

582.7 side 1.

L: Lunt

S: Smith

X: Woman's voice.

L: Oscar Smith, March 21, 1970.

L: I guess the first thing I wanted to ask you was, ah, if you can't tell me something about your father. When did he start building? An--

S: Now let's see, my father--

X: The record, rr- ah, a, as far back as we got is what I told you, 1910.

S: Yeah, (L: Uh uh) 1910 is when they, [AT THIS POINT, MRS. X SAYS SOMETHING WHICH I CAN'T UNDERSTAND] when they started to build those boats down there.

L: Yeah, now, wh-- where is down there? Down to the shop where you work?

S: Right down in the same building. (L: a, yuh) that I'm in there now.

L: You said they? Is it, [MR. SMITH SPEAKS, BUT CAN'T UNDERSTAND] your father and your brother?

S: There was two of them and their bo-- th, their names both were Frank Smith. (L: I see.) But there was no relation (L: Yes) and [PAUSE, 3] they ah, my fath- ah, they -- one of the men passed away [PAUSE, 2] let's see, in 19-- ah, [PAUSE, 6] in 9, right around 1940. (L: UH uh) ah, yuh, and my father died in 1947. (L: Um umm) And he and I was ah, mm-- after the ah, other fella that was with my father died, I went in with my father. I bought the other fella's [PAUSE, 3] part out down there, and I went in with, with him. (L: Ah, yuh) and my father died in 1947, and since that, time I have taken it over alone. (L: Yes, yes) And I have built somewhere right around 80 to 85 boats in that-- in that time.

L: Since that time. Yes, yes, since 1949.

S: Sice 9-- since 1947.

L: 47. Excuse me. Ah, yuh. Well ah, what kind of boats did they first build back in 1910?

S: They-- back in them days, they was building them small 16 foot-- well some of them was, ah, double enders, (L: Yes) And some of them was those ah, ah, well, it was a fantail. (L: Yes) Stern.

L: Like a steam boat?

S: Ah, yuh, ayuh, and there was anywhere from 18 to 22 feet long.

L:Yes, I see.

S:And, ah, (L:Quite small?) yes, and ah, the years went on; they kept increasing in length and in size. (L:Yes) And they built alot of 25 foot ones. (L:Uh uh) Then come along this torpedo stern (L:Yes) A round stern which they called a wash boiler stern. (L:Umm- hum) And they built a number of those boats, a pile of them. (L:Ayuh) And people liked them. And when they changed from that style to this square , cut-off stern we call it. (L:Um humm) they had quite a job to get people to, to change from -(L:To change-) these wash boilers sterns to these cut-off sterns.

L:Why did they-- why did they change it?

S:Well, it was , ah, the ah, the wash boiler stern was an awful hard stern to build. (L:Ayuh) Eh, you had to bend those planks around the stern. (L:Ayuh) And , it was a lot harder than than one of these, where one of these kind you can build the stern every bit of it, right out on the floor and pick it right up and put it on, it's all done. #

L:Yes, that's all there is ot it.

S:Yeah.

L:I heard about somebody who used to ah, build those , those, ah, torpedo sterns vertical planked.

S:Yes, yes, ah, we had one boat builder, yeah, that built them that way, (L:Ayuh) ah, planked up and down.

L:Yeah, was that easier than building them by-- eh, building them with (S:Well-) a horizontal plank?

S:I think it was. They didn't have to steam and bend those plank around there. (L:Yes) But of course, they didn't look so good.

L:Yes, yes, N--no amount of sanding would disguise it, huh?

S:Yeah, [L: LAUGHS] They di-- they ah, they didn't look so good as they did to plank them right straight around (L:yes) with ah, same as t-- to plank the whole length of them.

L:Yes, That;s interesting. The ah, what about motors in those early boats. What did they have?

S:[MR. SMITH BEGINS TO SPEAK BEFORE LUNT FINISHES HIS SENTENCE: CONSEQUENTLY, I WAS UNABLE TO HEAR WHAT HE STARTED SAYING] D---- down here , my father was a, ah, he had the agency for what they called the Hartford. And that was a single , single cylinder engine. (L:Yes) And they ranged from three to seven horsepower. (L:Um, huh)

L:Did they use those in those 16 to 18 foot (S:Yes) boats?

S:Yes, they did. Way back at that time that's what they used.

L:Ayuh. Did they ever use more than one motor?

S:Uh, very few. Very few boats had more than one motor in it.
 (L:Uh uh, what was--) Then they ah, they built ah, they had a fashion here for a while of them of a converting the model T ford, (L:Yeah) engine over. And after a while that went out and then the other engines come in and now days they-- they use mostly automobile engines [PAUSE, 3] with marine reverse gears, water cooled manifolds, (L:YEs) and things like that. That's what/about, that all use around here now.

L:Yes, yes, Was that-- after the model T engines, can you remember the names of any of those engines that came in after those model T conversions?

S:Well, mostly the Chevrolet, (L:Uh uh) The Chevrolet engine. They used Chevrolet and Buick , was, ah, was about the two commoner engines. (L:Um hum, very good) used here.

L:I've heard of the Red Wing, Redwing Thoroughbred.

S:Yes, they used , ah, they used quite a few of those (L:Uh uh) They used -- they was a regular marine engine. (L:Yes) The Thoroughbred and the Redwing. (L:UH uh) Ayuh, they used quite a few of those.

L:Were those before the Chevrolets?'

S:Yes, they was before the Chevrolets and Buicks.

L:Ayuh, Wh-- wh-- ah, when did those Chevrolets come in, in terms of a date? 1925 or--?

S:Ohh, the Chevrolet engines, no I think it's been , I don't think it's been back so far as that. I don't think but probably ah, '30 or '35.

L:Yeah, I see. Yeah, they-- they were pretty powerful by then, weren't they?

S:Yes, they was.

L:Did that make a change in the boats design?

S:No, that didn't ah, that didn't change the design of the boats. They ah, they kept improving the models of the boats here from year to year. (L:Ayuh) Until they got them to where they are now, and this model that we have here now is a model that's been here for quite a few years.

L:Has it? Yeah, Since 1935.

S:Ye-- yes, I would say since 1935.

L:Yeah, have they gotten a little wider since then?

S:Yes, yes, (L:Th--) yes, they ah, well, a 30 or 32 foot boat used to be right around 8 foot side (L:Yes) Now they're 10 and 11. (L:Ahuh) foot.

L:What is the advantage?

S:Well, they get more working room in the boat, (L: Ayuh) and on the, on the same length of boat, (L: Um hum) if they, if they didn't, they'd have to build a boat 38 to 40 feet long in order to get the working room. (L: Yes) if they, if they didn't put the width on the, /

L: Um-hum, um-hum. Does it make them more stable?

S:Yes, yes, I think they make a better sea boat (L: Um hum) in every way

L: Yes, they-- do they-- it gives them enough bearing to handle the engines.

S:That is right (L: Yes) that is right,

L: How about going before a , a running sea ? [PAUSE, 2] Eh, running before a sea?

S:They, ah, the-th-they -- they perform good. (L: uh uh) ah, On-on seas in every way. These model boats does. [LUNT SAYS, "VERY GOOD" AT THE SAME TIME AS SMITH SAYS THE LAST PHRASE.] (L: uh uh)
They ah, they go right out in the winter lobster fishing, just same as they do in the summer. Here with those boats.

L: Yeah, it makes me -- makes me shiver to see them do it, I, [LAUGHS]

S:Yeah,, (L: Have alot of courage.) Th-- the type of boats they got today , the way the windshields and the cabins and everything is built on them , that ah, they get a certain amount of heat from the, ah, motor. (L: yes) They use that-- eh, that-- th-- the most of them uses that hot manifold. (L: Um hum) That regular manifold that comes on the car engine. And that produces heat enough (L: I see) in that small space so that they can go out on a pretty cold day.

