

Interview with Edwin Murphy, Lillian Mortimer, Ellis Berridge, and Edna Berridge. 12/1/81

Pound Net Fishing

Present: Richard Dodds, Chris Polk

CP: Tell us about the film. When was it made? 1929?

EB: That's right, 1929.

CP: Who made the film?

Ellis B: A man named Ross.

EM: Frank Ross from Rochester, New York. The film was made up on the Camp Chesapeake. It was a Y. M. C. A. camp and this young man, he was a counselor there.

CP: Did he work for Eastman Kodak?

EM: Just before he went to work for Eastman and he took the pictures.

CP: He was doing a project for school wasn't he?

EM: I don't know what it was for but I understood Frank to say he was doing a project of some sort.

Ellis B: He was working for the Y. M. C. A. at the time. Maybe that's what it was. He was doing something so he could get into Easton. Just before he went into Seaford for years.

CP: And the film was taken at Camp Chesapeake which you say is around the corner from Turkey Point?

EM; On the North East River.

Ellis B: About 3 or 4 miles north of Turkey Point.

CP; On the Susquehanna flats?

Ellis B: That's right.

CP: Anything else?

RD: Is there anything else you have for us before we stop?

CP: We will talk about it again.

EM: Well, I don't know whether you know it, but pound netting is practically extinct on the bay. My husband's father did it, my father and grandfather and all my family did it. My husband's people did it down on Breezy Point, down on the lower . . . My grandfather and several other people from Tilghman went to the North East River. They pound netted

in the North East and the Elk River. There were some on the other side at Betterton. Captain Randolph Harrison, Sylvia Jones' father, pound netted at Betterton, didn't he?

Ellis B: He was at Cranberry, him and Charlie.

EM: My father, before he went to work with my grandfather, worked over on Spesutie Island which is government controlled now. Pound netting.

RD: Did they live at Tilghman Island and then go up to other areas for a couple of weeks at a time?

EM: They went for three months. At least by the middle of March and did not get back until the middle of June.

RD: They were gone all that time?

EM: All that time. I went to school up there when I went, from early March to June. I left St. Michaels and went to school. North East.

RD: Did they stay right near the area where they pound netted up there?

EM: Oh yea, we did. One of the nets was right out in front of the building.

EB: Where we were and where this was taken, they had a big, like a mess hall or something, and we used to rent that. All the men stayed there.

EM: It was a shanty, Edna.

EB: Well, whatever you call it.

EM: It wasn't a mess hall, it was a shanty.

EB: It was with that camp, wasn't it?

EM: It belonged to the camp. It was put there for the fishing shore, with the bull room for the men to sleep in the kitchen and it was a shanty.

Ellis B: They probably were all shanties.

EB: That's what we called them.

EM: That's where we lived, in the shanty.

Ellis B: Your shanty didn't have

EM: The men lived in the front. Then there was a bedroom in the back and a kitchen.

EM: I had to sleep in the room with Mom and Daddy because it was a big bedroom. They cooked, they fed the crew with the cook stove. That's how Mother did the cooking for the pound netting crew and her sister did it

for my grandfather, on a cook stove for how many men? Six? Eight? It's according to circumstances. If you were in a rush, you had to hire a couple of extra men from up there. We took a crew from Tilghman, usually, or the area around Tilghman. And if you were behind with the work then you would have to hire a couple of extra men up there. Well, of course, sometimes there was eight men you didn't know at that time what you were going to have.

RD: Did you cook the breakfast in the morning and then supper?

EB: Sometimes 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning you had breakfast because you fished these nets on the tide, not by the clock, but on the tide. I've been out there with them at 3 o'clock in the morning. That's when they had breakfast and some of them ate 13 eggs for breakfast, too. I've seen it.

EM: Stan Hadaway. No wonder he died of heart trouble.

RD: Thirteen eggs for breakfast.

EM: That's right.

EB: That would kill other _____

EM That's what he would say. I said, "Stan, how many eggs this morning," and he would say, "Oh, about a 7." You know they would put about 13 or 14 eggs under a hen when they were going to hatch the eggs. That's way beyond your time.

Ellis B: When I first went up there with my father, we cut and salted our own fish.

EM: That was in 1920, Dad went up there.

CP; Did you ever cut your own poles?

Ellis B: Cut our own poles then skinned them?

EB: Well, and there used to be sort of a war on in my time even, but before my time there was a crew frp that area that would burn out the people from down here. Burn their poles, burn their nets, to try to keep chem ... like the oyster wars, only this was one battle for many, many years. This went on even when I was in high school. It happened to my father. It happened to my grandfather many, many times, men and poles, didn't it?

Ellis B: Yea.

EM: Not only to our family but to all the other people that did this. Just periodically.

EB: Periodically, once every couple of years you would have a fire.

Ellis B: We used to have what they called a "pole shed" so we could put the poles in the shed to keep them out of the weather so they wouldn't rot

and they would set the whole works on fire, shed, poles, and everything. They would go up to the net house. We'd keep all the net in the net house, and set that on fire. So it got to where we would have to bring a lot of stuff down to Tilghman and that's never been...

RD: Did they think you were taking their fish? Was that the idea? Was that the reason that they...

EB: Probably, I don't know. I knew some of them. They were strange. They believed the whole family caused problems.

Ellis B: I don't have their names here with me, I don't think.

EM: Were'nt they a little strange? The Harvey.'s?

Ellis B: A little bit, yea.

EB: There was some of them shot each other not too many years back.

Ellis B: I'm not going to laugh.

EM: They did have the pound nets, didn't they?

EB: Oh yea.

EM: And they figured that these other people were coming up there to catch them ahead of the

EB: But you know, when I was in school, people didn't believe, kids didn't believe me that this was like the Hatfield and McCoy's. I mean, the other ones never did anything to them, but every couple of years this went on. It was just the thing that happened.

Ellis B: I must have left my hearing aide home I guess.

RD: What did the men do for recreation? Was there any time for recreation like in the evenings?

EB: After they got the nets on, it wasn't much recreation skinning poles and tarring nets which you will see on the film, and getting the net out in the river and getting it placed. Once they got... they were so tired at night they didn't feel like much recreation and when they got the belly tight...

Ellis B: I'll tell you what their recreation was.

CP: Drinking beer and playing cards?

Ellis B: No, no. It was sawing wood and carrying water.

EM: See, we had a spring. We had a shed and we didn't have any running water. The men got, oh gosh, about 500 yards from where we were they had to carry all the water in buckets. Daddy used to take the spring down there and you shared it with the neighbors and the frogs and the deer, and it was good. The best water you ever tasted.

You could take a cake of Ivory soap and wash all the greasy pans from here to China. And the water up there is fresh and they used to bring that to wash clothes. They would bring that out of the river.

EB: That was before things got like they are and we had no shed after that, but the water was clear.

Ellis B: Clear.

EB: It's not like that anymore is it?

Ellis B: The water's not clear anymore.

CP: I don't know about then, but I know how it is now.

EB: I don't want my clothes washed in it.

