

Transcript of Tape with Stanley Vansant 11/20/87
Interview by Richard Dodds and Joe Liener

Has it got a cupboard in the corner of it?

Sansant: I don't know.

Dodd: It has a cupboard, not in the corner; I think it's on one of the walls, sits up about this high, comes out about this far.

Vansant: Yea. Most of them, when you walk in, they have, say on the left, would be this cupboard, kind of catabah(?) and then they would pile wood underneath of it. And then on the right they'd have a little catabah(?) shelf. That's where they kept their water buckets, see? And then they'd have a stove about midway and two bunks in the back.

Liener: Yea, two across the stern, I believe.

Vansant: Yea. All that I was ever in looked the same way.

Dodd: And the cupboards were in the corners of these you were in?

Vansant: Yea.

Liener: You saw that one down here on Hewes' place? That's a nice little one.

Dodd: Only about 8-foot long.

Vansant: Most of them were 12- to 16-feet. And my father said he used to have one, and they'd haul it down the river and sail and get the wind right and sail it down, you know.

Dodd: Sail it down?

Vansant: Yea. Tow it down behind a sailboat.

Liener: Yea, that one that Hewes has is the one the *Silver Heel* towed around the bay here.

Vansant: Then they'd get them down, and they always had the rollers and they'd roll them up on shore.

Liener: They weren't very heavy.

Vansant: But there were a lot of them things around.

Dodd: Yea. They had a lot in Rock Hall and...

Liener: Yea, every crick had some.

Vansant: And the older people, if the wife died or something like that, that's where they'd wind up, in the shanty.

Liener: Muskrat Row. I showed you pictures of the ones I took up there. Some of them were low in the center and then the ends were built up.

Vansant: Yea, most of all of them down here were exactly like that. With the raft roof and the scow part stuck out in front so you could walk on it and then you'd step down.

Liener: Shad fisherman had them up there in the Delaware Bay.

Vansant: This was up in Still Pond Crick, you know they had an article about it.

Dodd: Yea, I read the article. Were there usually two men or a man and wife in there?

Vasant: No, mostly there would be two men. They mostly used them just for, I'd say, when they were oysters here and they had to go down Rock Hall and Seton Ranch? and they'd stay a week and then they'd come home on weekends. That's the way they'd usually work.

Liener: A long while ago there used to be two or three of them in a backyard down in Rock Hall over there toward the canning house.

Vasant: Yea, that's right. And the museum in Rock Hall, there's one down there in pretty good shape. Somebody put a building over it, some kind of shed. Now, they're trying to get it for the Rock Hall Museum, and the man is going to give it to them, but before he'll give it to them, he's trying to hold that over their head to get a permit to build another building there but it's too close to the road. So they're fighting over that. But if they ever get it straightened out, I think that Rock Hall will get that. I never saw it, but they tell me it's in good shape.

Dodd: Ours does need some work on the sides. The siding is starting to come out a little bit. But all of them really seem to have a similar profile.

Vasant: All of them had that half window.

Dodd: Ours has sort of a wainscoting on the inside, vertical wainscoting. Was that common too?

Vasant: Yea. Because the weather board on the side of it didn't keep much of the air out; that wainscoting didn't keep a whole lot of air out either. If you started a fire, it'd open up and the wind would come right through.

Liener: I told you the trick they played on the bunch that came down there to Hope Crick? The siding was made out of yellow pine with dozens of knots in it. And the knots fell out, you see. These guys were complaining about the mosquitoes getting in on them, so they stuck corn cobs and other stuff or another in the knot holes. A couple from Salem came down there, and the other guys didn't care too much for them. And this one fellow said, "Well, I guess we oughta kinda go over and pull the plugs on them guys some night." So they went over and pulled the cobs and stuff out. Boy the mosquitoes like to eat them up in there.

Vasant: One of the men was up there and they used to play all kind of jokes on one another. They had a 5-inch ? on the ? you know. One man got real smart and he put one in his chimney pipe. You know they had the pipe come out the chimney. And he started a fire up, and if he didn't have a time with that thing. He didn't know what was wrong. They smoked him out.

Liener: Yea, they very seldom made the stack go through the roof on account of leaking.

Vasant: Yea, back in them days they didn't have that fitting.

Liener: And it cost too much to go to a tin shop and have one made.

Vasant: But there was quite a few of them. I tell you where there would be a lot of them up there up and down Love Point. That's where the fishermen would fish in the Bay, and they'd come in there and stay overnight.

