

Interview Log

Interviewee: Orville Parks & Tom Flowers

Tape #: OH #22

Interviewer(s):

Date:

Location:

Topics: Stories from the famous skipjack captains of the Bay

BEGIN INTERVIEW:

Interviewer: Here are some of the stories from the famous skipjack Captains of the Bay.

Interviewer: What was the name of the boat?

Voice 1: Gladys Melba. She's up here at the Maritime Museum.

Interviewer: Okay, I'm going to stop by to see it. What trail

Voice 2: (unintelligible) trail boards.

Interviewer: Oh, trail boards are there.

Voice 1: Picture of the (unintelligible), me and the crew and all.

Interviewer: What year was that captain?

Voice 2: Background chatter (unintelligible. I don't know whether it was 15 (ph).

Voice 1: I was rushing down to Claybank (ph).

Interviewer: Delmarva (ph).

Voice 1: (Unintelligible) what's called Claybanks. I was (unintelligible) myself and the wind (unintelligible) heavy 'easter on Lake Harbor (ph) and I thought (ph) on thar. It was 35 mile wind and I was coming up and the cook was getting dinner, I called him Buster. I said, "Buster, we'll have dinner right now." I said, we'll get dinner now (unintelligible). We'll get the jib off and have dinner (unintelligible). He said, "All right, Jim". So I (unintelligible) water on the deck and I hardly knows it...they said they heard something hit beside the boat. I'm on deck and it was blowing heavy now and I was (unintelligible). So next (unintelligible) she went down. She never come back up no more. Kept right on going. (Unintelligible) ice breaker.

Interviewer: This wind hit her?

Voice 1: (Unintelligible)

Interviewer: All right, wasn't (unintelligible)

Voice 1: I got away from it because he'd been reported. I reported it (unintelligible).

Interviewer: In other words you hit this...

Voice 1: So, wrecked the sides.(unintelligible) but the old ice breaker fell down. (unintelligible).

Interviewer: How deep was the water right around there? 10 feet, 12 feet?

Voice 1: About 14, 15 feet, (unintelligible) laid on the side.

Interviewer: And she went right down? How did you get out of it?

Voice 1: I was in a rowboat ...always had a rowboat. (unintelligible) he was there..and he came over to me. We all got in the rowboat...we never got our feet wet.

Interviewer: Is that right?

Voice 1: ...got in the rowboat and picked us up and brought us home.

Interviewer: Wow. None of them were. No trouble at all.

Voice 1: Never got ...and I got it up and the wreck got up ...and that's where she is now.

Interviewer: And she's dead now.

Voice 1: Unintelligible

Voice 2: Turned around ...I says, "Lord, I need help today....everything was tied down.

Interviewer: What area was that? Where were you located then.

Voice 2: I was coming down from Baltimore from up (unintelligible) River, to down here....I was on North Point just entering North Point.

Interviewer: How was the wind blowing? Which way was it?

Voice 2: Northwest.

Interviewer: Northwest. So that would ...starboard the wind and you get in them (unintelligible). It's pretty rough isn't it?

Voice 2: (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Punch (unintelligible)

Interviewer: What do you think it was blowing? Sixty or gale force?

Voice 2: Yeah. Oh yeah.

Interviewer: I was thinking, when you left (unintelligible), how old were you?

Voice 2: Left there? About twenty something years.

Interviewer: Did you have any tough storms over there, captain?

Voice 1: Where in Hong Kong (ph).

Interviewer: Looked like the water would really bang you there. But that ridge was high, wasn't it?

Voice 1: Not too high. One place

Interviewer: Is that right? Really, all of them gave up at the same time, didn't they?

Voice 1: No. We were one of the last ones.

Interviewer: In '15 you were one of the last ones. When did most leave then?

OP: Well they all did between 1912. (Unintelligible). My mother never considered to leave until we had a day when Chessie (ph) was as calm as it is now. (unintelligible) In the Claybank in the back of our house was as high as I guess about 12 feet, something like that. I don't know, I never measured it.