Ellis B: I've drank many a bit of water out of the Susquehanna River. Just as clear as a crystal, yea.

EB: But there was also so much grass on those Susquehanna flats that you could hardly wade through too.

RD: Well the grasses was what kept the ducks.

Ellis B: We never carried any water. We drank it right out of the river.

EM: What year did you leave there? We sold out to you and Russell...

Ellis B: You sold to me and Russell in...

EM: 58?

EB: Before that. Let me see. Maybe so. Stephanie was about 22 years old when we were up there and she's...

Ellis B: About 32 years ago.

EB: Stephanie was born in 51.

EM: 51.

EB: Born the same. year Dana was.

EM: She was about 2 years old. That would have been what?

EB: 53 or 4. No, I believe 48.

Ellis B: I can't remember nothing.

EM: No, Edna. I graduated in 49. Mom died there. I stayed home to graduate in St. Michaels.

EB: I know the year that Dana was born, she was up there with us. That was the first that we ... that was 51.

EM: No, no. I had to come home. I had to get a colored girl to come cook when Dana was born because I came down to stay with Aunt Martha.

EB: Maybe when Randy was born... No, that was Dana.

RD: When was the last year that you made a trip up there?

EM: When did you sell out?

Ellis B: I only owned it one year and I sold out the next year.

EB: Two years, you was there two years.

Ellis B: I thought I sold the next year.

EM: It probably was around 52 or 53.

RD: 52 or 53? Yea.

Ellis B: I come back and just couldn't make it.

RD: There were no more fish with...

EM: Oh, they caught plenty of fish.

Ellis B: Plenty of fish.

EM: Just couldn't get any money for them,

Ellis B: Had to give them away. The first year we caught over two million herring and God knows how many shad. Roe shad were seven cents a pound and we were sending the herring down to Tilghman Packing Company for thirty five cents a bushel and a half tub and all the buck shad were going That's how bad it got.

EB: I paid \$4.50 for buck shad in the last couple of years.

Ellis B: I know it. Things change. I don't [think. it](#) will ever have a chance to come back.

RD: Who did you sell the fish to?

EM: They sold the biggest part of the herring, when they were catching tons and tons of herring, to Tilghman Packing Company. Tilghman Packing Company put up pickled fish for Vita Foods and they sold tons of herring. They had a big crew of colored people who skinned herring in the spring and then they put them in the vats for pickling and you got the little jars of Vita Herring. They sold shad to any fast market in Baltimore. My father even sent fish to Fulton Fish Market at times. Baltimore was a big fish market. There was a shad market when we first came down here. They used to come down from Philadelphia.

RD: By that time there was trucks. They were bringing them down by trucks.

EM: And then there was a fish market right there at Northeast. A farmers

market it was and then Boyd's before we left there that handled a lot of fish and then at Perryville there is still in business, Hanford Owens is **still in** business, still handles' a lot of fish. He used to handle shad, the good fish. He didn't handle herring, only a few for people who wanted to eat them, but not any bulk.

EB: We caught shad, rock, perch, catfish, and once in a while, sturgeon.

Ellis B: But, before we started to sell them to Tilghman Packing Company, we sold them all on our own.

RD: Is that right?

Ellis B: That's before Tilghman Packing Company went up to the Susquehanna. We had a great big cutting house right on the shore ourselves. We hired our own help to cut them.

EM: That was in the 1920's.

Ellis B: That was my job.

EB: That's not in the film.

Ellis B: Running the cutting houses.

EM: And then when the snow and ice started melting up in New York and Pennsylvania, the water coming down the Susquehanna, it would take the poles, the nets, the whole works right down the bay.

Ellis B: We couldn't get down there to get them all.

EM: And then they put the dam up there and of course they knew when they were going to open the gates most of the time so you could get the nets off, you couldn't do anything with the poles but they did take the nets off after so many gates were open. Then the trash would be so bad coming down it would sometimes take the poles even if we had the nets off. We stood right there, well we could walk out on the beach, say like looking out that window from the shanty we were in, and we stood there and watched it take them down.

EB: We've almost seen storms take the boats away.

Ellis B: Almost looked like a wharf out there with the trash. piled up on it.

EB: See it's very close. I mean it's not far, but the pound nets.... Now my husband shad fished up there, well, Randy's been out of school since 72. He did the last shad fishing up there, I think.

EM: When was Hazel, 33? I mean Agnes?

EB: 74. I think that's what ruined the shad, was, Agnes. But he fished right up in the rocks there at Fort Deposit with drift nets not pound nets.

Ellis B: That's what you call top nets. Drift on top. Put them overboard and they drift on top.

EM: I tell you one thing, you ought to get some information on that because that's almost gone too. I used to gear nets for the drift netters around here. I had one hundred pound boxes sitting, staring us in the face, haven't I, Edna?

EB: Uh huh.

EM: I hadn't geared net for five years, four anyway.

Ellis B: Well, it will be long enough before we get anymore I expect.

EB: Well, the piece in the Star Democrat this morning sounds like their catching plenty of rock. The price of them had gone down. I don't know...

EM: I wish to light I could find some of them.

EB: I wonder where their selling them?

EM: I'd love to have one more rock in my life.

EB: I don't care if I never had another one of them as long as the shad come back.

EM: I'd like to have shad too, but I'd like to have rock.

RD: Do many people still eat shad?

EB: I love them. That's the best fish.

EM: Most people don't like them, too many bones, but I'm glad they don't.

Ellis B: For as I'm concerned, a rock is the most already eating fish I ever had.

EB: I love shad.

Ellis B: They don't have no taste to it to ri}e.

EB: I love, don't like, a rock. wouldn't tell my name to a rock.

Ellis B: They don't have no taste to me.

EM: People that don't like a fishy tasting fish like rock. People that like. a fishy flavor like shad and trout and catfish.

Ellis B: Spot is my favorite fish.

EM: I like spot.

CP; I do too.

EB: Well, it's a lost art. The hardest work in the world.

RD: Sounds like it was one long three or four months...

EM: My husband was taken out of school at an early age because, I don't

remember the depression, but he does, and he went on a fishing shore and was coming across the bay at 13 years old with the boat loaded with nothing but scuppers out of the water with herring and that's all he knew was pound netting and how to tong oysters. He never did anything else.

EB: And dredge.

EM: He didn't dredge, Mother, until he came out of the service.

EB: Didn't he?

EM: Down there they went over there in February and stayed until December. It was a much longer season than it was for us over here.

Ellis B: He was too young to dredge then.

EB: What she was talking about was on Washington Shore just below Chesapeake...

EM: Right across from Tilghman and they panned a long time.

Ellis B: Around Frazier Point.

EB: From February to December their season was, but they used much bigger poles and bigger nets because their water was much deeper and you know it was the bay they were doing.

RD: Is there a reason why your family didn't net there instead of going up north?

EM: My father did, when I was a girl, and I'm 86. My father fished over on Western Shore over in Herring Bay.

Ellis B: Herring Bay.

EM: I don't know why he never stopped and went up the bay.