L: [SPOKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH MR. SMITH] Keeps them pretty - yeah keeps them pretty warm . (S: Yeah) as long as their engines are running, huh?

S:That is right.

L: Ayuh, ayuh, well, let's see, ah, [PAUSE, 4] How much did a boat cost to build , ah, when you first started building with your father? What, 19--

S:Wh-- when I first (L: 20) Started to work with my father, it was , ah, in 1940---4, I think. (L: Um hum) And we built a 28 foot boat, the first one that he had - and I built together. I think it was \$800.00.

L: That's -- the , th-- the , the hull itself without the engine?

S:The hull without the engine, eh, was somewhere around \$800.00.

L:Ayuh, ayuh, My, things have changed, haven't they?

S:Today that 28 foot boat would be at least \$3000.00

L:Yes, now that's the hull, it doesn't include the-- the cabin and the-- and the shelter.

S:Yes, yes, that includes the cabin.

L:It does?

S:Yeah,

L:MY!

S:But no, er-- ah, but not any marine hardware.

L:Yes, now does that include the stuffing box, and the rudder and the--

S:no.

L:None of that at all. I see. So all of that is an ex tra [PAUSE, 2] cost. ^

S:That is right.

L:Ayuh. How much would it cost if you put in a, oh, a 200 horsepower engine, and a, ah, pot hauler, and ah, y--- your shaft, your propeller?

S:One of those boats probably would-- would run in-- with everything in them like that (L:Ayuh) 8, \$10,000.

L:8, \$10,000, uh uh [PAUSE 2] That's quite a bit of money, indeed.

S:Yes, sir.

L:Ayuh. ayuh.

S:Th-- those pot haulers, they cost anywhere from 5 to \$800.

(L:Yes) And all marine hardware [PAUSE 3] is awfully high. (L:Yes) Expensive.

L:Bronze and--

S:Yeah, you take an inch and a quarter four hole stuffing box. (L:um ummm) Right around \$40.

L:My! yes.

S:Propeller wheel, was, ah, probably an 18 inch or 20 inch diameter, (L:Um hum.) Right around 80 or \$85.

L:Oh, my! yes.

S:The shaft , the propeller shaft , an inch and a quarter or an inch and 3/8ths is anywhere from 85 to \$1.00.

L:That's in bronze?

S:Yeah.

L:Yeah. Monel is more than that?

S:[SIMULTANEOUSLY] Monel is more than that.

L:Yes, Ho-- how expensive are-- are fastenings, say Everdur screws?

S:The Everdur nails, that I'm using (L:Yeah) is somewhere around , \$2.80 or \$.85 a pound. (L:yes) and the screws, of course, they go by the piece, and I never have used any of those. But I think that Bert Frost told me that them screws was either 5 or 7¢ a piece.

L:My word! Gee. Number 10 or so.

S:Yeah.

L:Ayuh, ayuh.

S:Ah, probably a 2 inch screw.

L:Yes, quite a bit of money . How many pounds of nails have you used in this hull you built this winter?

S:Ah, the planking nails is thirty-five pounds. (L:uh uh)

L:Find, do you -- do you use nails and place else?

S:Well, I don't use the Everdur anywhere else. (L:Uh uh I, see) The rest of the places ah, they-- is ah, well putting the deck in and different things like that we use a, a round galvanized nail.

L:Yes, yes, Lets' see, um, how is the-- the keel fastened together?

S:The keel is fastened together with screw bolts, (L:um hum) and drift bolts.

L:Yes, so that the drift bolts have a, a loosable nut on the top of them.

S:They have a-- ah, a washer

L:A washer. (S:Yeah) I see.

S:A clinch washer. (L:uh uh) at the top of them.

L:You mentioned to me-- you showed me down there how you-- ah, you made the ah, shaft log out of the two pieces (S:Yes) Did they al-- the -- did they always do that?

S:No, they used to years ago when my father was there-- when the--

the shaft logs was shorter. (L:uh uh) They ysed to bore them. I-- I have the augers right down there now to bore them with. (L:Uh uh) and [PAUSE, 3] when they got so we had to use somw shaft logs anywhere from 6 to 7 feet long, (L:um humm) why, of course, that [PAUSE, 2] ha, made it imposs-- eh, y-- you'd bore [PAUSE,2] from each end and meet in the center (L:yes) Well, you-di--in order for to run a shaft in there, unless you've had a terrible big hole,' (L:um-hum) you'd have to meet perfect, (L:Yes) which you couldn't do. (L:That's right) It qwuld be impossible. |

L:Quite difficult, sure.

S:Enough so we'd have to -- sh-- make the log out,--

L:Uh uh, two pieces and fit it together.

S:And you split it right in two (L:Ayuh) and therefore you can take it on your circle saw and you can almost cut that hole right out.

L:Right out, yeah,

S:The whole length.

L:With a dado or---

S:Ye-- well, you take a circle s-- saw (L:yes) and keep sawing in, shifting your saw over, (L:yes, ayuh) and you can almost saw that right out-- a round hole (L:Huh) or half on ecah (L:yes) each part. Then you take it on the bench, and take a gouge and dig out what is left in there, (L:yes) Then bolt it together, put a thread of cotton in the seam, (L:um hum) bolt it together then run an auger through it. (L:Uh uh) and that cleans everything (L:yes) cleans it out good.

L:Cleans it right out round, yes, Very good. Wh--di--ah-- are the augers that you used, ah, for boring through are they of a special kind?

S:Yes, they're cal-- they don't have any worn on them.

L:I see. Whats' -- what's the advantage in that?

S:That worm follows the grain.

L:I see. So in order to keep it from -- from veering off.

S:Ayuh, you have to start -- you have to-- of you're going to bore a hole there, you have start it with an auger first with a worm on it and bore in probably an inch (L:yes) to-t-t0 start with.

L:Get's yourself started, yeah, ayuh. Is-- do you set up the auger in any kind of jig?

S:Yes, we set it up into bearings, (L:uh huh) and use a power drill on it.

L:I see, huh, so she goes quite straight. (S:Yuh) if you'd continue to do that, (S:Yeah) these days.

S: If you're very careful in lining it up [PAUSE,4] why you'll come out f-- fairly good but---

L: It must be---

S: Some times, sometimes if therè's a knot in there , it's a little bit harder on one side than it is the 0-- it'll shear that auger just enough so that, so that you won't meet perfect in the center.

L: Yes, yes, fine. Well, I'm certain that, that split ah, shaft log seems to be ah, a good idea. (S: Ayuh) Are there-- are there improvements in building techniques like that which you've developed over the years?

S: No, I ge-- I, I don't think so.

L: What about ah, I--I understand they used to make molded stem? Three piece stem.

S: Yeah, that's what this is in this boat down here.

L: Oh, I--I don't mean molded , I mean a laminated stem.

S: Laminated?

L: Laminated.

S: Yeah, my ah, father , eh, used to ah, ah, steam and bend (L: Yes) the inside stem, (L: uh hum) and when the boat was planked , then they'd bend three pices on over that.

L: Over that, on the out side?

S: On,-- on the outside- fight over the wood ends of the plank. (L: Yes) And then taper it off for shape the, of the stem.

L: Yes. Do they, e-- essentially b-- build a rabbet that way?

S: No, that wasn't rabbeted same as these ones ah, is now that we--

L: I see. Huh, in other words the -- the ah , the inside stem was-- was beveled , right?

S: Beveled, tapered.

L: Yes, tapered. Right to a point?

S: Eh, well. it would be, ah, perhaps , ah, three inches through it, (L: Yes) and it would be an half an inch on the outside, and perhaps be three inches or three and a half on the inside.