Dodd: Must have been quite a sight. What happened when they weren't being used in the season. Where were they stored.

Vasant: Bring them home, store them anywhere they could.

Liener: Maybe row them out and close them out where they were.

Vasant: Back in them days you could put them anywhere. Nobody would complain. But today you can't do them things, you know.

Liener: I remember seeing one up there across from Rube's Harbor on this side of the bay one time, just hauled up

on the shore pretty good.

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Vansant: Down here that's the way they did. Up on shore so the tides wouldn't get to them.

Dodd: You slept in one of these one time?

Vansant: The one I slept in was down on Love Point. I don't know if it's still there or not. Down at the Gunning Club where this boatman, I used to guide for him at times. When I left down there about twenty-five years ago we were still using it, for the guides while we was waiting for the guests to come down. We'd use that, we had the stove, everything was still left in there all but the bunks. We took the bunks out to give us some more room. They weren't the most comfortable beds in the world.

Liener: About 30 inches.

Dodd: What did they use in the mattresses, straw or something?

Vansant: Yea. When I was a kid, that's all we had was straw mattresses. If somebody had a feather mattress you was doing all right.

Liener: He was living like a king.

Dodd: We have one feature in ours that we can't figure what it is. When you come in the doorway on the right-hand side; it's made of wood but it looks like it's about this high and it's hollow and it looks like the hollow end of a pole. We thought it might hold the end of a fishing pole or something like that. Do you have any idea what it might be?

Vansant: Would it have a hole?

Dodd: Yea, it's about this high, it's made of wood, and it has a hole about this wide in it about this high and it's fastened into the side right on the bottom where the floor is.

Liener: How big is the hole?

Dodd: About so big.

Vansant: I've got a push pole over here. Could be a push pole. I don't know whether that would be it or not.

Dodd: Of course, it wouldn't have had the height.

Vansant: This push pole I've got is about 10 to 12 feet.

Liener: Got a hook on one of the crowsfoots?

Vansant: No, it's got a little flap on there.

Liener: Oh, duck bill.

Vansant: You push it down and it opens up, and you pull it up and straightens up again.

Dodd: These must have disappeared pretty quickly. Seems like there were probably hundreds and hundreds of them and all of a sudden.

Liener: Most everybody got a car after a bit.

Vansant: That's right, got a car, got motorboats and didn't need them. And then around the shores they got rid of a lot of wood lying around more or less in the way. Had no use for them, so most of them got burned then.

Dodd: Most of the men using them were local men, right?

Vasant: Oh yea. All of them.

/~ Dodd: Who built these shanty boats?

Vasant: Mostly the watermen built them themselves.

Dodd: I guess they were relatively easy to put up.

Vasant: Oh yea. Just build a scow and put a little shack on top of it.

Dodd: When they drew them up, obviously, they pulled them up over the top of the high-water mark?

Vasant: Yea, they'd always carry the rollers right with them. They find enough boards around the shore, put the rollers under them, and roll them right up there.

Dodd: Muscle power.

Liener: They didn't weigh too much.

Vasant: With nothing inside of them.

Dodd: Ones you remembers all have tarpaper roofs on them?

Vasant: Yea, and round roof.

Liener: Yea, that Hewes one has an A roof.

Vasant: Yea, they rebuilt that a few years back. It must be in real good shape.

Liener: t is. He keeps her all painted up. The kids used to play in there.

Vasant: I knew the man who used to use it. A man by the name of Dickerson, and I don't know how he even stayed in the thing because he had two boys and they had a little stove in there, and they slept in there.

Dodd: Joe, I think you said some people lived in these all year round as sort of a home.

Liener: Sure they did.

Vasant: A man, if his wife died, he'd wind up in a shanty.

Liener: That's most always the way it happened.

Vasant: Yea, they'd get all the driftwood around. Back in them days they used only a little bit of water. They'd get two or three buckets of water, that'd last a week

Dodd: I guess they lived pretty simply and inexpensively that way.

Vasant: Nobody had any money back in them days anyway.

Liener: I know wherever meadows were backed in along the marsh, along the cricks, they'd put them right on top of that bank. Yea in Paulsboro, NJ, they had a whole row of them up the crick there.

Vasant: Then when they left here like going up to East Neck Island, they'd put them in a cove somewheres because they always had the sailboats, and they had to have a harbor for that so they'd try to keep them out of the harbor.