Ellis B: Well, it got so bad that they couldn't do anything down there. I fished out of the bay, seemed like it wasn't as bad in the spring of the year. The fish would come right up in deep water. In a bad cold spring, fishing went right up the bay. The winter's got a lot to do with fishing on the bay. More than the ocean. I've studied it all my life, been on the water all my life and I still don't know anything about it. Nobody else does I don't think.

EB: Well, you know something about it, but whether your going to make any money or not, no one knows.

Ellis B: You go to fooling with fish, he'll make a liar out of you every time.

EB: Well, it's like... Depends on the weather, like farming. Farmers take a big gamble, too, when they put their crops in. It depends on...

EM; It depends on if you catch a lot of fish, the price goes down.

EB: I'll tell you one thing about the water business. They don't advance too fast. They are getting into hydrolic stuff, now with hydrolic patent tongs and all that but the idiot sticks are still there, out, there, today with

EM: Just like the indians.

Ellis B: Just like I said, machinery and stuff is going to ruin Cheasapeake Bay.

RD: Become too efficient.

Ellis B: It's going to do it.

EB: It's already happened, I mean...

Ellis B: Too many people and too much improvement. Now the Chesapeake Bay will not feed all the people. It just won't do it.

EB: Well, then too Ellis, you know...

EM: The Japanese say it will do it. They say it will feed the world if they had the Chesapeake Bay and I bet they could do it.

Ellis B: The way they eat, I bet they could do it, yeh,

EB: Rice and raw fish..

EM: I firmly believe that the run off from the pesticides has helped to do a lot of damage to the bay..

EB: It's killed the grasses. If it's killed the grasses in the fields you know it's killed the grasses in the water where it runs off from the farm.

RD: The farmers often deny it but I think it does.

EB: They deny it but they didn't have the problem with the grasses until the farmers started using pesticides. That I remember very well.. I'm old enough to remember. My father was a waterman. I married two watermen. My first husband was -a waterman so was my second husband. I know the change in the bay.

EM: There's so many people doing it now. People take vacations now on the water to make some quick money. They don't have to invest anything. They buy a licence, jump on a boat with somebody, make a few bucks, and go back to a good job. They don't have to invest in boats, motors, and stuff like that.

Ellis B: A lot of watermen would like to cut my head off when I say the only way to get the Chesapeake Bay back is to let the Federal Government take it over. That's the only way it will ever be done. I probably won't never live long enough to see it, but they'll never do it the way their trying to do it. It can't be done.

RD: The Department of Natural Resources and their rock fish ban is probably the first step on that road.

EB You see, there's been a lot' of people who wanted to lease i . Well, don't approve of that. I'll tell you that right now.

Ellis B: I'm not in favor of, leasing it. I'm in favor of the government taking it over. When I was a boy, I carried a shot gun on my shoulder I lived down at Tilghman and I was running day and night most of the time trying to kill a goose, never seen one. That's right! The only place you could kill one down there was my uncles. There was three of us used to go down to Sharp's Island. That's when some of the island was there. They would go down there, stay down there sometimes all night long, get one goose. You could never see a goose on Tilghman's Island. Now there's plenty of them, why?

EM; Well, they don't plant as much corn around here.

Ellis B: Don't make no difference. They were taken care of. The Federal Government took it over. That's what happened. When they called on them, they put in on them. Now they get caught, they know somebody. Nothing to it. Makes a difference, don't it?

RD: It does make a difference, yes.

Ellis B: I hope I'm wrong, but I don't see how they'll do anything until they turn it over to the Federal Government.

RD: Plus, the states can't get their act together and cooperate, then...

Ellis B: I hope they can do something, but it's going to be a long drawn out affair I'm afraid. I met with the President at Tilghman when he was there.

RD: Oh, you did?

Ellis B: I told him the same story and he agreed with me.

RD: Is that right? It must have been something to meet with the President.

EB: We were quite honored at that little fishing village to have the President come down and have dinner at the fire hall and talk with a number of the residents down there.

Ellis B: It couldn't have been a nicer affair... It will mean a lot to that island for many a year.

RD: Well, we'll go ahead and...

EB; Here's the picture. That's the shanty in the background and that's Captain John Berridge. *(Ca. c. mss)*

EM: That's my father.

Ellis B: That's my father.

LM: Their brother and sister.

RD: What a marvelous picture.

CP: When was ~it taken?

LM: I have no idea about that.

RD: What a marvelous picture.

EB: Wonder why they don't write things on the back of pictures?

EM: Because we procrastinate.

Ellis B: I wonder, is Ross still living?

EB: I just got a card from him today.

Ellis B: I wish we could get him down here. He could tell you the whole...

EB: Did that March fellow ever do anything with those pictures I let him have?

EM: I gave you yours back. The rest is mine.

LM: Well, was this the one that they was supposed to...

EM: John Mautz said, and he said, I don't know. He said he was going to bring them to the museum. He wanted to put them on the wall... He was afraid the pictures would get away from him so I told him if he wasn't going to do anything with them, I wanted them back.

RD: May we copy that?

EM: Sure.

CP: It is a good picture.

EM: All I ask is that you take good care of it.

CP: We'll make a copy of it and get it right back to you.

EB: Are you going to put that in the museum?

RD: Well, we'd like... We're not sure. We might use it at some point. We have right behind you over there those photo files and we do pick photos out from them for exhibits. Chances are we might...

EM: I had several, some smaller ones that she has that I gave to John Nautz because when he bought Carpenter Street he wanted to put pictures in there and I had several of them. He had them over a year. I' asked him if he ever used them and anyway, I gave you the little one and the colored one back.

EB: I wanted to tell you this. The Tilghman Packing Company took a cut from that picture and used it for some of their products called "Old Salt."

RD: Is that right?

Ellis B: "Old Salt Brand."

EM: "Old Salt Brand." My father's picture. Took a cut off of that

CP: I've seen that.

EM: I expect you have.

RD: We'll have to keep our eyes open.

EM: I tried to get some labels. The old labels, but...

Ellis B: The labels you might.

EM: They had labeling machine down to Tilghman Packing Company, some of that stuff up in the attic. I had asked some of them when they were going through if they had found any.

EB: I think it's still on their line, isn't it?

EM: Well, maybe. But it's not the original. I wanted some of the original ones from way back.

RD: If you ever come across any spare labels, I don't think we have a label with him on it.

EM: Bay Shore Foods, isn't it Bay Shore Foods?

Ellis B: Old Salt.

EM: Old Salt?

Ellis B: Old Salt brand in Easton. They might have some of them.

EM: They might have something.

Ellis B: Was there a fellow here by the name of Commander Ballius to see you last week?

CP: No, not last week. Not to see me. He talked to Mr. Holt.

Ellis B: His wife did the printing of those labels.

CP: The Old Salt labels? Did she?

LM: Miss Nancy? I didn't know that.

Ellis B: She was working in Norfolk at the time.

EB: Years ago she said she's got them.

Ellis B: She might have some of them. She might have some of them.

RD: We have some labels from other packing companies. Companies from St. Michaels that now are gone and some in Easton.

