

# Winter Harbor Historical Society

P.O. Box 93, Winter Harbor, ME 04693

May 2018

## NEWSLETTER

### Winter Harbor Fisheries Oral History Project By Natalie Springuel, Downeast Fisheries Trail

First person stories about Winter Harbor's fisheries heritage are now part of the Winter Harbor Historical Society's audio collection!

The Winter Harbor Fisheries Oral History Project, conducted in the Fall of 2017, captured the stories, memories, and perspectives of local fishermen and their families, local marine businesses and fellow community members. The focus of the interviews was on the community's connections to the waters surrounding the Schoodic Peninsula and the larger context of fisheries in Maine. Topics ranged from fishing past and present, getting product to market, changes in the industry and changes in the Winter Harbor region. Fishing is so much more than a job, it is a way of life, and the interviews also explored history, family, boat building, business, and relationships.

The goal of the project was to help the Winter Harbor Historical Society document its fishing and community heritage for future generations. Our hope is that these stories will help future residents, visitors, and decision-makers understand the important role that the sea has played, and will continue to play, in Maine's coastal communities.

#### About the people interviewed

In these stories, you will meet four fishermen and their families (The Torreys, Backmans, Alleys, and Knowles), the managers at the Winter Harbor Lobster Co-op, the founders of DC Air and Seafood, and a local boat builder. Their stories cover the history of Winter Harbor's diverse fishing heritage, including lobster, urchin, scallops, and the groundfishing days of yore. Many of these same fishermen and their families formed the Winter Harbor Lobster Co-op, which has become a central feature of the town's economy. Likewise, the business DC Air puts Winter Harbor on the global seafood map. How all this came to be is part of these stories. Winter Harbor has also long been a place where multi-generation fishing families live alongside summer people and tourists visiting the Schoodic section of Acadia National Park. The waterfront is often the place where people meet, and the stories shared by local boat builder John England explore that intersection.

#### Who is behind the project?

The project is a collaboration of the Winter Harbor Historical Society, Maine Sea Grant, College of the Atlantic, and the Island Institute. All the interviews were conducted as part of a Fall 2017 College of the Atlantic Class called Mapping Ocean Stories. The students in the class (hailing from Maine, New England, the US and also the British Virgin Islands and South America) were trained in the art of conducting

oral histories before coming out to meet with community members.

All Winter Harbor interviews were completed on September 28, 2017. The fourteen students were split up into seven teams, each accompanied by a member of the Winter Harbor Historical Society who served as a liaison with the interviewees. In many cases, multiple interviewees were present. In total, the voices of more than 20 community members were captured and more than fifteen hours of audio was recorded on this day. These fishing and marine related stories tell us about Winter Harbor's history and culture but also about fisheries and changes happening along the Maine coast as a whole.

#### With thanks to the following people for their support

The students and their teachers are deeply grateful to Diana Young and Pearl Barto of the Winter Harbor Historical Society for their efforts in coordinating the interviews. Diana and Pearl also lined up the Historical Society board members to help connect the students and the interviewees. This was a lot of logistics, and without Diana and Pearl, this project could not have happened.

Most important, we are grateful to all the interviewees, for their time, stories, good humor and willingness to help



group of college students learn about their industry and heritage. Thank you. Your stories are inspiring.

#### Where can you get more information?

All oral histories recorded during this project (and their transcriptions) are archived at the Winter Harbor Historical Society. The class also produced an online story collection about this project, which was presented to the Winter Harbor community on November 9, 2017, and can be accessed here:

<http://bit.ly/winterharbororalhistory2017>

For more information, please contact the Winter Harbor Historical Society at [winterharborhistory@gmail.com](mailto:winterharborhistory@gmail.com) or Natalie Springuel, Maine Sea Grant at College of the Atlantic at [nspringuel@coa.edu](mailto:nspringuel@coa.edu).

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### **Donations**

Thank you to: Roseanne Shaffer for high school memorabilia and bookkeeping ledger from the Smallidge estate  
Sanford Phippen for The Worcester Review with his article included on John M Hayes,  
Katherine Heidinger for Donut Hole apron  
Grace Gerrish for books found in local homes:  
Black Beauty  
Tom Sawyer  
Gone With the Wind  
Right as Rain  
Happy the Land  
Congressional Cookbook  
Steve Tardy for a 1906 Electric Universal toaster from the home of Andrew Pendleton (Freeland Bunker's daughter - house head of Sand Cove) electric in middle-toasted one side at time-swing doors to turn bread to toast other side. Made by Landers Frary & Clark; New Britan, Conn. 1865-1965 sold to GE Company.  
DJ Deans for Winter Harbor Canoe Club paddles.

*Enjoy the Peninsula Gazette, a local newspaper written from 1954-1960 on the Winter Harbor Historical Society web site.  
Receive news and updates on Winter Harbor Historical Society Facebook.*

### **Seeking**

Town Reports for 1903  
Lobstering and fishing artifacts for a museum exhibit.

### **Downeast Fisheries Trail**

Thanks to the advocacy of the Winter Harbor Historical Society and Dale Torrey's daughter, Doreen, the 1973 oral interviews with Dale have been restored to the Henry's Cove site on the Downeast Fisheries Trail web site:  
<http://www.downeastfisheriestrail.org/sites/henry-cove/>. These recordings are a true treasure of detailed recollections of early fishing practices.

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