Liener: Yea, there was one party that had a little shanty down on Woodbury Crick. They sailed down from Philadelphia, they had a ducker, they sailed down from Philadelphia in that little ducker, and then put up in the shanty for weekends.

Vasant: They used them for everything.

Dodd: Hunting.

Liener: Muskrat Row. And there was another gang down there, did you ever hear tell of Floodgates down near Gibbstown? That was right on the marsh. That was a hard bunch in there. They worked at Dupont Powder Works, and they'd put up in these shanties along there.

Vasant: Yea, there was a mess of them things around when I was a boy.

Vans ant:

Well, I worked on the water, and I got married, of course, when I was 20 years old, and I had a log canoe. It had an old Palmer in it. Then I decided I needed a larger boat. So, I went and bought the lumber, and I carried it home. My Father, he come down. He asked who's gonna build it. I don't have any money, I've got to build it myself. He said "It'd be a pity to waste that good lumber." So, I built it; a 40 foot boat. I put a model A Ford in it. I was really speedy then with a model A Ford in it. Then my brother-in-law wanted one. So, I built him a 40 foot boat, and when I finished that, I had orders for three more. And that's been 55 years ago, and I never been out a day's work since.

Dodds:

You been building them all here?

Vansant:

Oh, I lived up the road here about a quarter mile. We used to bring 'em down on wheels. My wife, she wanted a store, so I built a store up there. She run the store for 20-some years. I decided to buy this place. When I came down here there wasn't nothing down here but marsh. So, I've been here 35 years.

Dodds:

Did you build the shop yourself?

Vansant:

No, I had another man that built the shop. Some days I'd work him for 50 cents an hour, and I didn't have the money to do it real well, either, but its still here and it keeps the rain out (laughs). Anyway, my wife, she kept that store for years. Then we went up on the highway. We built a right nice place up there. You know where the blacksmith's place is just before you get into Rock Hall? Right by Martin Lake?

Liener:

Oh, sure.

Vansant:

We got a big place up there right across the road. My son he was there 21 years, and I guess he got homesick. He wanted to come home, and I guess his boy is taking it over. They started building fiberglass boats. I notice they have rented the big store out to sports goods store. So they kept one part, and they build fiberglass boats.

Dodds:

So, how many boats have you built over 55 years?

Vansant:

Oh....

Dodds:
Lost count?

Vansant:
We built 107 in here, 16 foot boats, for one customer.

Dodds:
107 boats?

Vansant:
Ya, he rented them out. Then we built 70-something for another customer. They was the two biggest orders we had. They went up to Pottstown, or somewheres. Then they put electric motors on every one of them.

Liener:
I'll be darned.

Vansant:
Ya, 'cause it was in a reservoir. They wouldn't let them put regular motors in 'em. They'd often come in and order 20, maybe 25 boats.

Dodds:
Most of them were the V-bottom, hard chine....

Vans ant:
No, no. They were flat-bottom rowboats. Then we got some building over on the Delaware River. We built head boats over there. They went up to 60 feet.

Dodds:
Is that right? Pretty big boats.

Vansant:
So, now Dave's taking care of them. Now I tell 'em I don't build nothing I can't step off the ground in. I can't climb no more. These two boats I built last Spring for two girls.

Dodds:
"Recently announces his retirement from the trade."

Vansant:
Ya. After all them years. Everybody tells you, you'll never stop building boats, long as you got a hatchet (laughs). About a week after that a man come down and brought me a motor. I told the wife that its a good excuse for me to take and build a boat for my own self, and I'll go chicken-neckin' next summer (laughs). Here's

another picture. Two fellas come down and they asked me if I could take 'em oystering some day, and I was working on a boat. "If you got time, jump in, I'll take you out now." So, they got in, and away we went, and after we got out there, one of 'em was with the Tidewater Fisheries, and the other one worked for the newspaper. So, they come up with this. I showed them how to oyster. I made 4 grabs. Read that article (laughter). I said "I just don't pull on them things no more.

Dodds:

So, you're 78 years old.

Vansant:

Be 79 in November.

Dodds:

You look pretty good for 79.

Vansant:

I guess I'm doing alright. If it weren't for my knees, I'm feeling fine. If I work all day, I can't sleep nights. A photographer took that picture of me at work tonging oysters, and he put it in the contests over in Baltimore somewhere, and he won first prize with it.

Liener:

I'll be darned.

