy money.

SR: Yes, it's easy.

FR: You can any go time of the year you want to go down to Bayou Bienvenue and look at them boats. They've all got them wing nets on.

SR: Wing nets on , year-round.

FR: Yes, year-round. They don't take them off.

SR: Same way down The Rigolets too.

FR: Yes, same way -- The Rigolets is the same way.

SR: [inaudible] A lot of the boats, they just sit there all year round.

FR: Never take the nets off.

SR: Never.

RF: Hope we could get rid of those guys.

FR: Hey, they destroy a lot of crabs too.

RF: Oh, yes. Those little crabs come in.

SR: They catch them, yes.

FR: Do they catch them?

SR: (All?).

FR: With them wing nets? Oh, man, that's (slaughter?).

RF: That's true.

SR: [inaudible]. They've got 65-foot –

FR: Seventy-foot.

SR: – sixty-foot, 70-foot boat, all wooden boat, [inaudible] pushing wing nets, they're pushing back down at the (cramps?), wing nets.

FR: That boat's about –

SR: Overboard [inaudible] all the way across the [inaudible] I don't know, offshore –

FR: It's about 18-foot wide now, 17-feet long.

SR: 15,000 pounds across the wing net, one shot.

FR: That's a lot of crab, huh?

SR: It wasn't the only boat.

FR: No.

SR: There were [inaudible] of boats there, not just one. They have a picture of it.

FR: Yes, probably at least fifty boats there, at least, come in. Most nights, they've got over a hundred boats in the Rigolets.

RF: Is that so?

FR: Yes, when they're catching a few shrimps.

SR: Even when they're not catching [laughter].

FR: Even when they don't catch them, you're right.

SR: [inaudible] on top of the water.

FR: When they hit that mesh, cut them in half, breaks them up. They don't catch them.

SR: [inaudible]

FR: Yes, [inaudible].

RF: I'll be darned.

SR: Everybody – I think you talk to anybody out here, they're going to tell you about the same thing with certain Lake Borgne.

FR: Oh, yes. They know it, but they can't do nothing about.

SR: They're in a lot of places, not just this lake business.

FR: That's right.

SR: Plenty of places.

FR: Up until net for fishing, it used to be good. It was good, really good.

SR: Chef and the Rigolets were closed during that, to everything.

FR: Everything,

SR: Closed to the ground. Closed to the water.

FR: You couldn't fish at all, nothing, no net.

SR: Chef, Rigolets, Middle Ground?

FR: Yes, Middle Ground, Chef, and Rigolets.

SR: Then you had the sanctuary, a quarter of the lake. The middle ground between the Chef and the Rigolets [inaudible], between the twin bridges and – just beyond middle ground.

FR: Yes. You couldn't shrimp anywhere in there. No.

SR: That was all closed water.

RF: Wow.

SR: No shrimping at all.

RF: That would make a difference.

FR: It did. It did make a difference. When they opened that up, it killed everything.

RF: I'll be darned.

SR: A lot of things dropped off.

FR: Oh, yes. Sure.

RF: How about Bucktown? What happened with Bucktown? You all used to have sheds out there, put your nets. Did you keep a boat at Bucktown?

FR: Down there? Yes. I used to keep my boat down there at one time?

RF: Why did they ever clean that up? You know what I'm talking about? They just want to widen it?

FR: Yes. That's all it was. They wanted to widen the canal. They think maybe they can make it look better or something.

SR: That was to take care of the [inaudible] of the canal. [inaudible] Now, it's a powerful pumping station.

RF: Okay. That's the 17th Street Canal.

SR: Yes, 17th Street pumping station at the side of (Mary?) Road pumping station. At one time, it was the world's most powerful –

FR: Pumping station.

SR: – pumping station.

FR: Yes, it was.

SR: It was the most powerful pumping station in the world.

FR: It was.

SR: I mean, when they crank it – station – up to where they can pump, you know, to pull enough water out the city to keep it draining, that the water couldn't get out here quick enough, and the water just be building up. Go to levees.

FR: Yes.

SR: They claim it was overflowing the levees and back onto the pumping station. Keep pumping out so much water, more water than the canal can handle.