L: Yes, yes, I see. so your plank would face right on there.

S: And the plank would lay right on there side of it, right there.

L: Yes, and they'd make a face which was about an inch and a half wide? (S: Yeah, or so) And then they'd put a piece out side of that,

which was also tapered? (S:Yeah) um, toward the bow? (S:Yeah)
And was it pointed or still flat?

S:That-- no, that was pointed.

L:That was pointed.

S:Yeah, that was pared right off, (L:Good) in the shape of a--

L:Well, where did the third piece come from? Ah, where did it go, that is.

S:That --eh, one-- one went right on over the other. [PAUSE,3]of the outside stem.

L:I see.

S:You see , ah, ah, that wo-- that would have to be built up about 3 inches when you couldn't bend a 3 inch piece on there, (L:I see, yes) It was too much of a bend.

L:So one piece was-- was sort of trapezoid ? In it's cross section, and the other one was triangle in cross section and went onto it.
[SMITH INTERJECTS A SERIES OF "YEAHS" WHILE LUNT IS SPEAKING]
Did-- how idd they fasten them together?

S:Oh, they-- they'd put screw bolts right straight through (L:uh uh) Right straight through the outside stem, right into the in one-- one inside one.

L:I see. Oh, ah, I -- it looks to me now like it-- in the sense they sort of built a rabbet because they had a piece on the inside and the planks came right in on that, and then they put piece on the outside which covered over the butt ends of the -- of your-- of the , of your plank.

S:Thats' right.

L:Yeah, (S:Yeah) And they couldn't spring out?

S:No (L:Yuh) Where these ones here is molded (L:um hum) put together and rabbeted . The whole length of-- for the plank to fit right into them.

L:Yes, the half has to be a cut rabbet. (S:Yeah,) Ah, why do they use a three piece stem? Why don't they make it out of w~~e~~--ah, make a one piece stem and join it roght to the keel?

S:When they-- when they hent them you mean?

L:No, when they-- when they make them now, the molded ones.

S:You can't get a piece wide enough to--

L:It'll have that curve.

S:Yeah, to make that turn. (L:Yes, good) Yeah, make the top and

bottom, then the-- then the-- where they're joined together is what they call an anchor stop piece. (L:Yes) And the-- them is screwed bolted right together. (L:Uh huh, very good.) And that anchor stop piece is about [PAUSE,3]three feet long, (L:um humm) It shows on the outside just a little short--

L:Triangle , yes.

S:There is , you noticed it.

L:I have, yes, yes.

S:Yeah, well that's whre the plank went across it, but th-- that goes a foot and a half or two feet each way up on to the stem/

L:Yes, ah, the reason I'm interested in this is because i-- in Mount Dessert , they build a two piece stem.(S: yeah) Ah, and your aware of that, are you? (S:Yes) yes, how can they do it?

S:Well. probably it's just the same as they do in Nova Scotia, (L:uh huh) they ah, their stems is right plumb up and down, th-- they th'ain-- th'ain-- th'ain't no ah,

L:Yes, no angle or-- (S:There's just--) curve. (S:There's just a straight -- just a straight piece.) Yes, I see. And then they make a sharp curve, curve.

S:Ayuh, they just make a lirrle turn down where they go on to the keel.

L:Yes, I see. So they can just do it with one piece?

S:They can just do it in one piece.

L:Put an knee in there? (S:yuh) Yeah, or stopping block? (S:Ayuh) Yeah, Now that makes sense . Does it tend to leak around the joints of the stem. [PAUSE,4] D--Does the boat tend to leak water (S:no) at that point?

S:No, ah, the old fashioned ones that we;re -- youre speaking about that was bent, (L:Um hum) before that outside stem was put on, that had to be caulked through the ends on (L:yes) each side before the outside stem was put on (L:Yes, I see) But these ones here, ther's got a seam, that goes right up aorund and they caulk it (L:I see) It's caulked right clear up around and the seam is filled (L:yes) with white lead putty and--

L:Uh huh. So there's no problem at all?

S:There's no problem at all, eh, don't -- we don't seem to get no leaks.

L:Yes, well one-- one striking characteristic of the boats built here is the dead wood skeg. Whole thing is dead wood. (S:yuh) Does that have any advantages?

S:No, there's sometimes a h, a th-- ah, they-- they build what they call the hollow keel here, I have (L:yeah) a number of times if somebody calls for it, (L:Ayuh) but course it costs -- it costs more to build ones of those boats.

L:Yes. Well there's an advantage for th---

S:[SIMULTANEOUSLY]There's a lot-- there's a lot more work in them (L:yes) And, these ah, what they call a dead-wood, are built on a skeg same as this one down to the shop there, (L:yes) It's a lot easier to build and, well, I -- I guess they're just about as good.

L:Yes, they--

S:There's one advantage with the [PAUSE,3] with the one that had got the hollow keel, or planked down, which ever you may call it. (L:Yeah) w-- if there's any water in them, it;s down aft -- down in that-- that v- place. (L:Yes) Where these ones there's -- like n the one that I have down in the shop there now, (L:Yes) if there's any water in them it's all right on the middle of the, , right up-- the middle of the boat, (L:yes) right under the engine.

L:Yes, And right under the floor boards, (S:Yuh) too, I suppose. (S:Yuh) Very good. Umm, do most -- do~~not~~, do lobstermen around here want a-- a, ah, a water tight cockpit?

S:Yes, (L:They do?) lot of-- lot of them has it,

L:Ahuh, has it -- has this influenced the shape of the boat any? (S:No) it hasn't?

S:No, no/ we ah, (L:How about above...) oh, go ahead.) About all the boats that we build now has a water tight floor. (L:uh huh) not a water tight cockpit, but a water tight floor.

L:Isee, there's a difference, yeah.

S:Up, ah, about 4 inches. Just takes care of-- of what tain water (L:Yuh) comes in(L:Yuh) with ah, scuppers out through the stern.

L:Yes, so it;s above the water line?

S:Yes, it's above (L:uh huh) the water line.

L:Yuh, how-- how is the freeboard on the boats t-- todays? Are they any higher than before?

S:They are--- I think they are a little higher than they used to be when they-- ah, when they used to ha, have to-- reach out overboard and haul those traps in over by hand. (L:Yes) They used to build them quite low. (L:uh huh) Nowadays, they use these heisters, and they heist them right up and they don't have to reach overboard then.

L:Yes, very good. Well, ler's see where am I at? Ah, [PAUSE,11]- I guess it's been in your life time since-- since they-- they started the lobster boat races, ahsn't it? (S:Yes) yes.

S:Yes, that's only been just a very few years that they've started those.

L:Only about ten years.

S:That's all, (L:Yes) Not any more than that.

L:H-- have they -- has this caused the fishermen to demand any change in the boat design? [PAUSE,4] In small degrees, or---

S:Well, yes, some, ah, some of them ah, some of them likes to have them go just as fast as they will and they design them to-- for speed. (L:Yes) Course when you do that, you've got to lighten up on every bit of the ah, material that you put into them. (L:yes) Because you take a like the one that I'm building now, she's heavy constructed. (L:yes) And when you put the weight in them of course, you kill the speed. (L:Sure, sure) But you haven't got such a good boat, such a good working boat and a boat that will last so long [PAUSE,2] when they build them for speed like that as you have to build one of these.

L:Yes, yes, Are there many boats that are built light like that in the harbor now?

S:Not too many. (L:uh uh) Not too many. The most of them is -- the most of them is quite heavy constructed.

L:Yes, yes, that makes sense. (S:Yeah) If a man -- it's nice to win a race, but it's better to save your life in a --

S:I think that I ah, I think I'd build these boats down there, here a little bit-- I think the stern [PAUSE, 3]= the st-- fra-- ah, the frame of the stern, and the stem both, (L:Um hum) you'll find is a lot heavier than all the rest of the shops. (L:Yes) I've been around to the other shops and, (L:uh uh) and I see that they lighten up on that, two things, a lot more than what I do.

