

INTERVIEW WITH - MR. WILLIE STEWART,

Conversation between Peter Bruce of Buckie Fishing Heritage Society and Willie Stewart, retired fisherman and recorded at Willie's house in Buckie on 11th June, 1986.

P. How far back can ye mine Willie? Can you mine back tae the auld days of the sailing boats?

W. I can mine fit my father eeist tae tell me. I canna mine in the sailing boats. I gied awa tae sea one time, in fact I ran awa Peter.

P. How auld was ye?

W. Dovie King wis stoppin next door tae us and they were in a sail boat workin oot o the Broch ye see an they were gaen awa. Div ye mine on Peter Bosun?

P. No I canna say I div.

W. Buckpool. Peter wis cook ye see an he wis one of the boys. Ach he says tae me come awa wi's. Of course my mither gied high aboot this ye see. She didna ken far I wis. So onywy we landed in the Broch in this sail boat an eh ye jist hid a certain area you could work in that time and we wis oot in that area this nicht and the submarines cam on the scene, a German and so he pumps off twa boats. He hid enough so he took aboard the crew aboard the submarine. He hid enough an he gied roon aboot the rest of the boats an says pull in your gear and get oot the road. So we off ye see and we landed in Buckie. That wis the last of my escapade there. But of course ye enjoyed it ye see but nae doobt ye wis feart at the filey fin the submarine wis on the go. He took them a oot he hid nae opposition there.

P. There wis nae Naval ships?

W. Aye that's richt. Well there was some but they didna come that distance. They thocht that wis a protected area ye see. So fin I gied awa tae the sea it wis after the first World War. I mine the date cos I wis a message boy wi Jimmy Mair's the butchers until I was maybe 16 an gied awa tae the sea wi my father.

P. Fitna boat wis that Willie?

W. That wis a motor boat she belonged tae the Sooth Firth.

P. A fifie?

W. Aye. I gied on her. She hid a big thick foremast and a big sail. They eeist to pull her along fin the wind was suited an she hid a Gairner engine. Aye ane of that auld fashioned splutterin Gairners. Well that wis in the cabin noo your biler

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an engine an a. Of course ye hidna the space in that boats that time. So of course a'thing wis reed het fin you were gaen tae ye're beds. Ye were near roastet. Onywy it came better times an ye gied intae the drifters. Well fin ye were in the drifters ye said oh that's fine noo we're in the crowd. We'll awa doon tae Shetland. You widna ging in a boat unless ye gied tae Shetland.

P. Aye ye gied tae Shetland first?

W. Well some gied tae Stornowa on the west coast.

P. At the same time?

W. No, no, Stornowa' opened on the 10th May that wis ae the date for Stornowa opening the fishing.

P. Fan wis Lerwick?

W. Well they hid nae startin date or nithin there as lang as the heerin wis there ye eeist tae ging very near doon the west side sometimes for the shoals of heerin that cam fae the Gulf stream.

P. That's why they are sae big?

W. Aye that's the wi they came ye see an richt roon by Barra Heed an cam richt doon the Minch. No nae the Minch the North Sea.

P. They hit Stornowa first then?

W. Aye. Stornowa wis aie the first tae hit.

P. Then they wid hit Wick after that?

W. Aye. This hid tae come richt across the Minch then. That's the wi that shoals worket. Weel they worket awa sooth maybe as far as; we eeist tae get the same heerin maybe about 40 miles north east o' Aberdeen.

P. Oh the big heerin?

W. Aye. They jist hid the wee whilie so that wis them finished for the day fin they died oot. So after that it wis jist a case of maybe worken the heerin oot a Stronsay and Wick. Wick eeist tae be a big heerin port that time.

P. Aye it wis that. Ye see that with the auld photographs.

W. Oh mercies aye. I've seen Wick, half the fleet wis allowed intae Wick and they hid tae wait till a them were discharged and come oot and the other half got in. That wis the wye they

worket. Oh I've seen some terrible squeezes in Wick. Div ye mine on him that hid the Guiding Light in Portgordon?

P. Pat Cormack?

W. Aye. His father, auld Cormack, he wis jammed in and he couldna get oot. The Harbourmaster in Wick is crying at him ye see eh "Guiding Light, Guiding Light" he says "Go astern". He says "Astern. I've been going astern since I came in here. If ye shove off some of that boats aff the top of me" he says "I'll maybe manage tae manoeuvre and get oot." That wis the style there ye see. An then after that ye maybe gied tae Stronsay. Stronsay wis nae bad ye see. Ye hid twa three different places you could land in Stronsay.