FR: They claimed the boats in that caused that because the boats –

SR: They claimed the boats stopped the water from getting out of the canal.

FR: The boats stopped the water, yes, couldn't get out.

SR: The boats were up in the sheds and all that stuff.

FR: Yes.

RF: Well, did they widen it the whole length?

[talking simultaneously]

SR: From the bridge to the lake.

RF: So, it's wider down there than up here?

FR: Than it is up here, oh, yes.

SR: Yes. The best part about it, the bridge, the foot bridge they got across the end right there used to be a car bridge in town, Gap Bridge. You go inside the bridge – inside and outside of the bridge, it'd be 10-, 12-foot of water. You go right across –

FR: As soon as you cross the bridge.

SR: – the lakeside of the bridge, they've got 4-foot of water.

FR: It seems you didn't need the bridge to cross anything.

SR: There's a big sandbar.

FR: [inaudible] It won't fill up again.

SR: There isn't much water there now.

FR: No. It was really shallow.

SR: Some of the boats were hitting – low tide –

FR: Oh, yes. You'd hit bottom, I reckon.

SR: You'd hit bottom.

FR: Hit bottom coming in the canal. As soon as you get near the bridge, it would be maybe 10 feet of water. But on the outside, you get 5 feet.

SR: Yes. But they claimed the boats stopped the waters.

FR: They both stopped the water, yes.

SR: They cleaned it up. It's pretty now.

RF: You think that's what it was all about, probably.

SR: A lot.

FR: Yes.

RF: Who was behind that?

SR: Sewage and Water Board.

RF: Is that Jefferson or Orleans?

RF: That's Orleans. That's supposed to be – I mean, Orleans is the one –

SR: That's actually Jefferson but –

FR: It's Jefferson.

SR: – Orleans claimed jurisdiction.

FR: Yes.

SR: [inaudible] runs right on other side of canal down there.

FR: Jefferson Parish is supposed to be on that – yes, when you get down there.

SR: Jefferson Parish is actually – the canal is in Jefferson Parish. But Orleans claims jurisdiction because it drains –

FR: Floating city.

SR: That goes into Palmetto.

FR: It's a lot, huh?

RF: Yes.

FR: Down Palmetto, yes.

SR: That's where the water comes from the canal.

RF: What's Palmetto?

SR: Washington Avenue.

FR: Yes, Washington Avenue.

SR: The canal runs in Washington – downside of Washington Avenue, it's (concrete?) canal. That's the main branch to this canal. Most of the water comes from right there.

[talking simultaneously]

FR: What's that? [inaudible]

SR: Yes, the canal.

FR: All the way from the river, close to the river, yes. What do they call it up there? Uptown section? High-class section.

SR: Uptown, yes. [inaudible] That's where the draining water comes into this canal.

RF: Wow.

FR: They're the ones that raised so much hell about it, causing through that, the people uptown. They blamed it – they blamed this canal blocking the water, not letting it out. That's why they give us [inaudible].

RF: I wonder when that happened. I wouldn't mind digging up some newspaper articles about that.

SR: It's been going on for –

FR: For years.

SR: It's long-drawn-out [inaudible].

RF: Well, that must be a hassle now, though.

SR: [inaudible]

FR: It gets damn rough in the canal now.

RF: It gets rough in the canal?

SR: They get rough.

FR: Oh, yes, they get rough.

SR: Northwest wind, boat jumping out the water.

FR: North and northwest wind, yes.

SR: Goes right down the canal.

RF: Because they widened it?

FR: Yes. They made it wide.

SR: They opened the mouth up when they widened it.

FR: Yes.

SR: The waves used to have to be – move out the west, to come in.

FR: Yes.

SR: They opened it up, [inaudible].

FR: Right out the north and northwest.

SR: North, northwest.

FR: Boy, does it get rough.

RF: Oh, wow.

FR: You can imagine what it does to someone in boats.

SR: In a year's time, sterns knocked out, would break ropes, beat up against the concrete.

FR: The boats get eaten into the filings. That's only in about a year's time, a little over a year. Yes, some of them boats really get chewed up, man.