Vansant:

He really had it fixed up nice, with a frame. He brought me down a copy of it.

Liener:

Old Peck, he had a patent tong rig on his boat.

Vansant:

Ya. You winded it by hand.

Liener:

By hand.

Vansant:

I guess you saw this. This come out. That was my mast, when I was making a mast for myself.

Dodds:

Nice picture.

Vansant:

This is one of my boats.

Liener:

Boy, the old oysters are really suffering this year, though.

Vasant:

Yes, they are.

Dodds:

Where do you get your lumber from?

Vasant:

When we were building the large boats, we got it down to Spicer's. Down below....

Liener:

Golden Hill.

Vasant:

I think that they are mostly into electric light poles, and things like that. But they....

Liener:

I see you got some cypress in here.

Vasant:

Ya, that boat's all cypress.

Liener:

Do you get any from that bunch over there in Delaware? The Amish guys.

Vasant:

We got some, but it was just right out of the woods, and it takes so long for it to dry.

Dodds:

Were most of your boats built from yellow pine?

Vasant:

We used yellow pine sides, and cypress bottoms. You don't remember that, I'm sure.

Dodds:

Quite a few years before my time.

Vasant:

I went on the Rock Hall ferry over there, and, of course, I didn't take the picture, but this is the kind of plane they raced back then. Jimmy Doolittle, he won the race. I think I write down that he went 200-some mile an hour, and he won the race.

Liener:
232.

Vasant:
Ya. Boy when they came by... I thought he was really traveling (laughter). But, I save all kinds of junk.

Dodds:
Well, its good you save 'em.

Vasant:
My grandsons, they worked here with me before they went up on the highway. And they said "Grandad, why don't you throw all that junk back?" I told 'em I know it's no good, but I just want it. And this old coffeepot, you know those old seine haulers, that's what they cooked with. We had one old fella here, and they'd set it right on the fire, and they'd get black. People went ashore to 'em one day, and they said.... And they was cooking. They used to cook their meals right on shore, you know. And this lady said to 'em "That's really a dirty-looking coffeepot." He's sitting there, and he says "Lady, you ought to see it on the inside" (laughter). He said "After...."

End of Interview.

When you come in the doorway on the right-hand side, there's a... its made of wood, it's about this high, and it's hollow, and it looks like the hole at the end of a pole. We thought maybe it'd hold the end of a fishing pole, or something like that. Do you have any idea what that might be?

Vansant:
What did it have on it, a pole?

Dodds:
Ya, its about this high, and it has a hole about this wide in it. And its fastened to the side, right where the floor is.

Liener:
How big's the holes?

Dodds:
About so big.

Vansant:
I've got a push pole, a wooden push pole over here. I don't know whether it'd be it or not.

Dodds:
Maybe that's it. Although it wouldn't have had the height to....

Vansant:
This push pole is about....

Liener:
Sixteen foot.

Vansant:
No, the one I've got is about 12 foot.

Liener:
Got a hook on one of the crow's foots?

Vansant:
No, its got a little flap on there.

Liener:
A duck bill.

Vansant:
Ya. You push it down, it opens up, and when you pull it up it straightens out.

Dodds:
These must have disappeared pretty quick.

Vasant:
They did. I'll tell you.

Liener:
Most everybody got a car after a bit.

Vasant:
That's right. They got cars. Then they got motorboats. They didn't need them. Then around the shores they got rid of most of 'em, there were a lot of houses going up, and they got in the way. They got a wood stove, most of 'em burned up.

Dodds:
Most of the man that used them were local men.

Vasant:
Oh, ya. All of them.

Dodds:
Who built these, most of these shacks?

Vasant:
Watermen.

Dodds:
Waterman built them themselves. I guess they were relatively easy to put up.

Vasant:
Ya, just build a scow, then build a little shack on top.

Dodds:
When they drew them up, obviously they put 'em up above the high water mark?

Vasant:
Ya. They'd always carry the rollers right with them. They'd always find enough boards around the shore.

Liener:
A couple of old planks.

Vasant:
Ya. Put the rollers on 'em, and roll 'em right up there.

Dodds:
Use muscle power.

Vasant:
Ya.

Liener:
They didn't weigh too much.

Vasant:
No, nothing inside 'em.

Dodds:
You remember all had top gable roofs on them.

Vasant:
Ya. Had a round roof.

Liener:
That one Hawes's got, he's got an A roof on that one.