L:Yes, yes, I noticed you, ah, you donot split your-- your frames (S:ino) down is, there any reason for that?

S:Yes, they's rot quicker.

L:I see, uh uh, water gets in.

S:Yes, I remember back quite a few years ago when my father and I was working, we hauled two boats into the shop (L:um hum) to be retimbered (L:my!) They was the same age, (L:yesah) built the same year. Frost built one of the boats and we built the other. (L:uh huh) The one that Frost built, didn't have no-- the ribs wasn't split. The ones we built was split down by the-- th-- that sharp turn of the bulge. (L:Yes) Well the one that Frost built didn't need timbering but that one that we built-- every timber was rotted right off. //

L:I'll be darned, hum!

S:Just on account of that being split (L:yes) Since that time, we never have split one.

L:Yes, well that's a piece--

S:Build them right in whole--

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L:Yes, that's a piece of experience...

S:And as a rule they go in there pretty good, we hardly ever break one, if we break one we take it right out. (L:yes, yeah) And throw it away and--

L:And you've got a good steam boiler there that's.. (S:Yes, yes) That's an advantage.

S:Yes, I bought that boiler, oh, I guess ten years ago. (L:Hummm) (L:That's quite a ..) I paid six hundred dollars for it.

L:My! [LAUGHS] Quite a devise. (S:Yes, sir) That;s good (S:Ayuh) D-- do you ever put linseed oil on the ribs before you steam them?

S:I, ah, never have, and I never have had to.

L:Uh huh. They'll -- they'll bend anyway.

S:Yes, they'll bend in there so good that I never have to oil them/ (L:Yes, yes) but some of them does.

L:Yuh, Did, eh,-- oiling makes them bend easier, is that the idea?

S:That-- that seems to help. (L:YES) I think it does. (L:um hum)

L:Where do you get your-- your wood?

S:Well, we buy the oak and cedar, [PAUSE, 3-4] up here in Columbia Falls, (L:um hum) from Fred Pineo's mill. (L:umhum) They have -- where we get all of our oak and cedar.

L:Good, how does he saw the lumber? Is it regular board sawed?

S:No, it;s what they call live sawed.'

L:Live sawed?

S:For boats, (L:uh huh) It's just -- it's just sided, the -- the-- the-- the bark on the edges is still there. (L:yes) and, you get sucj a waste if they sawed it off-- if they sided it off.

L:Yes, I see. So you-- it gives you a little more leaway on one end perhaps-- (S:Yes) that you might need or...

S: A lot of your lumber, when it goes into a boat, isn;t the same width on each end. (L:yes) A lot of it is tapering, (L;um hum) and you gain a lot by just having it sawed-- what they call live sawed/

L:Yes, yes, I suppose it;s a lot less expensive too?

S:Yes, yes, (L:yuh) It is. (L:That's good) yuh.

L:Do you have any, ah, particular choice in wood for ribs? Is...

S:oak.

~~L:Oak~~

L: Oak, red oak, or.. (S:Oak altogether) yes, (S:Ah, yuh) Ah, do you have any- that sawn in any special way, since you have to bend it so much?

S: No, no. Sometimes I buy them all sawed out up to the mill, and sometimes I buy it on the rough lumber, and saw them out myself.

L: Yes, I see, yuh, (S: Ayuh) very good.

S: And the ribs that we put in there is finished up one inch by two and a half.

L: Yes, uh huh. Good . How-i --is the-- is it best to have perfectly straight grain?

S: Oh, yes. (L: Uh uh) Ayuh. Now you can't eh, you have to-- you have to pick them out before you put them in the steam box, and get- get straight test grained ones you can get. Because, you take it down aft there and there's quite a sharp -- there's quite a sharp turn there. (L: Yes) Course, as you go forward, that keeps easing up.

L: Yes, yes. So the best -- best grain should go aft then?

S: That's right. (L: Ayuh) Pick out the best timbers, and put them down aft first.

L: Um, hum. Very good.

S: You steam them about , well, the first steaming about an hour and a half . (L: um hum) Them form that forward, why , an hour..

L: Will do?

S: W--will do it.

L: I see. Wh-- what-- do you have any idea what the temperature is? Or is that important?

S: Nnnnooooo, I don't know.

L: Is it pressure , or heat, that makes the difference?

S: It's-- ah-- it's-- ah, it's the heat. The hot water, (L: Ayuh) ah, the-- a piece of wood put into hot water will bend just as good as it will as putting it into a steam box- (L: umm) If you had your-- i-- if you have you steam pressure too high, you'd get a dry steam. It don't bend so good. (L: I see, yes) and that gives you a good wet steam, and that seems to make them bend the best.

L: Yes. How much can you bend, say an inch by two and a half timber in your hands? Can you bend it very easily in your hands?

S: Well, you-- you can take it down on the floor and put your foot on it and (L: uh uh) come up with it.

L: Come up with it?

S: But [PAUSE, 3] way I do it, I-- I take 'em right out of the box,

pass them in to whoever is on the inside of the boat. They put them in place and put their foot on them, and jam them right out into place.

L:Yes, just like that. (S:yeah) Yeah.

S:I'm on the outside with the clamps, screwing the clamps on.

L:Do you start at the bottom with the clamp-- go up?

S:Yup. (L:Yeah) Right round the turn of the bilge there where they have to haul on the bend is where you have to put the clamps.

L:Yes, yes. How ah, how many clamps do you put on each(S:There's--)
timber?

S:There's about three.(L:Uh uh) On an average, about three clamps to a timber.

L:How long do you have to leave the clamp on the timber?

S:Very few minutes, they'll-- they'll cool awful quick. (L:Yes) But ah, before we take the clamps off we go over them and even the timbers up. (L:uh uh) And nail through the battens into the timbers to hold them in place, then take the clamps off.

L:Yes, yes, very good. So they don't get out of plumb?

S:They don't get out. (L:Yeah) NO.

L:Do you, ah, do you, --do you set your keel up ah, plumb to your base-line?

S:Yes, (L:uh huh) I set the keel up..

L:That;s the top of the keel?

S:Yeah, and straighten it. (L:Yes) Put a line on it, straighten it, brace it off (L:Um hum) from the floor . And then, well the first thing to do- put-- put the stem on. (L:Yes) Before we set the keel up.

L: That's right.

S:So-- cause it lay-- has to lay down on it's side. You get that all fastened on-- good shape, then you set it up, and straighten it and plumb the stem. (L:yes) Then we put the-- the stern or transom, whichever you call it, (L:yeah) on and ah, plumb that up, level it, stay it off (L:Yes) Then the molds goes on next. (L:uh umm) then that's battened off about --well, 8 or 10 inches apart right from the keel right straight up around her.

L:Yes, now, do you-- do you bend them like plank or you just put them on the way they fl-- bend flat?

S:Oh, they-- they bend flat right on MUMBLES yes, we go somewhere's near the way the plank goes.

L:Yes, makes it easier , I suppose.

S: Makes it easier, makes it-- well it makes it ah, look better on the start (L:yes) than it would to have it drop down on each end or up too high or something (L:Yes) like that.

L: Yes, ah, where do you start the planking?

S: I start my planking with a top strake [PRONOUNCED STREAK] And I plank about five strakes of plank down from the top. Then I turn the boat right down on her side. (L:um hum) Even her up, so she don't go out of shape. (L:Um- hum) Then I start from the keel and plank back. I get out -- I get out the plank for the other side, (L:Uh huh) and number them (L:Yes) lay them out one side, till I get that side all planked. (L:um hum) then I flip her back on the other side and even her up same as I did before. (L:yes) And start from the keel and where the plank is all out all I have to do is edge them and-- and (L:um hum) bevel them where ever they need it to (L:Yes, yeah) fit them. And...