SR: Now, they pay \$12,000 a year to lease the canal from the New Orleans Sewage and Water.

FR: Yes.

RF: You've got to lease it from New Orleans Sewage and Water, 12,000 a year.

SR: Used to be nobody had to pay for it.

RF: It was free.

FR: Used to be free.

SR: Tide has something to do with it too.

FR: It's terrible, the way the boat takes a beating. But you don't mind paying.

SR: No, I don't mind paying.

RF: Of course, you don't have anywhere to store a net or anything.

SR: No. [inaudible]

RF: Is that so?

SR: They've got the right to kick us out of there for anything, just about anything.

FR: Anything they want to find fault with, they can get out – put you out.

SR: You can't modify anything. You can't add nothing.

[talking simultaneously]

FR: You're supposed to keep it clean because they don't do that.

SR: Keep it clean.

FR: They don't do that too good.

SR: Ballrooms down in restaurants, a million people but [inaudible].

FR: Yes. People throwing things in restaurants, they cause [inaudible] on that too, yes.

RF: Throw beer cans and stuff.

SR: We've got to keep it clean.

FR: Yes. Well, fishing was supposed to keep it clean.

SR: It's supposed to be us keeping it clean. It's like trying to clean the city park on your own.

RF: So, the Lake Pontchartrain fishermen are responsible for it pretty much.

SR: We haven't – got to have an insurance in case you go down there and fall down. Fall down, you've got to be insured.

RF: You guys?

FR: Oh, yes, you've got to have insurance.

RF: Is that so?

[talking simultaneously]

FR: [inaudible]

RF: Isn't that something? So, you've got to pay money above your 300.

SR: No, that's part of

FR: Yes. They take out so much for insurance.

SR: An organization insurance, in other words. Not each individual lease.

FR: No. It's a whole – it's all-in-one insurance.

RF: We'll, say I'm a big sport, and I want to put my sailboat there.

FR: No way.

SR: Strictly commercial fishing.

FR: It's supposed to be for commercial fishing only.

RF: It is, huh?

SR: Commercial only. That's the only reason they said they wouldn't leave anybody in there.

Because they want to keep the commercial fishing industry at Bucktown alive. The only reason they've got any boats in there. That's what they said.

FR: Yes. If it wasn't for that, they wouldn't let anything – they would keep the boats out.

SR: They said if it wasn't for commercial fishing at Bucktown.

RF: Is that so? That's interesting.

SR: I don't know whether the restaurant people had any kind of pull in or what. I mean, I believe everybody down here that knew anybody was pulling strings [inaudible].

FR: Oh, yes.

RF: For the fisherman?

SR: Yes.

FR: Yes.

SR: He knew somebody. I knew somebody.

FR: Yes.

SR: Anybody that could help you in any kind of way.

RF: Isn't there this this old lady Berning?

FR: No.

RF: Maybe she's dead. I thought there was a Berning.

FR: They all did.

RF: Yes. There were Bernings. You're right.

RF: That's an old family over here.

FR: The Bernings? Yes.

SR: There's Justin Berning.

FR: Yes. Well, he's one of the family. Johnny Berning, that's who he's thinking about.

RF: How about old William DeFraités?

FR: Junior DeFraitres? Yes.

RF: He's been fishing since the thirties.

FR: Yes. He and I fished together. We used to fish partners. I fished trailing up with him too.

RF: Okay. He's still fishing?

FR: Yes. He's still fishing. He's running a few crab traps, does a little fishing with gill net, big as a house. He's in bad shape.

SR: He's in bad shape.

FR: Yes. His daddy's in real bad shape right now. He's 86 years old? His daddy? He's in bad shape.

RF: How old are you?

FR: Me? I'm 70.

RF: You're 70. So, Junior's about 70.

FR: No. He's not quite that old. He's about 60, I guess 65, 66, 67, something like that. I don't know exactly. He's younger than I am. But he's still fishing.

RF: Bubba says you've got a boat out there.

FR: Yes. I've got my boat down. I don't use it much. I told the doctor, said, "Look, you can run a bone scan. Do it before the 15th or after the 20th."

SR: Once it's done fast, he thinks he's going to die or something. Once it's done, he's going shrimping.