Ellis B: I've got a picture **like** that almost. It's almost like that, home

with a friend of mine. He worked with my father fishing. He drew a picture, painting.

EM: He's mending net in the One...

EB: He's looking down.

EM: See, I don't have one of them.

Ellis B: I've got one a fellow drew and painted in color with an oil skin hat and an oil skin coat on and he was looking down, had, a net...

EM: He was mending net.

Ellis B: Net in fingers,

EB: Had a pipe in his mouth.

Ellis B: Pipe in his mouth and he was mending a net.

EB: You didn't see him without a pipe or a cigar.

EM: He couldn't do much with a cigar with tar on his fingers.

EB: No, but sure do have to trot a lot behind him a lot, I know that.

Ellis B: Boy, r'm telling you, I spent many a hard days work on that shore. Lord.

EB: Well, you know something, there's not too many left that know how to mend a piece of net.

Ellis B: I know it.

EB: You, Ben Harrison, Dan, who else? Ben Galle?

Ellis B: Ben Galle and...

EM: Ben's not able. I don't suppose he can...

EB: No, but I mean men that know how to mend a piece of net. Did Bill Cummings mend nets?

Ellis B: Bill knows how to mend nets, Yes.

EM: I guess Dad taught him because Randy... Kyle taught Randy and the boys that worked with us to make them.

Ellis B: Kyle, he's dead. He used to make a lot...

EM: Not too many. I can gear it, but I can't mend it..

Ellis B: Charles Smith, he's not able. He's living, but he's not able.

EM: At least for me, the net is real heavy, you know.

LM: And T had put it in a tar pot, which you will see on the film. I think it shows the tar in that.

RD: Load it on a cart.

LM: Load it on a cart and spread it on the field.

RD: Do you know where the twine came from?

EM: in my time.

EB: Linen Thread...

Ellis B: Linen Thread and I think both of them's out of business now, I'm not sure.

EM: I have a collection of needles for gearing and mending nets.

Ellis B: I think is in Philadelphia and Linen Thread is in Baltimore, and there was another one in the Star.

EB: Now there's

EM: But that was later.

Ellis B: Later on Star went in business here.

EM: Who was the fellow in Connecticut that in our time...

Ellis B: That was Star.

EM: Star. Okay. We bought a lot...

Ellis B: We bought a lot of nets from Star.

EB: And now there's, we use a lot of Japanese nets.

EM: After the nylon came out... See it used to be linen, but then the nylon came out.

RD: That was even back as far as the 50's I guess.

Ellis B: They got a lot of them.

EB: I don't remember when the nylon came out.

EM: When we were first married, I was still, when I learned to gear nets, I was gearing drift nets for the men and stuff.

RD: I was wondering when the use of nylon nets...

EM: I don't remember. Somewhere in the late 50's or 60's I think. The late 50's because I, it was like 51 when I started gearing net for my husband and it was cotton and it was very shortly after that that we started having nylon.

CP: . What do you mean by gearing?

EM: Lacing it in the line,, putting the corks on. Have you. ever seen a drift net? Okay, well, you string your corks up and you, each piece of net if it's 31, 32, 4 inches, 43, 42, has to have a different scale for each piece of net that you gear and it has to be geared, whichever, whoever owns that net tells you how they want it. This one wants it so full and the other one wants it this way and...

Ellis B: The corks are eleven feet apart and the sand bags are eleven feet apart. Got to be exactly oposite that on the bottom. If it don't the net won't hang right.

EM: When I first started we used to take the bottles of ink and mark the lines.

Ellis B: Yeh, you've got to mark them first.

EM: Now, these days we just mark them with felt markers. We used to carry a bottle of ink and a. paint brush and mark them.

Ellis B: The cotton net or the linen net either one would cut just as good as the nets were all one size. It got so that the fish were all different sizes and they have a net, nylon, which would catch different sizes of fish because it would stretch and the cotton wouldn't stretch, but the linen wouldn't stretch, but the nylon would stretch. You can take a piece of nylon and see it stretch.

EM: Fishermen are funny. They have their quirks. Some of the Japanese net, we might get a 100 pound box of net, and when you start pulling it out it would have a bluish cast to it, oh boy, I would love that net. Then you would get one. that had a pinkish cast, it's all basically white, you know. One would have a pinkish cast to it. Remember how they carry on over one, oh my God, I like that, I like that blue. That blue catches fish better than that pink. That pink catches fish better than...

EB: You mean the fishermen that you geared for?

EM: Yeh, that we geared for.

RD: Then it didn't make any difference what color it was?

EM: I don't know. They was just happy to hit a school I imagine.

Ellis B: Did you ever see what they call a pound net in the water?

EM: Is there on this film, I forgot, is there a picture of a pound net drawn, what it looks like?

CP: There's a diagram, but it's hard to see.

Ellis B: With a pole drove down in the bottom.

CP: When we get to that we'll stop it and we all can see how it works.

EM: Because I was going to draw one.

CP: It look's like' it is a heart shape.

EM: It was a heart. Part of the net was called the heart, the leader.

Ellis B: They've. got what they call the double heart. A little heart and a big heart. A little heart and a big heart. The fish come in, they got the leader, well, the fish hit the leader and they come to the big heart, then when they get to the end of the big heart, then they go into the little heart. Then .there's a funnel at the mouth of the little heart. When they get into that funnel then they are trapped.

EB: Then they go into the crib .

Ellis B: They're in a trap, in a crib. And sometimes we'd put a pocket on the side of them for some of the fish to go into the pocket so the fish wouldn't tear the net down.

EB: Do they have any pound net skiffs here at the museum?

RD: I'd have to check it. We might have some.

EM: This net when they , when they get the skiff inside the crib, bunting the net and the side of the skiff, and even the scows had some, you had pegs, they bunted their net up and they'd stick a peg in to hold it in the side of the skiff.

Ellis B: Then you. would go somewhere else and pull some more.

EM: Go somewhere else and pull somemore board and stick a peg to hold it. Then they had the great big dip nets. They had two men on a rope and a man on the handle to dip the pair.

Ellis B: They called her a scalp net.

EM: Scalp net.

RD: We do have some of the pound net boats. The type that was used by the Harrisons.

EM: They should have the holes in the side where they bunted the net up to put the pegs in to hold it.

RD: I'll have to check. They're back here in storage. I think they were used by the Harrisons.

EB: When did they have them? They didn+ft know what the holes were for.

RD: Maybe. I was expecting somebody to come here. Joe Leiner, who lives in ...

CP: Sherwood.

RD: He used to do pound net fishing.

CP: Did he?

RD: Apparently he d I didn't realize until a few days ago and he told me. We rely on him for a lot of our expert information: because he knows the whys and wherefores of and quite a bit about pound net fishing.

CP: I didn't know that. I knew, he was quite a sailor and knew a lot about sailing.

Ellis B; Who was that again?

CP; Joe Liener. He lives at Sherwood.

Ellis B; Oh, yea. I've heard of him yea

CF: Hawthorne, I thought he' lived at Sherwood. I m sorry.

RD: We have -a pound net boat that belonged to John B. Harrison.