P. Nae jist the main place?

W. Aye the islands an that wye see.

P. I suppose Yarmouth and Lowestoft boats had been up in Lerwick in a?

W. Well there wis a lot of Yarmouth boats cam up. English boats came up. They eeist tae fish oot o Aberdeen ye see. But they eeist tae come north and he've heard about Willdie Bowfie? Hiv ye heard about him?

P. Aye the Braes of Buckie?

W. Aye. Well somebody wis tellin this Englishman about Willdie Bowfie ye see. He says I don't know who he is but he says he's a buff he says but I don't know him. Of course they didna ken the tee names. Then ye gied intae Shields and Yarmouth an that completed the journey there ye see. Well fin ye cam back fae Yarmouth the winter fishin wis starin ye in the face again.

P. That's the west coast?

W. Aye och the heerin wis square deep at that time on the rocks ootside. I mine aye nicht I wis on the Thain. Div ye mine on the Thain's?

P. Yes the wooden ane or the steel ane?

W. No the drifter Thain's. The wooden Thain. She wis a fine enough boat. Did ye ken Jock Thain?

P. No I kent him tae see him but nae tae speak till?

W. Jock wis a drole lad. A great lad for the cards. So they were playin nap and there wis a big kitty. Oh he widna quit he says until the kitty was lost or won. So his breether Jim wis skipper an he cam doon an he says "Boys if he dinna come up ye

winna get a net". True as his word fin they gied up tae hale up they got the first net up aye the bouws after were a doon. Lost the lot. Full of heerin.

P. A for the sake of a game of cards?

W. Aye. A game of cards. Noo that happened. There wis an awfa lot of that kinda thing happened especially wi that heavy heerin. Noo after that ye see the wye they eeist tae speak about bloodin a net.

P. Fit div ye mean by that noo Willie?

W. Well ye'd on a clean net and the the ither ane that wis next tae her ye tied her in the middle richt up an a clean net the same again.

P. Oh so that ye widna tak oor mony?

W. So that ye widna. No but that net that wis tied up she would lock there and she would keep up the net that wis fishing. That wis the idea.

P. You wid hae a heavy ane an a licht ane time aboot. Oh I see.

W. Depending on the licht ane tae keep the heavy ane tae fish. That's the wi they got ovr that problem. Oh there wis some good lads some good heids in that time a day. After you got the winter fishing ye eeist tae come hame an they hid a their nets tae mend an a that kine of things.

P. I can mine fin my father went awa tae the sailin an my mither wid hae a the nets ment an he wid be across at the ither side in America and maybe jist get hame a fortnight afore the fishin started an he wid work maybe until twa o'clock in the mornin sleep twa hoors on top of the nets and start at 4 o'clock in the mornin repairin again tae get his nets prepared for gaen awa tae the sea.

W. That's fit they did. Ye see a lot o' oor lads eeist tae ging tae the trawlin oot of Aberdeen ye see. Them that didna like tae ging tae the sailin. I liket tae ging tae the coasten. I wis on a coaster for two years. Div ye mine on Willum Will?

P. No.

W. Div ye nae mine on him? Ye ken auld Sandy Will that eeist tae bide in Buckpool?

P. Is that the same Will as James Will the chemist?

W. Aye their father, weel he lived a lang time wi only a lung but they hid a drifter they ca'd the Prestige. Mine on her?

P. I mine on her, turned in starn.

W. Aye. She hid a flat starn afore that.

P. Aye that's right they altered that boat.

W. She wis built for Captain. Captain Smith ower in Buckpool. We wis workin doon aff the Noop in the winter time. That wis the time she burst her starn. The rope took the propellor and she wis hinging eft and she was clapping doon. It was an awfa sea thonner.

P. Far wis that at Willie?

W. Doon aff the Noop. Noop Head the west side of the Orkneys. An she's clapping, clapping, clapping an a'body is wishin she wid brak.

P. Could they nae have cut the rope?

W. Ye couldna get near it. The sea wis comin right ower her quarter see. Onywy she freed hersell. We whirled roon aboot and she gied intae Scrabster. Speak aboot leakin. Ye hiv niver seen sae muckle Mine on auld Pat Clark? There wis twa three auld lads in her at that time. Mine on auld Pat Clark that bed in Buckpool?