[laughter]

FR: I said before the 15th or after the 20th. I want to go shrimping. Okay. Do it when you want. The doctor said, "When do you want it?" I said, "Anytime." "Tomorrow?" "Yes, that's fine."

[laughter]

RF: It's going to be open on the 20th.

FR: I don't know.

RF: They said it.

SR: Statewide.

RF: I think so.

SR: 6:00 a.m.

FR: The third Monday.

SR: Surprising it's a Monday.

FR: It always did open on the third Monday. Like you said, they've got the power to change it now. They can open any day they want. So, they're leaving it like it was. I can't imagine.

SR: [inaudible]

FR: Catch the ones that's skimming. Yes, you scare them up.

RF: That's a nice rig, those skimmer rigs, if you can get them set right.

SR: [inaudible]

RF: Is that right?

FR: Down in Venice, quite a bit.

SR: Everywhere.

FR: Yes, up in the West too, they use it a lot.

RF: They were good with the lakes, 12-, 14-foot. We're good in there, you think?

FR: Out here? I don't think they – the lake's a little bit deep.

RF: That's what I think.

SR: See, my dad worries in Borgne, 10-foot of water.

FR: Oh, I'd say we're good in Lake Borgne. But out here, you've got – most of the lake, you've got 16-foot of water. It makes it kind of kind of hard.

SR: If they're only 12-foot deep, it would to be –

FR: If they don't get down to the bottom, it isn't any good. You've got to get to the bottom.

RF: That's right. You used to catch trout at all?

FR: Trout? Yes. Talking about Junior and I fishing, he and I fished trout a few years with the gill net – not gill net, trammel net.

RF: Found in the same place.

FR: We fished in Little Lake one year and caught plenty of trout. We caught redfish too in Little Lake.

RF: Are you talking about Little Lake down there below Lafitte?

FR: Yes.

RF: Oh, yes? You used to fish in there?

FR: Yes.

RF: No kidding.

FR: You know where Long Point is?

RF: I've camped out on Long Point.

FR: Oh, yes? That's where we were fishing, Long Point.

RF: Yes. I made some good sets right on Long Point.

FR: Yes. We caught – right on the east side of the point, we caught 1700 pounds redfish, one set.

RF: Is that so?

FR: Well, we had a 500-foot net, trammel net, Junior and I. Yes [laughter].

RF: How about that.

FR: 1700 pounds, one set, we caught. But we were fishing trout. We were catching quite a few trout in there, and a lot of small trout.

RF: They get in that lake in the wintertime.

FR: There was one time we fished –

RF: Where did you go down there?

FR: We stayed in the camp. We camped right there in the bayou,. You know where the point

is? On the west side of the point, you go all the way up in that cove, and you had trappers camp there. A good-sized camp, but I guess it was about 12 x 20 or something like that, who stayed in that. They had an old fellow in the camp back that lived in the camp. He told us it was alright to stay there as long as you want to.

RF: No kidding.

FR: Yes. We stayed there. There was Junior DeFraithe, myself, Claude Carter, and Neil Hampton Pritchard, five, six of us. Junior had a 24-foot boat with a Chrysler engine, six-cylinder Chrysler engine. We used his boat. He had a big skiff. He and I fished together. Then the other three guys, they fished together. We did all right with the trout and the redfish.

RF: You'd sell them in Lafitte?

FR: No. We'd bring them into Long.

RF: Long Point. You ever been there? You know what he's talking about?

FR: No. I don't think he has.

SR: I've been in Little Lake.

FR: Oh, yes, he's been to Little Lake.

SR: I've gone shrimping in Little Lake.

FR: Otherwise, if you want to go towards Cut Off, you'd have to go up in that corner.

RF: Yes, [inaudible].

FR: Yes.

RF: See, we'd run from [inaudible].

SR: [inaudible]

RF: I guess so. Yes. You're down in my neck of the woods now. [inaudible] fishing.

FR: Yes. Well, that's close.

RF: Yes. I made a big set on Long Point one time too. It's all stumps and hard bottom.

FR: Oh, you got stumps.

RF: Yes.