EB; When I was a kid at Tilghman there was a lot of nets off Tilghman, right off Tilghman. Captain Harrison...

EM: I seem to remember, John when we used to well, we traveled by boat. We'd go down the bay in a boat, up the bay in a boat and the pound, net boats were everywhere. I haven't seen a pound net pole in Maryland. I'm sure there are probably some still left but I have in Virginia.

EB: You know there was one that was made. It's a-fike net. I looked at it right off Chesapeake Beach, right off the cliff and I said, "That's a pound net." I couldn't believe my eyes. There was a pound net out there. Somebody had set it.

Ellis.,B: I never caught enough fish in it to eat.

EM; I couldn't believe my eyes.

Ellis A; They didn't know' how to set it in the first place. I, told them when they put it overboard it wouldn't catch nothing.

EM; Well, they tried.

Ellis B; A lot of them born and raised doing that, though.

EM: How' long does it take to run that thing?

CP; Twelve and a half minutes.

EM: We could run it and then if there's something he wants to ask we could run it again, I guess.

RD; Well, we thought we'd go along and you could talk as the film is being shown and tell us what's going on. Then we can always stop

Ellis-B: I can't. hear too good. Left my hearing aide home.

EM: Can t hear at all.

EB: I imagine he hears ...

EM: He hears alright. He always has that thing to think about and he knows he can't hear. I didn't know he didn't have it on.

LM: I'll tell you one reason he don't wear it because if there's much noise he can't hear to, turn it off.

EM: Now that's B. W. Now, who's the boy?

Ellis B: He's the man who's in charge of

EM: Who's the boy?

EB: Is that Frank?

EM: Is that Frank or Bobby? That's Frank. B. W., that's the man who looks like a carp, isn't it?

Ellis B: A rock fish.

EM: Scaling it with an axe.

Ellis B: That's a rock fish.

EB: Did you see that fish they pulled out of its mouth?

EM: Can you stop it there? Now we've passed it.

EB: There's Uncle Less.

CP: What was the big fish and what was_ the little fish?

EM: He said the big one was a rock. I thought...

Ellis B: It was. It was a rock.

EM: I thought it was a rock coming out of its mouth.

EB: No, it was a rock. They wouldn't fool with a carp. It was a rock.

EM: Now, this one. Now, who's that?

EB: That looks like you. No, that's Frank Shores.

Ellis B: Heck yea, that's who that is, old man Fred Shores.

EB: That's Uncle Less on the left.

RD: Who was the first person you named?

EM: Fred Shores.

Ellis B My brother-in-law.

EM: This is the poles here. This is the pole shed and this is the pound net poles you see sitting behind there. That looks like Pjapa there.

EB: This fellow with the hat on was Fred Shores from Dave's Corner from way down the bay. He used to come up to fish.

EM: Before you get to Deal's Island.

EB: He used to come up and fish with my father every spring.

EM: Is that Uncle Less?

EB: No, that's Less.

Ellis B: That's Less there.

EM: Well, that's poles behind them. That's the pound net poles on shore.

Ellis B: See them poles up and down?

RD: Yeh.

Ellis B: That's the shed. The poles are under a shed.

EM: That's what used to, get burned periodically.

EB: That's the crew.

EM: Yea, that's part of the crew.

EB: That's their brother-in-law.

EM: That's Fred Shores?

EB: That's Fred, uh huh. Get a good picture of him there.

EM: Oh, that's the Gow boy.

Ellis B: That's the Gow boy.

EB: Ed Gow.

EM: Ed Gow. He's still living. From Tilghman. That's Uncle Less.

EB: No its not! Tt's Howard, his brother.

EM: Oh yea, okay.

EB: There's Papa.

EM: There's my father, Captain John.

EB That little boy was Frank, wasp. 't it?

EM: Uh huh.

Ellis B Look at the dog. Remember that one? That's Queenie.

EB: That's Queenie?

EM: That was Bobby's dog, yea. Now, this is the net. Pulling net. See how stiff and nasty it is?

Ellis B Their pulling it up now getting ready to pull it through a tar pot. Add tar to it, and spread it out on the ground.

EB: They pulled it out of the shed where it was stored.

Ellis B: They pulled it out of the shed.

EM: Ts that Mortimer, Mom?

EB: No, uh...

EM: The black man?

EB: I don't know if that's him or his brother.

Ellis B: That's what's his name?

EM: Curtis boy.

Ellis B: Curtis.

EM: Oh, that's Curtis!

Ellis B: That's who it is.

EM: It looks like Mortimer.

Ellis B: No, that's Curtis.

EM: Now, see the net going in the tar pot and the men, my husband had to grease himself because it would take the skin right off him. Some people could stand it and some couldn't.

EB: Most people with fair complexions had trouble with it.

EM: They'd grease their self, those that had trouble with it, and they'd always grow a beard before, you know...

EB: And now their pulling it out. Is that what their doing?

Ellis B: You talk about one. nasty mess.

EM: They pulled it out and spread it out all over the ground up there at the camp to dry.

EB: Acres of it.

RD: They only had to tar once a year?

EM: Once a season.

EB: In the spring before they put it over.

CP: What' the composition of the tar?

EB: Now you re asking me something.

EM: I don t know but in late years...

Ellis B What's that?

EB: Wants to know what the composition of the tar was.

Ellis B: It was just gas tar.

RD: Gas tar?

Ellis B: Gas tar is what it was. Now they use what they call a dip instead of that. It's got something in it besides..

EM: Mr. John was using copper. Something with copper and that didn't bother Dan's skin like...

Ellis B: They stopped using that and now their using something else now so I don't know.

EM; How do we know that this wasn't bad for the bay many years ago. No, but over the years you keep adding to it.

Ellis B: I don't think the tar would...

EM: You see, the season was only three months up there. Down the bay... Every springg this bad to be done. This same process they went through every spring.' This is my father, isn't it? Isn't that Daddy?

EB: Can't see that well. I think so.

EM: Nobody there any bigger than that. Yea, that's him.

Ellis B: That's right.

EM: See, I told ..you.

Ellis B: That's him, . yea.

CP: It was just a quick dip, wasn't it?

EB: Pull it through that great big thing...

Ellis Se how fast their trying get it out of there?

RD: Yeh.

Ellis B: To keep t from *burning*. That tar s real hot. ^

EB: It bubbles.

EM: You can see the steam coming from it.

EB There's the old net sheds.

EM: I wonder if the old trunk, that was there...

EB: They used to use it down on Sand Beach with chains on the iron wheels.

Ellis B: That was the old Model A Ford.

CP: What is that, snow on the ground?

EM: No, no, it's just black and white film makes it look like...
See where it's spreading now, all over the area of Camp, Chesapeake.

EB: Now, . there s Dad. H 's mendingg nets..

Ellis B: Who's that?

EB: That's your Dad. I recognize his hat, -yes.

Ellis B: That's Dad, isn't it?

EB: I think so.

Ellis B: He's gearing. It looks like him.

EM: Their on the beach right now.

Ellis B: Do you know what their doing now? Their taking their nets up now and putting their poles on the shore.