L: So two planks will be matched, you'll saw-- will you saw them at the same time?

S: Two planks? (L:Yes) Yeah, we saw them one by the other.

L: Ah huh. Very good.

S: Mark out one plank bu the other one. (L:yes) and number it. (L:Yeah,) So they go on right where they belong.

L: Hum, amazing. So they're-- they're matched all the way up?

S: Yeah, that is right.

L: Very good. (S: Ayuh) Do you-- when do you put on your s-- your-- your sheer clamp and bilge stringer?

S: The ah, bilge stringer? (L: Yuh) What ah, that-- that's a piece that goes on the inside?

L: Yes, at the turn of the bilge.

S: That's af-- after she's all planked.

L: I see. So you use a shear clamp? (S: Ayuh) ayuh, (S: Ayuh) again, after it's all planked? (S: Ayuh) uh huh.

S: That's-- that shear plank goes up to the top. (L: Yes) And you'll notice -- er-- you were speaking of that the other day, that plank wasn't fastened on. (L: Yes) Ah, a... (L: Now...) a mark went over the top of that plank so it tells where it goes. (L: yes) Take that plank off and put that, them sheat clamps in there, (L: Yes) bolt them in then I go put the top plank back on.

L: Put it back on again, covers it all up? (S: Yuh) Ayuh. What do-- what do you u--- make the -- the bilge stringer and the shear clamp out of?

S: Oak.

582217

L:Oak also?

S: Ayuh, thats' about two -- two by four. (L: Ah yuh) inches.

L: Very good, strong. (S: Ayuh) ayuh. I s that the only way the boat is held together, longitudinally?

S: Yes, (L: Pretty much) course ah, ah there; s a deck beams goes across about six feet from the bow. (L: Yes) and lot of them has a-- has a ah, stern deck anywhere from 3 to 4 feet long. And the (L: Yeah) rest of them is wide open. (L: Yes) Rest of the boat is wide open, and that sheaf clamp seems to hold them.

L: Yes, seems to be enough. (S: Yeah) Very good.

S: And the wash boards is laid right on top of that shear plank, that shear clamp.

L: Yes, what do you make the wash boards of?

S: The wash rails or...

L: Wash.. oh, excuse me.. I got it now, it took me a minute to think of it, How do you finish off a-- after you've decked the ah, put your .. done your deck all around , ah, how do you finish off the rail ?

S: The rail?

L: Yes, do you put on a ... a chaffing rail, or-- or what?

S: On the outside? (L: Yes) yes, yes.. There is a -- there's a chaffing rail that goes right round on the outside and ther's an -- and there's one about an inch square goes right on top (L: uh uh) of the wash rail-- right round the side.

L: That's sort fo a toe grip type thing? (S: Ayuh) ayuh, keep form going overboard.. LUNT CHUCKLES

S: Ayuh, that's -- water scuppers is put into them if any water gets on the dec,k, it will run out.

L: Yes, and, ah, do you have any -- ah-- any-- do you put chaffing gear down on the turn of the bilge on the stern?

S: Yes, yes, there's a-- there's a -- there's a guard -- you put along-- right on the turn fo that bilge on each side.

L: Um hum. How do you finish off the stem head?

S: Well, PAUSE 5 I saw that stem off about 4 inches long; then I scoop the side of it out on each side so it makes it about 3/4ths of an inch on top.

L: Yws, in the middle. (S: Ayuh) ah huh.

S: In the center of it.

L:Do people have different preferences on that?

S:Yes, some of them leaves that stem head right off square. (L:uh uh) They just saw it off and trim it up a little. (L:Ayuh) Ayuh, and sometimes they saw them right off flush with the deck (L:um hum) Sometimes, you can -- they can buy those stem heads and fasten on there, and some of them don't have any.

L:Yes, yes, so that's -- I suppose that's the area personal of preference of the-- of the owner.

S:That is right.

L:Yuh, Do they tend to di-- to differ very much here, locally?

S:Well there-- there about all the same. (L:uh huh) The boats over on the island and here-- they're about all the same models. (L:um hum) There isn't too much difference.

L: Ayuh, Well, let's see ah, where we are-- [PAUSE 4] Do you ever have a man come in who wants to--to change your model, or ask you to build a boat with a different model/

S:Never in the world.

L:Never?

S:No, (L: Ayuh) no, I never had no-- I don't remember of anybody ever-- ever come and ask to have a model changed.

L:A-huh. You figure the model then is pretty -- pretty good model. (S:Yes) Well liked. (S:Yeah, yuh)

S:Everybody seems to like it.

L:Um hum. Was this the same when your father was building?

S:It was the same thing, ayuh, (L: Ayuh) They haven't changed any since he was here. (L: Ahuh) They have been about the same for the last twenty ~~+~~ twenty-five years, ayuh. //

L:What, ah, perhaps this is-- perhaps I should ask a lobsterman this, but ah, I was wondering why do a -- why do you think a-- a lobsterman will choose one builder over another?

S:Well, I don't know. Some of them might feel, well, perhaps this fellow here builds a better boat and a stronger boat, and somebody else thinks somebody else does, an--

L:Yes, D--um-- do-- is there ^a difference, say in the sheer line you build into yours?

S:Yes, there is, yes.

L:I see. (S: Ayuh) Do you think they might be influenced by that?

S:That could be one of the things , yes.

L:Yes, and there might be other things like, perhaps one has a faster run?

S:Yeah, around here, they are quite fussy about their boats. They want just as good as-- a nice looking boat, for a lobster boat as you or I would want for a yacht.

L:Yes, I can imagine.

S:And another thing--speed is what they want.(L:Ayuh) yuh, th-- especially the people who are on the island (L:Ayuh) They're great over there for speed.

L:That's interesting , I wonder why?

S:Yeah, [LUNT CHUCKLES] They go out here-- ah, ah, have these races Fourth of July , I f somebody gets beat, the next day they take that engine right out and go somewhere and get a bigger one, with more-- more power.

L:My, yeah.

S:They're great people for speed.

L:They really seem to be, don't they?

S:Yea, sir. (L:Ayuh) ayuh.

L:like you go down to Mt. Dessert , and they put a hundred and twenty-five horses -- horsepower in an, in an engine, or in a -- in a boat or maybe a hundred -fifty (A:Ayuh) Never see two fifty three hundred.

S:No, gracious, sakes. (L:No) Ah, here therés' four and five hundred horsepower.

L:My. [LUNT CHUCKLES]

S:They're putting in a lot of these ah, ah, oldsmobile -- these biggest oldsmobile engines, (L:Um hum) And I think They're , they're somewhere around-- between three and four horsepower, hundred horsepower.

L:Yeah, that's , that's quite some engine. (A:Yeah) BARN near a racing engine.

S:Then they put a, they put these hydraulic reverse gears on them (L:UH huh) two to one reductions

L:Do they put a larger propeller on them?

S:Yes, yeah, they-- they put a large wheel on the, ah, about a twenty inch diameter , and perhaps eighteen to twenty inch pitch.

L:Um hum, pretty-- pretty powerful.

S:YUH, Course your--ah, I figured that you take one of these ah, Light

mt Desert

boats, that them reductions, as far as speed was concerned , you didn't get--- I don't think you;ll , the sp-- they get the speed they think they do.

L:I see.

S

S:Because you get your speed from the revolutions (L:um hum) Now, you take your two to one reduction, your wheels is turning just half as fast as your motor. (L:Yes) Where you take the straight drive ,and that's turning the same speed your motor is.

L:Yes, and that's ah, ah, yeah, I wonder , I have to-- I guess it really kind of takes an engine to-- to figure that all out.