FR: We put our net out and couldn't move it [laughter]. Good thing we got it against the bank. Because we couldn't move it after we put it out. I put that net out. When the net run out, of course there comes the fish along the shore. I took one of the oars, and I threw it and turned them around and jumped out the skiff, made a lot of noise, threw them back in the net. But I would grab the net to start to pull it. Shit, it wouldn't move. It isn't just a bass. It's a stump. My God.

RF: They don't want to hit that net either.

FR: No. They don't want to hit it. You can believe that they run up and down and pass them. But on the opposite side of the point, they had shell piles underwater. It was about – I guess about a block long and offshore a little bit. We set that off the edge of the shell pile and knocked the hell out of them trout.

RF: Oh, boy, a long way from home now.

FR: That's a nice place for fishing trout.

RF: Yes. In the wintertime, those boats from Florida go, and they take about 2,000 feet of net and drag down a whole cove at night. These fish out at night.

FR: On that side, there were no stones. It's only on the point and going on the east side, the point, a lot of stones. But on the opposite side, there was no stone.

RF: That's right. I know. It's funny.

FR: Yes, I like that place. It was nice, sand bottom, really good fishing there. We couldn't school the redfish in there. You could set for scatter when – if you want to catch maybe 6, 8, 10 of them.

RF: They get in there in the wintertime.

FR: But they were [inaudible]. One of other fellows, they were going towards Grand Isle, somewhere out there, were going to look for fish. So, Junior said, "Well, take my boat and put it by – put my boat by [inaudible] Bayou. Frank and I, we're going to go on the shore." We'd go all the way to [inaudible] Bayou. We didn't find that. We get the boat and come back. We never got around – we just got around the point. [inaudible] that school, that's as far as we got. When they come back, they've taken – run Junior down. They go get his boat with a skiff-load of fish, man. [inaudible] with the skiff with pretty good loads, with the net. Yes. We didn't get nowhere. Man, started out the point. There's a school of fish. Shit.

RF: With 500 feet of net.

FR: Damn.

RF: Let me just ask you, what do you what do you think about them closing the red?

FR: I don't think it did any good or not. I guess they did good. But I really think they should open it again.

RF: You think they should open it?

FR: I think they should open it. Yes. He could tell you, man, there were redbfish in the lake this past year. They were catching –

RF: [inaudible] little ones out in the lake?

FR: No, there wasn't. He and I put some nets along the shore, blue short nets. You grab the end of them, and all you could see is [inaudible] redbfish.

SR: [inaudible]

FR: Oh, Lord.

RF: That was last fall?

FR: Yes, this past year. They got them and threw them out.

SR: I'd be lying. I don't want them.

FR: No. You wouldn't kill them.

SR: They'll just be stuck in the net.

FR: But they had plenty of them in the lake here.

SR: Eight, 10-, 12-pound fish, redbfish.

FR: Yes. Some of them were catching a couple of hundred of them in a day. That's a lot of redbfish.

RF: You better believe it, 5 pounds apiece?

FR: Yes.

SR: This last year – you wouldn't see them like that all the time.

FR: Right.

SR: There's been years where you would too. I mean, it's just –

FR: This past year, they –

SR: [inaudible] This past year, they had quite a few.

RF: You ever see any freezes like we saw this year, last year?

FR: I've seen even worse than that.

RF: You saw one worse than that?

FR: Yes.

RF: When was that? Do you remember?

FR: When the hell was the freeze? In the fifties? Yes, I think it might have been around that time. I saw the whole lake had ice on it, all the way across the lake. It was covered with ice. It wasn't thick.

RF: But it was there.

FR: You knew it was there, had fish all over the lake.

RF: Is that so?

FR: Dead fish. Yes. Everybody that had a motorboat was out there picking them up. I had no motorboat. All I had was my skiff. My brother had a little bit of motor. I think he had borrowed the motor, a little outboard motor. We had two skiffs. He had the one where he put the motor on, and I had my little skiff. He towed me out there in the middle of the lake. We get out there in the middle. He turned me loose, and I go rolling around picking up fish. He'd run around with my other – with the other brother-in-law, and they were scooping them up with a scoop net. Then we get our load, come on in.

RF: Rowed the boat.