Vasant:
Has he? They rebuilt that one a few years back. It must be in real good shape.

Liener:
It is. He keeps it all painted up. The kids play in there.

Vasant:
I know the man who used to use it. A man by the name of Dickerson. I don't know how he stayed in the thing, because he had two boys, and he had a little stove in there, and they slept in there.

Dodds:
I think you said that they're people who live in these all year around instead of a home.

Liener:
Sure there'd be.

Vasant:
A man if his wife died, most of the times he'd wind up in the shanty.

Liener:
That's most always the way it happens.

Vasant:
Ya. They get all the driftwood around. And in those days you used only a little water. So, he'd get two or three buckets of water and that'd last a week.

Dodds:
I guess you live pretty simply and inexpensively that way.

Vasant:

Nobody had any money back in those days, anyway.

Liener:

Wherever the meadows were banked in along the marsh, why, they'd put that right up on top of that bank.

Vans ant:

Ya.

Liener:

Paulsburg, New Jersey, they had a whole row of them up the creek there.

Vansant:

When they left here, going to East Neck Island, they'd put 'em up in a cove somewhere, because they'd always have the sailboats. They'd have a harbor for that, so they'd try to get them in the harbor.

Liener:

There was one party that had a shanty down there on Woodbury Creek. They sailed down from Philadelphia, they had a ducker, and they'd sail down in that ducker, and put up on that shanty for the weekends.

Vansant:

They used them for everything.

Dodds:

Hunting.

Liener:

Muskrat Row. Then there was another gang. You ever heard of Flood Gates, down there to Gibbstown?

Vansant:

No.

Liener:

That was right out on the marsh. God damn, that was a hard bunch down there. They'd work there at DuPont's Power Works, and they'd put up in these shanties along there.

Vansant:

Ya, there was a mess of those things around when I was a boy.

Dodds:

Stanley, when did you start building boats? How did you get interested in building boats?

Interview with Stanley Vansant, 11/20/87. Present were Mr. Vansant, Richard Dodds, and Josef Liener.

Vansant:

...Ya, has it got the cupboard in the corner of it?

Liener:

I don't know.

Dodds:

It has a cupboard, not in the corner, I think its on one of the walls; sits up; it's about this high.

Vansant:

Ya, that's right.

Dodds:

Comes out about this far.

Vans ant:

Most of 'em, when you walk in 'em, they have a, say on the left, would be this cupboard. Then they'd pile the wood underneath of it. And then on the right they'd have a little cattybox shelf. That's where they kept the water bucket sitting. And then they'd have the stove about mid way, and two bunks in the back.

Liener:

Across the stern of her.

Vansant:

That's right. All of them I was ever in they were the same way.

Dodds:

Same way. The cupboards were in the corner in these ones that you were in.

Vans ant:

Ya.

Liener:

You saw that one down here on the ... oh what's his name that's got the log canoe? ...

Vansant:

Ht_wes place.

Liener

That's a nice little one.

Vans ant:
That's only about 8' long.

Liener:
Ya.

Vansant:
Most of 'em was from 12 to 16 feet. My father said that he used to have one, and they'd oyster down the river, with that sail on it, they'd get the wind just right, and they'd sail it down.

Dodds:
Sail it down?

Vansant:
Ya, tow it down.

Liener:
Tow it down. That one that Hawes has, that's the one that the \$liver Heels towed around the Bay here.

Vansant:
Then they'd get 'em down, and they always had the rollers, and they'd roll 'em up on shore.

Dodds:
Oh, is that how.... Ok.

Liener:
Ya, they weren't very heavy.

Dodds:
Ya.

Vansant:
But there are a lot of them things around.

Dodds:
Ya. We had a lot in Rock Hall....

Liener:
Every creek had one.

Vans ant:
Ya, every creek up this way had one. And then older people, as the wife died, that's where they'd wind up, in the shanty.

Liener:
Muskrat Row (laughs).

Vasant:
Ya.

Dodds:
Muskrat Row?

Liener:
I showed you pictures of the ones I took up there. Some of 'em were low in the center, and then the ends were built up higher.

Dodds:
Ya.

Vasant:
Most all of 'em down here were exactly like that, see the....

Dodds:
With the curved roof.

Vasant:
Ya. And the scow part stuck out in front, and you could walk on it, and then you'd step down.

Liener:
Ya, shad fishermen had 'em up there in the Delaware Bay.

Vasant:
And this was up at Still Pond Creek. They had an article in there about that.