S:Yeah, yes, it does.

L:Must be quite difficult.

S:Course , ah, you take-- you take a reduction with a big wheel, you get less slippage.

L:I see.

S:You don't get so much slippage as you do with a smaller wheel, and and a straight drive. (L:Yes) There you get...

L:So I guess it's sort of a gamble in there...

S:Yeah, that's right.

L:Somewhere.

S:Course you take your-- your reduction and you get a lot of power from it if you're going to tow anything or anythin g like that. (L:Yuh) More--so than you with...

L:Yes, you need...

S:Small wheel.

L:Yes, I can see, so a tub boat would probably have quite some reduction.

S:That's right.

L:Well, yuh, let's see um- [PAUSE 5] ah, ahs there been anyone trying to sell fiberglass boats?

S:There's one fiberglass boat in town that I know of. (L:uh uh) They don't seem to-- I don't seem to-- I don't know what the trouble is, ot wh~~ether~~ it's the price or what, but--they don't seem to go too good here.

L:They don't , uh uh.

S:Now they're building them right up here in, ah , what is it- Gouldsboro, Sullivan or...

*Gouldsboro
Sullivan*

582221

L:Yeah, yeah.

S:Up in that section there somewhere. (L:Ayuh) But, there's-- the Smith boys up here to Leo Smith's , one of them boys got one (L:Um hum)and that's thw only one there is here that I know anything about.

L:Ah huh. Well that should be interesting, I, I ah, down in Mt. Dessert, the, the local boat-- th-- there's a fiberglass boat being sold be Downeast Boatsin, in ah, Blue Hill, (S:Yeah) and the local fishermen don't seem to like the model.

S:They don't?

L:No, It's a -- it's really not a lobster boat model, it's a mavy (S:Yeah) ah, jig type model, and it-- it just isn't the design they want, at all, Ah, I don't know how expensive they are either.

L:That's another thing entirely.

S:Those ah, those fiberglass is more expensive than the wooden boats.

L:Ah, huh. They are? (S:Yeah) How much more, do you know?

S:Oh, they're a third..

L:Third more?

S:Iwould say,

L:Um hum. Yeah. I suppose noboby has tried these Ferro-cement?

S:Not, no, (L:No) Nobody around here has (L:no.)

L:I saw that. I don't like the idea they-- they don't seem to come out or up. Fair ah, or-- or, ah, balanced the same (S:Ayuh) both sides. (S:Ayuh) Which is a bother, I think they have a long way to go , before (S:Ayuh) they figure that one out.

S:I think so (L:Ayuh) yeah,

L"That's good. Well, let's see, ah, [PAUSE 6] Alright, let me ask you, ah, do you know of any- there are models existing of your father's or your boats? Any of the designer's models , the half round models?

S:Ahhh, no, see, ahh, the old ones were done away with--I've got just two down there now-- the ones that I use to build off of. (L:Ah, huh) No, I don't--

E:So, yo- - you have them at...

S:Th-- there has been some of them old models down there, but they laid around there so long that, we used them up for something, or' (L:Yes) disposed of them or-- (L:Yes)

L:That's very good, th-- kind of difficult to find (S:Yes) exactly what the old boats were like.

S:Yes, that is right.

L:

Mt. Dessert

L:Yuh, people remember, (S:Ayuh) and there are photographs sometimes ah, but the old models are pretty scarce.

S:Yes, sir, that is right.

L:I suppose-- it was-- I suppose sometimes the antique people come through and buy them up too.

S:Yes, probalby they do.

L:One possibility. (S:ayuh) Well, it's possible to take the lines off of a , of an old boat, but it's quite an operation , has to be out of water and--

S:Yes, right.

L:And, ah, takes ah, takes a full day and it's a s -pretty difficult technique. I . I -- I've never done it, I , I know how it should be done, (S:Ayuh) but ah, I can see my self out there LUNT LAUGHS

S:Yes, sir, I'ts quite a job.

L:Yes, the old thoroughbred is over-- (S:Yes) over there. I may try and do that.

S:The-- the Thoroughbred is still on the island?

L:That's right, yes, (S:Yeah?) Yes, she's in well, she's , she's hel-- eh, held her shape.

S:Isn't that-- h- hasn't she got a round stern on her?

L:Yes, she does. (S:Yeah) Planked horizontally (S:Yeah) yeah, She's only six feet wide.

S:That's all?

L:Amazing . LUNT LAUGHS She was struck by an automobile. She;s right close to the road there.

S:That's right CAN NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT I S SAID

L:Somebody , somebody go~~tt~~ tanked up and tan over her.

S:Ayuh, yuh.

L:Andah, the onlu thing they did is they demolished that mol-- that ah, laminated stem. (S:Yeah) But ah, she still looks pretty - pretty good shape. (S:Yes) except for that stem being all gone.

S:That boat's quite old (L:Yes) Ayuh.

L:Some. some lengthy time?

S: Will, will Frost... (L:Ah huh) Bert Frost's father built that boat

L:My , some years ago. (S:ayuh) I heard that, auh, that there may have been one of your father's boats a shore around here somewhere.

S:One of them ashore.

L:Yes, or o-- o-- someone said outon the point, now I don't know which point, Kelly Point, or... what.

S:What do you mean, went ashore on the rocks?

L:No , no. I mean one that's been hauled on shore to die?

S:Oh, one-- one hauled up? (L:yuh) Probably down around Kelly's Point somewhere.

L:Some where down there , yuh. I'll see if I can fi-- see if I can find it. (S:Yeah) Would be interesting.

S:That's probably quite an old boat.

L:Yes, yes, I suppose. (S:Ayuh) Is-- as you turn on to the Kelly Point road, there is a little yellow, (S:Yes, that's...) Launch there. (S:Ayuh) Was that a lobster boat or...

S:I think that was (L:Ayuh) yuh.

L:It looks , ah, It looks quite different, doesn't it?

S:Yes.

L:No flare at all in the bow.

S:An old (L:Yuh) old thing, God only knows where she was built.

L:Yes, heavens. [Lunt chuckles] (S:Yuh) I suppose maybe the people down there might know who-- who owned her at least. You know?

S:Well, there was an Alley boy down there, but he died, I don't know-- I don't know who owns the boat now .

L:Ayuh, yuh. Huh! Quite some thing.

S:I-- I imagine probably somebody down around there owns it.

L:Um hum. Can, um, going back early again , can you remember who the builders were when your father started out building in 1910?

S:Yes, Morris Dow.

L:Morris Dow, ahuh.

S:Alton Rogers. (L:Ayuh) And then there was a one-- there was one on Beal's Island years ago, at the time , ahhh, soon's I can

*Kelly Point
Beal's Island*

think of his name.

X,Smith's wife: George Brown.

S:George Brown.

L:Ahuh, Wa~~kn~~'t he drowned?

S:Yes, he was.. right off this old steamboat pier down here.

L:Huh, Did he fall off, or...

S:Nnnnnnnn, well, I guess...

X:Walked off, (L:Huh!)

S:Yes, ah...

X:Walked right off. (L:hum)

S:Either that, ot he was hit with a truck or something, ah, he come over here; that was long before the bridge was put there, (L:Yes) And he went up country somewhere about buying lumber or something, and he was a drinking man, (L:Ayuh) Drunk most of the time, (L:Oh, dear) and this truck that took him up there landed him on the steam boat pier . We don't know when-- that truck backed and turned around , whether it hit and knocked him off, or whether, he...

X:Just walked right off, they said.

L:Sure, yuh, yuh,

X:At the time of it.

S:What did you say Essie?

X:That the time that they said (S:Yuh) he just walked right off, (S:Yuh) the end of the sharf.

S:That's what they said... (L:Ahuh) that he just walked...