EM: No, their taking the poles out to the scow. This is the beach here, Uncle Buddy and this is the river. Their taking them out to load them on a scow.

Ellis B: They looked like they were taking them up the beach to me.

EM: Theirr putting them on a scow right now.

Ellis B; Howl you doing?

RD: Hi, Joe.

JL: Oh, you got her **all in color**.

EM: This goes from start to you know I guess, o shore and bring them back. Their taking them out of the scow.

EB: Taking them out of the shed and putting them: on the scow.

Ellis B: Loading them on the scow now. ;Walk in sand up to your knees.

CP: That looks like snow to me.

EM: There's my Daddy with a pipe in his mouth now. That's not my grandfather, that's my father.

CP: Oh.

Ellis B: Yea, he smoked a pipe too.

EB: Dale had, smoked pipes, they couldn't...

EM: They had to smoke pipes. They couldn't use their hands. They were too busy with them.

Ellis B: My father was the first one who had a partner with him.

EM: Now their going out and their going to bury them.

Ellis B: You tell them. Never was an old man who smoked pipes and wore belts if it wasn't for the likeness of that, he'd pull up his pants,

EM: Now, there's the diagram of your nets. This leader, where the shanty was, there was a net right in front of the shanty, you could almost wade out to the edge of the leader and there would be little, teeny poles starting out and then it went out, oh, how long was the leader?

Ellis B: Oh, somee of them were 4 or 5 hundred feet long. Then run within about 50 feet of the shore.

EM; They looked round but the funnel went into a square crib. Usually the crib, hocover, was round.

Ellis B: Here's your leader.

EM; It's a double heart.

Ellis B: This is, your big heart here, see. This is going to a little one that's not showing in the crib.

EM: The crib was a square piece. The net was square.

CP; This was the leader, right?

Ellis This was out next to the channel. This going in to shore.

EM: You can see how that was strung across the river. When the trout would come down from the dam, it would catch in that and take it all down.

EB: There's a better one on there of the net.

Ellis B: Taking poles now.

EM: What do you call that thing that they've got up on the...

Ellis B: Snapper.

EM: Snapper, yea. That' Daddy back, too.

EB: Randy looks just like him.

Ellis B: I'll tell you what Dad told Jim Finch one time, directly.

EB: Watch this now.

EM: That's Daddy getting up on that snapper thing.

EB Do they push it-down?'

EM & Ellis B: Pump it.

Ellis B.: Pump it down to get it down farther.

EM: Pump it in the bottom.

Ellis B; Pump it in the bottom. They have a hose to pump it on the bottom probably. The bottom's hard.

EB; Poor Randy, no bigger person than he was, he couldn't do it. He doesn't look too big on there.

EM; He wasn't.

Ellis B: He wasn't that big. Randy didn't get big until later years, did he Lil?

LM: No.

CP: What wood did they use? Pine? Native_ yellow pine?

EM: What kind of poles

Ellis B.; Most of them were bull pine. We used some poles up there we couldn't replace them. We got gum about: the' only thing we could get was gum. That only lasted one year.

EB: That's what 's called...

Ellis B: Force pump.

CP How long' did it take for the pole of e therto.set it out? Could you do it in a day?

EM: No. They'might get a leader out in a day and then...

Ellis B: You mean stick a net?

CP: Stick a net yes.

Ellis B; Yea,' we stuck a many of them if we got a good day. A good moderate day,, We wouldn't, get the net on'-but we'd get the poles down.

EM; It had' to be a good-day.. There wasn't any wind so the boat wasn't going like this, along Bide the poles and that kind of stuff,

CP: Was there just one man for the pole stand?

EM; That's what their doing now.. There:'s several. There was...

Ellis B.; their gettjn ready to stick another one now see.

EB; There's' one putting it on, see. That looked like Daddy.

Ellis B Their mauling them now-.

EM; Daddy, tell them about what your fatherr said.

Ellis B.; My father, you Can't see him, but he's down low holding that pole from the. U.p, sQ, this-mauling. Hemissed the pole and hit pad right in the middle, of the head with.the maul. He didn't do a-thing. Th_at'ls the'truth. if ever I told it, He looked at Mr, and said, "Jim, if you can't hit no harder, put that damn maul down."

EB; Can you take pictures from film?

RD; Sure,

EB; I'd love to have: a picture of that film of Daddy.

CI': po we know how far apart these are placed for this particular frame?

EM; Well, this., .They were different crews so t don't know whether you rjot}ld be_ fami.iar with_ the. area.. I could show you onk a`map._ There was- Bull Mountain., that was Catgp Rodney for many years, This was Camp "CbesapgAke whi.,ch ' next to Camp Pkodney and then. what, was the one where the gals were?

Ellis B: Giller' Hole.

EM: Giller's Hole? Well, between' Camp Chesapeake and Giller Hole was the park,, Elk Neck State' Park and there was one net at Bull Mountain, one..net at Camp Chesapeake, and one at Giller's Hole, and then it went on to Turkey Point' and into the, Elk River. Then there were some on the other side of the river. Like I say, Sylvia Jones' father was a Betterton and before my time, my father was at Spesutie Island before he worked in this crew with my grandfather. They were real far apart where a net had been.- Like between Bull Mountain and Camp Chesapeake and...

Ellis B: In them days you mean?

EM: Uh huh.

Ellis B: We used to have to have them 500 feet apart.

EM; Five hundred feet. That was the law then?

Ellis B: Up there then. I don't think_ it was that way down here though..

EM: I can remember, not only did they have the fines, but they had the arguments over the sticking the poles up above us, not with us I don't think, but with some other crews over where they stuck their poles.

CP: Did you stake out your area?

EM: You had to lease the shore.

CP; Okay, alright.

Ellis B; That's what you call bar bargain rights.

EB: paid so much-rent for the use of those fishing...

EM; We wou~d go over in the Elk. River and fish.

OP: What kind of rent did you pay?

Ellis B: What kind of rent? It wasn't too high. Maybe a couple or three hundred dp, llars a season, maybe.

CP; Did you have to get permits from the Corps. of Engineers so that you weren't in the channel?

EM; Well, you couldn't be in navigable waters.

Efli You couldn't sit in the channel.

CF: Did you have to get a permit from the Corps. of Engineers?

EB: No. We never did.

Ellis B:_: If: you had one pole sitting outside of the line up there, they would come up.and give you a notice,, ' by thee day or, tomorrow that pole had better; be moved. If y u didn't they would come' and take the whole works up.

EM: They had lanterns- on them so they were navigable at night. There were different bottoms. Some bottoms, in my time they used an electric motor pump to pump water. I don't know what they used before this film was taken. It was before my time, in the past, when the bottom was hard and fast.

CP: What date is this film?

EM: 1929. Daddy is the biggest one there, though.

EB: Oh, he would be. But you know...

EM: Now, this is raising the net in the skiff to take it out.

EB: You had to load it a good, you had to good load it.

EM: What was that old truck up there that was an antique when I went up on shore?

EB: A Model A Ford.