P. No that wis afore my time Willie.

W. Aye well every lad wis picken his ane burn. The pumps go'n a the time. That's the wi they spell't ane anither. Cam doon an look at ye're burns and see if it wis runnin. I wis alow at that time an we hid enough a dei tae keep the pumps gaen because she was washin oot a the sma coal an a' thing oot the biler. Ye hid tae stand by an clean the pumps a the time. We eventually got in and we hid the wid wis that coorse. It wis fae the north west and it wis richt intae Scrabster and we could dei nithing else. We got the cargoe boats moorings aboard an moored her. Ach we says if she's gaen tae brak she can brak here. But she didna brak. So we cam oot after it hid kina lulled doon and cam through the Firth and cam richt roon aboot very near west o' Helmsdale. The wi the win wis ye see.

P. Jist the wi she wis?

W. Aye. We gied across tae Helmsdale afore we cut across for Buckie. She wis richt afore the win then. If we hid come awa fae Wick tae Buckie she wid have been ower the broad side. She wid hae rolled. She wid hae made a mess o' hersell. We managed across and fin we cam intae Buckie we hid tae beach her

up. See far the auld lifeboat shed eeist tae be? Beached her richt up there as far as she could gan so she widna leak or dei ony ill. So the water wid run oot. So that's the time she got her starn sorted.

P. So they decided tae mak a tug starn?

W. Aye she did nae bad after that but she wis lost aff Yarmouth.

P. Lot a boats lost in Yarmouth. Course they hid nae wireless then tae tell them the kine o' the weather.

W. It wis a coorse place. Have you heard them speakin about Fit div ye ca the breeze?

P. Armistice gales?

W. Armistice gales. Aye mine on that? Well we were shot fin we shouldna hiv been shot. There wis an awfa boats come oot wi us and they ran awa back fin they got the forecast. It wis a bad forecast. But a he says we'll shot awa and we'll easy manage tae hale her if onything comes. Aye, aye but fin it came we fin we started tae hale we could only get intae the quarter bow and after that you wis bet. Sea an a'thing. So they proposed we'll pit on the hatches an pit in a good strap for it and let it ride tae the weather. During that time noo we were riding oot oor the tap of a the boats an the boats they were fleeing aboot. Ye didna ken, leavin their nets an a'thing. Day licht appeared and ye niver seen sik a mess in a ye're life of bows wis at your stem. A kine an colours.

P. Did they drift doon at your feet like?

W. Aye we wis draggin wi the force of the weather. An we were draggin a ower this boats that gied awa an left nets. The bows floated fin the nets broke awa. Ye niver saw sik a mess. Thain's cam up till's an he says old Scottie ye've got a nice bunch of balloons there. Oor lad says yes div ye want ony? Oh no no he says ye can have them Scottie I'm goin home. So he gied awa hame and left his. Of course we didna bather haling them aboard. We took our ane boats aboard and that wis tally.

P. Ye didna loose ony nets did ye?

W. Lost the lot an a the fish. The net wid niver have stood thon.

P. It's an awfa rough sea there.

W. It's the shallow water and the sandbanks. Ye hiv to watch yoursell comin in there.

P. There's some gie photographs of the moo of the river.

W. Oh aye that eesit tae be wicked some time. Especially if it wis an ebb time and south-east wind.

P. I mine the Mistletoe sunk. She took the grun comin in.

W. Struck the bottom. Well if ye strick the bottom it pulls aff ye for manoeuvring. She jists gings ower the broadside and away.

P. Ye've nae wie tae help tae steer?

W. Aye they gied up either side o' the pier. Oh she wis an awfa place Yarmouth.

P. How many boats div ye think wid have been in Yarmouth?

W. Well the maest I ever saw in Yarmouth. Hiv ye been in Yarmouth?

P. Aye bit it wis only aboot five years ago. I wis niver fin the boats were there.

W. Well ye ken the kine of the Yarmouth river?

P. Yes, aye.

W. Well I've seen that river packet. Div ye see the bend of the river far it goes doon roon fit we ca'd the Moose Trap tae ging out? Well fae that bend in the river richt up tae the brig, boats tiered richt across fae ae side o' the river tae anither an onywy fae the top ferry doon.