Dodds:
Ya, I read the article. Tell me, is it usually two men, or a man and a wife in the ... stay in those?

Vasant:
Used to be two men.

Dodds:
Two men for the season.

Vasant:
They must have used them just for, like if there wasn't any oysters here, and they had to go down to Rock Hall, they'd tow 'em around. They'd stay the week, and tow 'em home on weekends. That's the way they used to work.

Dodds:
Ya.

Liener:

A long while ago there used to be two or three of them in a backyard down in Rock Hall. Over there toward the can house.

Vansant:

That's right. And the museum in Rock Hall wants to get money. There's one down there in pretty good shape.

Liener:

IS it?

Vansant:

And somebody put a building over it. Some kind of shed. Now they trying to get it for the Rock Hall Museum, and the man's gonna give it to them, but before he'll give it to them he's trying to hold that over their heads to try to get a permit to build another building there. You know? But, its too close to the road, so they're fighting over that, but if they ever straighten that out, I think Rock Hall's gonna get that. I've never saw it, but they tell me its in good shape.

Dodds:

Is it? Ours does need some work on the sides. The siding is starting to come out a bit. All these have a similar....

Liener:

Profile and so forth.

Vansant:

All of them had that half window.

Dodds:

Ours has sort of a wainscoting on the inside. Was that common, too?

Vansant:

Ya. 'Cause the weather-boarding on the side of it didn't keep much air out. That wainscoting didn't keep a whole lot out, either. If you'd start that fire it'd open up (laughter).

Dodds:

Ya, I guess the fire was on the stove....

Liener:

I told you about the guys; the trick I played on a bunch that came down there to Hope Creek. The siding was made out of yellow pine, with dozens of knots in it, and the knots fell out. These guys, they were complaining about the 'skeeters getting in on them. So, they stuck corn cobs and one stuff or another in the knot holes. So, a couple from Salem come down there, and the other guys didn't care much for 'em. And this one fella says "Well I guess we ought to go over and pull the plugs on them guys some night. So, they

went over and pulled the cobs and stuff, and boy, the 'skeeters liked to eat 'em up in there (laughs).

Vasant:

They used to play all kinds of jokes on one another, and they had a five inch corks on the shad nets. One man, he got real smart, and they had one in chimney that come out. They just had a pipe that come out. And he started the fire up, and he didn't know what was wrong (laughter)

Liener:

Smoke came out (laughs). Ya, they very seldom made the stack go through the roof.

Dodds:

Went out the side, ya.

Vasant:

Other kind leaks. Back them days they didn't have that fitting, either, I don't think.

Liener:

And it cost too much to go to the tin shop to have one made.

Vasant:

I tell you there'd be a lot of them up there in Love point. That's where the fishermen would fish in the Bay. Then they'd stay overnight.

Dodds:

It must have been quite a sight. What happened when they weren't being used, during the season; where were they being stored?

Vasant:

Take 'em home. Store 'em anywhere they could.

Liener:

Bring 'em home, or maybe roll 'em out and close 'em up where they were.

Vasant:

Back in those days you could close 'em up and put 'em anywhere, but today you can't do that.

Liener:

I remember seeing one up there across from Rugh's [?] Harbor, on this side of the Bay one time, just hauled up on the shore pretty good.

Vans ant:

That's the way they did down here. Shore 'em up; up on the shore, so the tide doesn't get to 'em.

Dodds:

You mentioned to me on the phone that you have slept in one of these sometime.

Vasant:

Oh, ya. I had one I slept in down in Love Point.

Dodds:

Is that right?

Vasant:

And I don't know whether its there or not, but down at the Gun Club, where this boat went, I used to guide for 'em at times, and when I left down there, I left about 25 years ago, we was still using it. For the guides, while we was waiting for the guests to come down. We used that. We had the stove. Everything was still left in there. All but the bunks. We took the bunks out to give it some more room.

Liener:

To give you more room (laughs).

Dodds:

Doesn't sound like they were too wide anyway.

Vasant:

No. Wasn't the most comfortable bed in the world.

Liener:

About 30 inches.

Dodds:

What'd they use for mattress, just straw?

Liener:

Ya.

Vasant:

Most all of 'em. When I was a kid that's all we had was straw mattresses. If somebody had a feather mattress, they were doing alright.

Liener:

Oh my gosh, he was living like a king.

Dodds:

We have one feature in ours that we can't figure out what it is.