L:Yuh, yuh, that-- catches up with you , just the same.

X:Yes, sir.

L:Dows indeed , (S:Ayuh) Well, now , you say Rogers and, ah, w-- was here in Jonesport?

S:Yes, sir. A.B.Rogers. (L:Ahuh) he- wa-- he was.

L:And the other fellow was, ah...

S:Morris Dow.

L:Morris Dowed. Is ti D-O-W-D-?

Jonesport

S: and X: No, D-O-W. [SIMULTANEOUSLY]

L:D-O-W, ahuh I see.

S:I think that's the way you, it's spelt.

L:And he was in Jonesport too?

S:Ayuh. He w-- he had a shop first over in w-- what they call Rogue's Bluff (L:Yes) and he moved it across to Kelly's Point.

L:Yes, Were people libing on Rogue's Bluff in a c-- on mainland, (S:Yuh) near the island?

S:That's right.

X:Yeah.

L:Yes, I see.

S:It's on the mainland,

L:Yuh, We-- were these men all building about the same type fo boat?

S:Yes, they was at that time.'

L:Those small double-enders?

S:They was small, 18 to 22 feet.

L:Ahuh. Had they been building any kind of boats previous to our lobster boats?

S:I don't think they ever built anything different than a power boat.

L:Yes, they never built sloops or anything like that?

S:No. (L:Yuh) no. Oh, years ago, ah, this ah, [CLEARs HIS THROAT.] this fellow that was with my father, that-- Frank Smith, his name was, (L:Um hum) up here in Indian River, built one or two sailboats, (L:Yes) up there (L:Yuh) beofre he come down here.

L:Yuh. So probably sloops were they or.. moby pinkys?

S:Yes, they were sloops. (L:Yuh) ayuh.

L:I -- um...

S: Sail altogether.

L:Yes, I guess, ah, I wonder where they got the idea of the double enders? For a powerboat?

S:T'would drive easier.

L:Yes, I see.

*Jonesport
Rogue's Bluff
Kelly's Point
Indian River*

S: You don't have that st-- that stern to drag?

L: Yes, and they knew this already? (S: Ayuh) I suppose. Ahuh. Very good. I s-- yuh, those double ends and there used to have the so called New England boat- double ended ah, sort of a peapod ah, sailboat. (S: Ayuh, ayuh, ayuh) Which, ah, you ever remember those?

S: Yes, I've seen them.

L: Yuh, were they i-- in use around here?

S: Oh, they was years ago.

L: Yes, How about s-- ah, seine boats? Were they in common use here?

S: Yes, yes, years ago, they was in use, Alot of that atuff has gone out.

L: Sure.

S: I-- in the last few years, that...

L: Yes, Course the ah, sardines are gone and,,, (S: yes) and everything is power -- so easy to get now.

S: Ayuh, W--- the sardine factories is all gone out of town here, (L: yuh) No, there isn't there;s one.

L: Oh, a huh, that's small one...

S: Stevens-- Charlie Stevenson (L: Yes) Ayuh ayuh, the big ones has gone out.

L: Ahuh. What- Underwood and...

S: Underwood and ah, well ah, they called that the middle factory down there, that was owned by Machias people, I think.

L: Yes, yuh, Now things certainly have changed.

S: Yes, sir, (L: yuh) That's right.

L: Now let;s see. How are you holding out?

S: Good.

L: Yuh, you,-- you seem to be doing well. I'm beginning to run out of questions. [BOTH MEN LAUGH] Trying to think , is there anything that you consider an important part of the history of boat building around here that I haven't asked about?

S: I guess I've given you about all I can think of.

L: Yuh. Here's something that Ive never asked before, ah, is there any' preference for-- for what color you paint a boat?

S: No, no, around here they most generally paint them white.

Machias

L:Yes, are those...

S:Ah. once in a while , they change one- paint it a different color, but not very often.

L:Ahuh, ayuh. I've seen green and...

S:Aaayuh.

L:And once in a while blue.

S:Yesss. Once in a while black ones.

L:Yuh. (S:ayuh) There used to be a superstition that if you painted a boat blue, it was unlucky. (S:Ayuh) I-- I can remember that.

S:Ayuh.

L:Do you remember that?

S:Yes, sir.

L:Is that the old sailbaot men, or... that... (S:Ayuh) believed that?

S:Ayuh, ayuh.

L:Let's see.

S:They used to have ahh, some of these big seine boats or something. They used to call them Pinkies.

L:Yes, yes, Carry away boats. (S:Yuh) Yuh.

S:Double ender with a rudder hanging out over the stern (L:YeaH) and a great big tiller up then that they steared them with.

L:Yuh, and a big bluff apple bows on them?

S:That's right.

L:Are they sloop or schooner rigged?

S:They're schooner -rigged I guess.

L:Schooner -rigged ahuh.

S:Ayuh-

L:Were these the ones that-- these the men sho sailed those were they the superstitious ones?

S;Ayuh, I think they was.

L:Was they ahuh, [SMITH SAYS YUH, SIMULTANEOUSLY] What did they do?

S:What's that?

L:Ah, what did they think was bad luck?

S: Oh, I guess everything that they could think of. [BOTH MEN LAUGH]
Ayuh.

L: Did they ever let a woman aboard boat?

S: Have what? :

L: Did they ever let a woman aboard a boat?

S: Oh, yes.

S: Oh, well.

S: Yess, Lord the sailing vessels used to carry women (L: Yes) cooks and everything aboard them.

L: Um hum Hen ships.

S: Ayuh.

L: Yuh (S: ayuh) My grandfather was a coaster captain.

S: Was he?

L: Yuh, ou-- out of -- out of Calais. (S: Ayuh) And ah, he'd -- he'd carry lumber to-- to Rockland to the lime kilns. and go to Boston with general cargo.. (S: Ayuh) But he left his wife and family at home on Mt. Dessert. [LUNT LAUGHS]

S: Yes.

L: He- he had a dairy farm there, (S: Yuh) salt water farm, and (S: Yuh) he's ah, appear periodically and disappear again when things got too hot for him ,I guess.

S: Yeah, son-of -a -gun. [LUNT LAUGHS.]

L: No, he was a good fellow, I barely remember him.

S: Ayuh.

L: Well. let's see. Was there ever any ship building in Jonesport?

S: Yes.

L: How recently?

S: Oh, it's been a good many years . (L: Yes) It's before I can remember.

L: Yes, before lobster boats and...

S: Sawyer's cove down here, built , ah, God knows how many.

L: Humm.

X: Wa--wasn't it your grandfather who used to work (S: Yuh) down there on-

S: My grandfather used to ...

*Calais
Rockland
Boston
Mt. Dessert
Jonesport*

X:On the...

S:Work on them.

L:Ahuh.

X:Vessels

S:He was a real broad axe man.

X:[UNINTELLIGIBLE]

L:Oh, is that his broad axe you have?

S:No, no, that I don't know where that one come from .Th-- my father and the other fellow got that somewhere.

L:Yuh, yuh.

S:But, ahhh, he was-- he ah, them ships were all ah, they used to go right into the woods.

L:Yes.

S:In the winter time, they'd take their-- their blueprints with them-- (L:Uh hum) an-- and they'd cut their-- their frame and hew it side it, shape it, (L:hum) haul it out.

L:All out there in the woods?

S:All ready to-- to assemble when they...

L:hum.

S:Start in the spring on the...

L:My! They had to bevel them too, didn't they? Everything?

S:Yes, sir.

L:The whole business. (S:Yuh) Well, they-- they had better woods than we do . [LUNT LAUGHS, ALSO CAN HEAR MRS. SMITH IN THE BACKGROUND, CHUCKLE.]

S:Oh, yes, yes.

L:In those days.

S:There was some timber around them days; they could go into the woods and they could-- th-- they'd-- they'd cut a whole frame in very short order.