FR: Yes.

RF: You're selling them.

FR: Oh, yes. The market was buying them. But some of them guys had big boats, quite a load just, sheepshead, redbfish, trout. Drumheads, they wouldn't pick them up.

RF: Wouldn't mess with a drum, huh?

FR: No, too big, and they weren't worth that much. But they wouldn't pick up too many sheepsheads, mostly trout and redbfish. They had plenty. There are parts of the lake nobody ever did go in, even like the eastern part of the lake, where the fish would be the most, nobody even went. Nobody went that way. She had enough right out in the middle.

RF: The eastern part had the most fish.

FR: Oh, yes. I guess some of the fish were probably trying to get out, before they had them.

RF: Just during that freeze that most of the fish were in the east or all the time.

FR: Yes. They were there during the freeze, but it probably had more all the time in east of the lake. Yes. That's the biggest fish kill I've ever seen.

RF: That might have been [19]53. I'm going to have to check.

FR: Yes. I think it was around that time, I'm pretty sure. Yes. Stayed that way for almost a week.

RF: Is that so?

FR: They had a big old icicle hanging off the bridge, almost hit the water off the Gap Bridge down there.

RF: But the fish came back. See, that's why they tried to fish forever this year, saying no to freeze.

FR: They still love to keep it closed.

RF: They're going to try now.

FR: Oh, there's no doubt about that. You're going to have to fight them. I say that they're going to try to keep it closed. I'd be willing to bet.

SR: They tried this year to shut it down.

FR: Yes. They're probably saying, "Oh, they're going to open it." I'd be willing to bet anything you want to bet they're going to try to keep it closed.

RF: They're going to try.

FR: They'd allow it too.

RF: It's going to be tough

FR: Yes. They'd allow it too. Now, they get the trout along with it. Yes, they're trying with that too.

SR: They tried hard this year with the trout.

FR: Yes.

RF: That's right, less than half, 500,000 because of the freeze. Bubba, you're my age. You're 40?

SR: No.

RF: How old are you?

SR: I'm 38.

RF: You're 38? You were a plumber for how long?

FR: A couple of years.

SR: Six, seven years. Seven years, I think.

RF: You couldn't stay away from fishing? [laughter] You used to take Bubba with you?

FR: Yes. Oh, yes. He was my helper.

RF: He was your helper?

FR: My main helper. He and I went once they started using baskets.

RF: You brought him here.

FR: Yes. A lot to do with it, I can tell you that.

RF: Come on. Where were you doing that in the past?

SR: In a closed bathroom [inaudible]. In Bayou Bienvenue.

RF: With somebody [inaudible]?

FR: No. His brother that's got [inaudible] down there, he had a boat.

SR: You put them on your boat.

FR: He bought a second – a guy in Mississippi had them. He found out about this guy in Mississippi that had them, selling nets from [inaudible], the nets. He made up some frames and put them on his boat. That's why we're using his boat. The fish were –

SR: We teamed up.

FR: Yes. He and I was fishing with his boat and then –

SR: Put them on your boat the second – the next year.

FR: Yes. But you and I used his boat.

[talking simultaneously]

SR: The first ones to ever go in there.

FR: Yes, fishing in Bayou Bienvenue. We didn't know that they have shrimping in the coastal. So, we got out of Bayou Bienvenue one night. We're catching them big.

[talking simultaneously]

FR: They had a floating bridge there. Yes.

SR: We got right up behind the bridge. They had a little island in the middle. They had two barges, one on each side.

FR: Yes.

SR: The current ripping through.

FR: The current boiling up beneath the barge.

SR: You had the current beneath the barge. Nobody had ever been out there though.

FR: No.

SR: We were the first ones to go in there.

FR: There wasn't any wing nets. Nobody knew what it was.

RF: When was that, I guess?

SR: How many years [inaudible]?

FR: Oh, after that, I don't know what you and I were doing [inaudible]. Two or three years? Yes, we did all right, [inaudible], with my boat, put a set on my boat then. I had a 24-foot boat.

RF: When was that, I wonder, when you first got into the wing net? Sixties?