EM: A Model A Ford with iron wheels. They put chains around the iron wheels. The seat was real high. I used to love driving it. You had the choke on the steering wheel and they used to put the net on that and we'd back it down the shore and the wheels would just burry right down in the sand. And then when we got the net off, the men would give her a little lift and you could gun her and get up the shore, up the beach.

Ellis B: That was Dad up on the end. All the way on the end, I think.

EM: Fred Shores there.

Ellis B: Fred Shores down here, yea, and the middle one might be Less, I don't know.

EB: I think it is. It's built a lot like him.

EM: I think that was Randy.

EB: One of the biggest men in there is Randy of course. He was six foot, two or three.

CP: What did you do, fold it in or just layer it?

EM: Yea, it was heavy. When they got that tar on it it was nasty.

EB: Before they took it off the sand beach, it didn't have any weights on it.

EM: They strung, it like. you might undo a bolt of material and be pulling it, you know.

RD: What kind of weights?

EM: Iron, with holes in each, about that long, with holes in each end and they would tie it on.

Ellis B: Called pig iron. Sometimes f' we couldn't get that we would use these big lengths of chain.

EM: I've seen them have to put chain on them.-

Ellis B: Chain off the old ships and stuff. Cut them up.

EB: You can tell the biggest man there is Randy because he's so tall and broad.

EM: We bought my father's part out 'in 1946. The year after the war. We came home...

Ellis B: Do you know, there's not a net sitting on the North East River now. Not one.

EM: It s rough out there;;now.

EB: Sure it's rough out there. You can see white caps. It's windy or something.

Ellis B: Think they better put a net on.

EM: See, those poles, as you can see, are not that big. Down below Chesapeake Beach, they looked more like telephone poles.

Ellis B: They're putting a leader on there now.

EB: Leader? It looks to me like a-crib or a heart.

Ellis B: It's a heart.or a leader because they don't staple it, the crib. It might have been a heart'.

EB: My gosh, they got fish.

Ellis B: That's a heart, yea. They staple the heart and a leader.

EB: They happened to be aboard the boat fishing when they took these.

EM: See how they're bunting that net up? That skiff should have holes in the side. They could stick a-peg inside and hold that net so it leaves their hands free to grab something else.

EB: That's a ,.scow, Edwina.

EM: Well, the sr:ow had them too, Mom.

Ellis B: We used the scow most of the time up there.

EM: They had a sturgeon one morning. Mom, were you out the, morning they. caught that great, big sturgeon? The head on that thing must have been 15 inches wide and they were hitting it with an axe. It was just flipping in the net and rolling.

EB: Well, it was caught and

EM: They were hitting it with the butt of the axe and they couldn't knock it out. Finally, Daddy hollered,, "Some. of, you boys put a gash in this damn thing before it tears up everything here." They turned the axe over and they whammed it two or three times. All this yellow stuff was coming out of it and. they had to cut a hole in the head of it about a foot long before it would ever, you know, flop , to ever get it still. Because it was just tearing. everything up. It was big. It was the head they were hitting.

Ellis B: My. father put one in a boat and. never touched it. That's what crippled old man Foote. You make a-loop in a piece of rope with, a circle knot-in it and you keep that rope down until that, if you don't hit or bother him,, you'll put him down slow. As soon as he gets his fins in the circle of that loop, you jerk. up on it like that, it will tear the side right out. of. the boat.: Mr. Foote was standing-; in the back of the boat and it knocked` him end--over-end, and he (_the fish.) weighed seven hundred and something pounds.

EB; I know Randy took the. roe and shipped it.

EM; He shipped that roe to New York and didn't get as much out of it as it cost him to pack it in ice and **all** that stuff to tend to it.

EB: That's right. They say that's what they make caviar out of. Sturgeon roe,,

Ellis A: Caviar.

EB; Yea,, that's what they say.

EM; I don't like caviar anyhow.

Ellis B; They're got a scalp net. See it? They're hoisting it up

CP; That's hard work.

EB: honey, you won't find any young people now-that will do that.

F, llis.B; I don't believe that was me **on** the other side of that I tm pot....

CB; Do you want to go back.?

Ellis B: I believe that was me. I wasn't out there much after they

started catching fish. I was on the shore salting fish at the fish house. helped them get the nets on and get the nets overboard then.

EM: Why do you think it was you? Where's your glasses, Buddy?

EB: Put your glasses on. Can you see without them? That's a pretty sight though.

Ellis B: And no hat on. Did you see one with no hat on? That looked like me with no hat on. I never used to wear no hat when I was working on a boat. Who is that there?

LM: I believe that's Benny Gayle.

E: Benny is dead.

Ellis B: If it was anybody, it was Ed.

EB: Benny never did fish with us.

LM: I know that.

EB: Or Ed.

EM: It looks like Frank, but Frank wouldn't have been that big.

Ellis B: That was me, I think.

EM: That was you.

Ellis B: I think it was me.

LM: Now, what are they, herring?

Ellis B: Uh huh.

EB: Of course there's some shad too. They had to pick the shad and the other fish out of it. They picked those out by hand.

LM: That's really a lot of fish, isn't it?

EB: Tons and tons of them.

EM: Who's boat's that, Mom? Do you remember?

EB: Not off hand.

EM: Who's that fellow on that side?

EB: That looks like Jess McGates.

Ellis B: He was up there with them awhile.

EM: He's in this film. Uncle Jess is.

EB: See them picking that shad. They pick the shad and the rock out and throw them in baskets.

CP: They are lively little fellows, aren't they?

EM: What are they doing now? Getting out of the crib?

Ellis B: The nets hung up in there, or something.

E Didn't they tie the pole down so that they could get the skiff in the crib?

Ellis B: Yea.

EM: Well, I think that's... they are letting it up. They took it up.

Ellis B: The dog gone poles come up. Something happened. I know what's the matter. On the bottom of that pole that holds the crib down, they've got a chain with a block on the end of it and it goes around the pole and it goes to the bottom of the rope and that's where it pulls the net down. It keeps the net down on the bottom and that pole has come up and the chain has come off and they're going to put- another chain on it. See;; them working on it?

RD: They're trying to see if the engine is working. Is that it?

Ellis B They're trying to get it up in that net. They're trying to get it out of it. That chain, I bet you.

EM: That's Camp' Chesapeake you see in the background.

EB: I thought that was Bull Mountain

EM: Well, maybe it is Bull Mountain. You had a shad net on Bull Mountain.

EB: That's Bull Mountain. See the hill there? They called it mountain but it Bull Mountain.

Ellis B: When I was up there, Tom set up on Bull Mountain.

EB: I know.

EM: Is this the boat motor here.

EB: That looks like that's on the "Miss Lil."

EM: The "Miss Lil's" not in this film.

EB: That's right, it's not.

EM: Why were they used to that motor off?

Ellis B: What motor?

EM: There was a motor there.

Ellis B: Oh, to pump water to scale the fish.

EB: No, this is out of the water, Ellis.

EM: 'What i that with the fish in the net?

RD: It looks like they're pulling poles.