L:Um hum, Amazing!

S:Yuh, they'd have quite a job to do it today.

L:Yes, I'm sure of it.

S:Because .. (L:My!) everything seems to be cut off.

L:Yuh, yuh, I remember where I live today-- live at the head of the sound on Mt. Dessert, there used to be a big oak stand there.. (S:yuh) and there is only about five of them left. Ah, man who owns them protects them but used to a large stand there and they used to cut them (S:Yuh) ah, there's another over to Somersville, there's a place called Oak Hill... (S:yuh) and that used to have one of those huge stands of big mature oak there, but most of it's gone. In fact I think almost all of it-- I-- I don't remember seeing one now. But ah, they built ships in there.

S:Look ah, what become of ah, Philip Lord?

L:Philip Lord?

S:Yeah.

L:He-- he used to own Bartlette's Island, (S:yup) right? He owned Bartlette's Island.

X:Yes, he did?

L:I--I don't know, I-- last I knew he was live and well. He sold Bartlette's Island.

S:He sold it?

L:Yeah, I believe he sold it, this was some-- see, I've been away, since I went to college, I-- I went to school-- graduated from high school in 1958... (S:Yeah) and I went away to-- up to Orono, and then I've been away in the peace corps, and then in Indiana.. (S:Yeah) for the past-- well all those two together makes five years, so things have happened I don't know about. But I think that while I was going to Maine, I think he-- he ah, sold his island off there.

S:Um? Well he built-- he had a boat shop and built boats out of Somersville (L:Ah) for a while.

L:Huh! Let me think, where would that have been?

S:He tried to get me in with him there, (L:Ah huh) Roberta fixed up a contract for me and wanted me to take it and build boats for him there.

L:Preferred where you were, eh? What kind of boats did he want to build?

S:Oh, they was, they was regular pleasure... (L:Yes) crafts. (L:Yuh) and..

L:Yacht type?

S:Oh, he had everything fixed right up in that contract for himself.

L:Ahah. [LUNT LAUGHS] One of those. Well I guess that's...

X:But it didn't work.

L:On of the ways he got where he got I suppose.

*Mt. Dessert
Bartlette's Island
Orono
Indiana
Somersville*

S: Well, he ah, [PAUSE, 4] he had a broadcasting sting outfit here years ago, (L: Yeah) and he sold it--it's -- for a million dollars.

L: Oh, that's a help, isn't it?

X: Oh!

S: [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

L: Get up in the morning with a million dollars in your pocket, that's a...

X: Ah!

L: Start.

S: He, ah, -- he took Jonesport ... (L: Ayuh) for his -- what he broadcast about. Of course he picked out all the... [L: LAUGHING] the, ah, different characters that, (L: Yes) there would be in any town.. (L: Sure) and took them for examples. (L: uh huh) ah... A lot of people didn't like it, because they figured that oh, it was kind of making fun of the town. (L: Yeah) and the people there was in ti. (L: Um hum) and course lot of people figured that-- that it was alright so...

L: Ahuh, Well, made publicity one way or the other.

S: Yes.

L: [CHUCKLES] Yeah.

S: That is right.

L: Well, you worked as a boat builder all your life, pretty much then, haven't you?

S: Yes, my, ah, my first work-- I used to dohouse work. (L: Um hum) House carpentering. (L: Um hum) And them-- then I went from there into the boat shop.

L: Ahuh, Did it require... }

[SIMULTANEOUSLY]

S: I worked...

L: Oh, excuse me.

S: I worked for my father and the other fellow for two years, until-- until the other fellow died and then my father, he wanted--he wanted somebody to help him in the shop, he, he was kind of getting old and he didn't want everybody in there so I bought that man's share of the place out down there, went down here and went with him.

L: Yes, yes, (S: Ayuh) very good.

S: Then he and I worked there together and until he give up.

L: A huh, yeah. Ah, well it seems to me that you're, you're, you're continuing on with, with your work, even though you've sort of officially retired?

Jonesport

582232

S: That , that is right.

L: Is there great satisfaction in it for you?

S: Yes, it is. ayuh, ah, I would-- if there wasn't for just one re-- I'd give it up right entirely. Because I'm really not able to do it. (L: Ayuh) ah, I have troubles, I got that emphysema, (L: Yes) I got ulcers, (L: Ayuh) have for forty years. (L: Oh, dear!) and I'm kind of down and out a good part of the time. (L: Yeah) But if I didn't have something to look to-- (L: Yeah) to do, I'd go crazy.

L: Yeah, yeah, I can imagine.

S: Sitting around the house , now, I've set around the house since-- since the fifteenth of December . (L: Ayuh) and I just went back the last two, three days. (L: Yeah) And it's been s long hard winter.

L: Yes, and I'd say. Just...

S: And....

L: Just not getting out , Yeah, yeah.

S: It sin't ah, it isn't a good plan after you've worked all your life as long as you are able to do anything, at all.. (L: Um hum) I don't think it's a good plan to give it up.

L: Yes, I agree, I think you're quite right.

S: I don't think, I don't think it's good for you.

L: Yuh, that's good the...

S: Another thing, I have to earn a little extra , cause I don't earn much down there, because, I'm so long.. (L: um hum) from the time I start a boat, till I get it done, that I don't get too much out of it. But co course I ain't paying out no labor... (L: That's right) and nothing and I get what there is in it... (L: Um hum) but...

L: Then there;s good pleasure (S: I work,..) in it, I suppose?

S: I work sometimes three, four, hours a day, some days I don't work ar all.

L: yuh yuh.

S: I don't take any order for the boat ... (L: um hum) Because I can't-- I can't be pushed. (L: yes) Can't do it. And when I get them half or two thirds done, I adveritse them in the Fisherman's paper, (L: yeah) and as a rule-- as it's been so far, I've had no trouble selling them.

L: Um hum. A man comes right along. (S: yuh) yeah.

S: What it'll be on this one, I don't know.

L: Oh, probably pretty much the same, unless.. (S: Yeah) unless money gets awful tight, but...

S: Yes.

L: Looks pretty good, I'd say. (S:Yuh) Everybody's building this winter.

S: Oh yes, there's

[SIMULTANEOUSLY]

L: Over there

S: There's a demand for them.

L: Yuh, yuh.

S: But I'll tell you one thing that is made-- one thing that's made the demand for them, the government has been putting out loans... (L: I see) everywhere, and people's been having boats built on the strength of it.

L: Yes, I see. Are these ah, G.I. type loans?

S: Yeah, G.I., yes.

L: Ahuh, (S: Ayuh) Well, that's a good thing, I suppose there is -- there was a boom of building there, wasn't there just after the war?

S: Yes, there was.

L: Yuh, that's what -- almost thirty years ago. (S: Ayuh) Twenty-five. And it's about time for new boats.

S: Ayuh true.

L: Does it go in waves like that, do you think?

S: Yes, it does. (L: yuh) Ayuh, Now, I remember back quite a few years ago, that there was -- that there was no boat being built -- being built at all anywhere, cause... (L: umm) a, anybody had an order for a boat was lucky.

L: Yes, (S: Ayuh) um hum (S: Yes)

S: Well, exactly -- well, I'll say in Hoover's administration (L: yes) everything seemed to -- I don't know, I worked on Alt. Roger's, ah, for ten or twelve dollars a week, (L: Um hum) at that time.

L: My, yes. Things were pretty slim. (S: Ayuh) ayuh. Well, let's hope we don't have another depression.

S: I hope not. [LUNT LAUGHS]

X: That's right.

L: Yes, sir, that would be bad. Well!

X: I guess, quite likely it would.

L: Um hum. It would. Ah, here. let me put off the machine.

[L: END OF INTERVIEW WITH OSCAR SMITH]