SR: I was still in school. I spent all my summers on the boat, anytime, weekends. Any day I wasn't in school, I was on the boat with him mostly.

FR: [inaudible] Bayou Bienvenue, one night, went down, caught a load of mud, and turned the

boat over.

RF: Oh, wow.

SR: Sideways in the current.

FR: Yes, we got cross – one net full of mud, crossways in the current, and the boat was gone. The water got on the deck of the boat.

SR: First time somebody ever had to hand me a life jacket.

FR: Life jacket, we're going to sink.

SR: "Here, have this." Handed me a life jacket and walked out on other end of the wing, put weight on, straighten the boat back up.

FR: Try to get the boat back up.

[talking simultaneously]

RF: It worked, huh?

FR: It helped, yes.

SR: Oh, I think it helped keep the boat from flipping. [inaudible]

FR: It wouldn't have got rid of that load of mud. The mud wouldn't have gone out. We would have turned over.

SR: It was an open clam boat. The water was on its decks.

FR: Yes. You've only got that much deck on the boat, and the water was on it.

SR: We'd come close.

FR: Damn right it was close. One night there, 800, 900 pounds in blue shrimp, he and I picked them up in the boat. We were working the nets and picking the shrimp.

SR: It's a wooden 4 x 4 for a mast, nailed two 2 x 4s across the top, (buoys?), ropes.

FR: Everything by hand.

SR: Everything was done – everything by hand. Carry gasoline down there, in cans, put in the boat by hand, the feet too. A long time, there wasn't – these guys –

[talking simultaneously]

FR: No. They had electric winches.

SR: Never did have winches on your boat. Everything was ropes, blocks and – block and tackle and double, single shears on him. Pick the nets up on wooden 4 x 4.

FR: The best catches are the Rigolets, used to tie to the bridge, train bridge at the Rigolets. You can tie up there. It was so easy. Just tie the nets down and catch there.

[talking simultaneously]

SR: That's when it was closed. Then you could fish from the train bridge in Rigolets, and the train bridge out, both passes were still closed. You can go right through.

FR: Yes, as long as you're on the lakeside.

SR: We leave that. Nobody knew it. If we catch a shrimp, we'd untie off the bridge, and take off for a run. Turn the lights out and come back in the Chef [inaudible].

RF: Oh, they find out.

SR: Dropping anchor? Shit. Thirty-something bushels in about an hour and a half, 21, 25, 16, 20.

RF: Full Moon. On the moon.

SR: We only do it when you –

FR: Certain time, yes.

SR: – you knew you would get them.

FR: Bubba, who was catching them? [inaudible] that night. Nobody knew it.

SR: Nobody knew it.

FR: Nobody knew who was catching them. Just him and I, nobody – no other boats.

SR: All you can do is roll them. Go from one side of the boat to the other, roll them, dragging the tails up over the stern. Tie it back, go to the other side, roll that one tight.

FR: You wouldn't even move along either, 10, 15 minutes to move.

SR: Time stops.

FR: One night he did that and forgot to tie my tail.

RF: Oh, no.

FR: He wanted to throw me overboard.

SR: Don't you know you blame your deckhand?

FR: Yes. Picked his net up there, four, five baskets on the best side. The closer to the bank, the more you caught. Mine was on the side by the bank.

SR: Filled my basket shrimp.

[talking simultaneously]

FR: Shrimp. No fish. Shrimp.

SR: No fish at all.

RF: Going out the lake.

SR: Yes. Lake Borgne.

FR: We caught 30-some baskets at the Rigolets that one night, huh? Tied to the train bridge. Blow down there like –

SR: Yes, blows come out the southeast down there, Lake Borgne, be right up in there. Gets rough in the train bridge in Lake Borgne.

FR: With the current going out, boy, it gets rough.

SR: Some real close, put the nets about halfway or three-quarters away, and the water push through it. Because you couldn't have – you couldn't [inaudible].

FR: You turn it over, 24-foot boat with 12-foot nets.

SR: We had some good times doing that.

RF: I guess so. You catch 3,000 pounds, that would make you happy.

FR: We caught some trout now with the wing nets.

SR: Every year, more and more.

FR: Oh, more and more and more.

[end of transcript]