Ellis.B: They're pulling poles up. They're pulling them up on the shore.

EM: They're pulling them up now.

Ellis B: Up on the shore.

EB: No, was out on, the boat.

EM: I- don't ;know whether-it was something ever used to pull poles. She's going to show you this motor again. Is it a winch you were using?

Ellis B Yea, that s right. They got a winch to pull their poles with, yea.

EM: Frank got a real close shot of it and I couldn't tell... If you look at it good when it comes up... there ... Is that something you used for the pole pulling?

Ellis B: Uh huh. Yea, that's the engine. You line them up with. A single cylinder.

RD: You can see the logs there.

EM: Is that a Hettinger?

Ellis B: No, the old Hettinger Daddy used to have on his dredge boat.

EM: Now see, that's a good shot of the pole shed there. Frank didn't take any pictures of our living quarters.

Ellis B: Didn't he?

EB: No, he didn't.

EM I don't:blame him much to tell.you the truth. You know, I had some goad times down on the shanty.

EB: I felt better up there than I do down here. That fresh water agreed with me. It wasn't bad.

Ellis B: You could; lay in bed and look right straight through the ceiling. It could pour down rain and never be a drop of water come through it. Would, you believe that?

EB: Yes.

EM: You could see daylight but it never... never could understand that.

Ellis B: Shingle roof.

EB: If it had been anything else but wooden shingles it would have.

EM: That's right. A' lost art, that is.

Ellis B: You could talk about that dog all night for years and years, I guess.

EM: But you know, these poles look like sticks to me.

EB: I know.

EM: These poles that Mr. John used on Everbreeze Point.

Ellis B: Oh yea, they were set in a whole lot deeper water. We never set a net up there **in over** 20 feet of water and John set all of his nets up there in 30 feet of water.

CP: Go on.

RD: Joe, you said you did some pound net fishing, didn't you?

JL: No.

EB: Did you do any kind of fishing?

JL: Some of the bigger fish.

EB: Just worked on the gear?

JL: On the boats.

Ellis B: I can remember a time you could start at Turkey Point.

EM: That's what my husband called bull work and you won't find any of the youngsters now who will do that kind of work.

EB: Yea, but he lived to a good old age, didn't he?

EM: My father was 77 when he died and my husband was... How old was your dad, Evone?

Evone: 69

EM: He's 'been -dead 18 years in April.

Ellis B: I remember a time you could start at Turkey Point and if you didn't keep outside of 30 feet of water you would never get to Old Point Comfort just before you get to Norfolk. For nets, I mean If you got inside 30 feet of water, you going to run into them. Like at nighttime, you know. Now you can go with no problem hardh'y. The only thing you've got to watch out for today is crab pots.

EM Well, if there's anything else you want to know...

Ellis B: Anytime I can help you... I'm doing nothing only trying to recuperate from an operation. If T can help you, I'll give you my telephone number and you can give me a call.

RD This is going to be rather a unique film. I don't think there are too many films on men pound net' fishing.

Ellis-B: What did he say?

EM: He said, he didn't think there was too, many films Of men pound net fishing.

Ellis B: Oh no, there isn't.

RD: I said, "It's very unusual."

LM: I would think. it's probably the only one. I can't understand why they wouldn't...- Did somebody say they, didn't want this, or what?

EB; Edwina can tell you.

EM: I don't know who I even talked to and I asked them if we could make a copy. Frank was donating the film to them, but anyway, I don't even remember at this point it's been so long ago, what all took place. There were... I couldn't get them interested for ages then finally, Connie, when Connie moved here, I kept talking about it and she's the one that finally got them to show it.,

EB: They weren't even interested.

RD; Is that the only copy of the film in existence?

EM; N..

RD: Is. that the only copy?

EM: The original is in existence.

EB: They had this copy made. It's been a little bit of an embarrassment to me because I asked him to make a copy. I thought, I knew that it was a lost art and I thought the museum was interested in anything on the bay., I thought. Would be interested in having the film, 'so I asked him to make a copy for me.' I asked him: could you do it and take it off your income tax. He wouldn't charge me for it. He said if they accepted it and I could take the cost off my income tax Well, they never accepted it. So, it's been a little bit of an embarrassment to me because I asked the young man to make 'the copy of the film' if he did it graciously and brought it down to me and then I let Edwina take care of it from there and so we still have the film.

EM: Peter Gideon finally got interested in it and I asked him if I could have a copy made of it. My daughter wanted a copy. Then he got in contact with me and said he was going to make a copy. So evidently this is what he did, right?

RD: Uh huh.

EB: It's been a puzzle to me why Mr. Holt didn't accept it as a gift.

EM: I never talked to Mr. Holt, There was Mr. Dilly...

CF: How do you feel about the quality of this film compared to the original. I've never seen it before.

EB: Nothing like as good.

RD: Is that right?

EB: No. He showed it at our home.

EM: That was the original.

EB: The original. And the copy was just as good as the original.

EM: Well, I don't know.

CP: The 16mm copy? That's what she's talking about?

EB: Yes. That's the copy that he had made.

Ellis B: 187 was the copy that was very plain.

EB: I know.

Ellis B: Real plain. The 187's the one that was shown down to your house.

EB: I know.

CP: This one looks like it's kind of out of focus to me.

EB: It does a little.

CP: The diagram of the net laid out is not too clear.

EB: It didn't show the crib or the net diagram at all I noticed, and there was two or three things I noticed that were a little out of focus.

CP: We might try to make another copy of it sometime. I don't know if we have the money to do it right now.

RD: How much does it cost to; copy a video tape? guess it depends on the length

CP: This one would cost about a-hundred dollars if we had it done for this machine we could have it done with a smaller machine and then make copies with this. That would be cheaper that way. It would cost about fifty dollars.

EB: I never did ask Frank what it cost. He didn't talk to me about the cost. He was doing it as a favor to me because I thought the museum would be interested, you see. He said just give it to the museum and let them write a letter to me-accepting it and I could take it off my income tax.

CF: Then you never did get the letter?

EB: No. I hadn't talked to Mr. Holt myself. He doesn't normally I don't know. I couldn't tell you. We lost contact. I'm a little bit perturbed about it because it was a little of an embarrassment.

EM: But, if it hadn't been for Connie, I don't think they would have ever shown the film up here. She's the one that instigated that because I couldn't interest anybody in it.

EB: It seems that Mr. Holt was more interested in the boats, the old boats, boats per say, not in what went into work. You know; the dredging and the people that did this work. That's the way I the impression that I, have..

RD: I think. we've started to change a little. I think we've got a whole new attitude now.

RM: I don't know.

RD: Now we have the opportunity to have you down because we've been talking about this. for a while.

EB: Well it's been a pleasure.

CR: We may ask you to come down again. DQ it all over again.

RD: What we will do is transcribe the tape, write it out, and then at some point...

CP: When your feeling better maybe we'll have you come down again,.

Ellis Oh, thank you.

RD: At some point we'd like to get a final' script and what we do is edit the tape and have you look at it. Perhaps one of your family would like to... we'll show it again when your family could speak as part of the script.