P. As ticht as that?

W. As ticht as that wi boats.

P. You wid a hiv tae hiv waited at the weekend afore ye got oot.

W. Oh ye hiv niver seen sik a consternation as thon if ye wanted oot in an early mornin.

P. There hid been a few burst bulwarks?

W. Aye. Ye niver saw it wisna only that ye see. The Englishmen they worket ower the weekend and they were comin in on Monday. They'd gotten haled and were comin awa in tae catch the market. Ye aie got a good market on Monday fin Scotties wis awa taken their day off. So that wis kine o' a humbug tee. Ye jist hid tae keep ae side of the river ye see.

P. Oh to allow for them comin up an landin their heerin?

W. Oh aye.

P. Which is right enough an a.

W. Ye niver saw sik a sotter. An a the Sooth Firth motor boats they eeist tae moor half doon Gorleston an they were aie lying three or four aff an they niver eeist tae be in a hurry. They werena disturbed awa doon there ye see until ye wis comin doon. Some of them wis, oh some of them eeist tae carry awa their moorins and they eeist tae be fleein a ower the place.

P. Wis there a lot a motor boats in the South Firth besides drifters?

W. Oh there wis a good lot.

P. Something like Findochty. They hid a lot of motor boats?

W. Oh aye that wis Yarmouth. Fin Yarmouth wis deen that wis your next outlook the winter heerin.

P. I suppose you hid been ashore and boucht presents and a ye're rock an a'thing?

W. Oh mercies that wis an ither stunt that buyin presents.

P. It hid been a gie busy Yarmouth fin a the men were ashore?

W. Oh aye. Women in a ye see. Women were the very same.

P. Gutten crews buyin presents?

W. Oh aye there wis as muckle women sometimes mendin an there wis a this coal lumpers ye see. They followed a the boats. Dukie McLean an a them wis there.

P. An ye hid runner an a hidn't ye?

W. Aye. Runners for a'thing there, grocers. Dod McKenzie he gied doon wi a shop.

P. Oh he hid a shop doon there did he?

W. Oh aye.

P. Oh he hid a shop doon there. Tane a shop for a season like?

W. Aye. He eeist tae get his breed an a'thing sent fae Valentines. They eeist tae send cases. Great big hampers, as you wid ca them, full o' breed an a'thing.

P. Did they pit them doon on the train?

W. I dinna ken fitna why they cam doon but they were there fin ye cam in at the weekend or cam in an got fit ye wanted.

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P. So ye got Scotch breed?

W. Aye. Far better than the English anes. English anes were a richt as lang as they were new but after a day they wid hardly keep.

P. They didna keep very weel. Maybe it wis because there wis nae salt in them. The English breed hisna much salt in it.

W. Oh they didna harly keep. It wis a richt if it wis a new ane. Fin Dod took doon a that breed they a clackett tae him. He got a the trade.

P. Oh he wis a popular butcher. Of course he wis a good man. He gave oot a roast at Christmas or the New Year.

W. Oh he hid twa or three coos that he eeist tae kill. An he distributed them atween the boats' crews. Oh aye ye jist said fitna boat ye wis in an that wis that ye got fit ye wanted fae Dod far ever the chapper came on like. He hie hid twa three cos for that.

P. I've heard he wis an awfa good man that wi.

W. He scored wi that Dod. Even at the fitba. Dod, he wis the boss of the fitba. He eeist tae say tae them noo boys 5/- if you draw, 10/- if you win but it's nowt if you loose.

P. An did that come oot of his ane pocket?

W. Aye, he paid for that.

P. His son played didn't he?

W. Aye, Dodie.

P. Dr. D.G. McKenzie. He played for Queens Park.

W. He eeist tae play.....Div ye nae mine on the Thistle Juniors?

P. No I canna mine on them. I've heard Kenny Brookman speakin about them.

W. That wis a the crowd the Thistle Juniors that's far they sprung fae. They were a good team them.

P. The Thistle Juniors wis that afore the Rovers came on the go?

W. Aye. Ye see that Rovers. It wis local teamies that they made them up oot o'. That's far Dyles an them a cam oot o'. Dyles wis a good player, a good kicker, but he wis fit ye'd ca a hasher.

P. Rough player?

W. Oh aye but fin he got intae playing First Division he wis different a the gither.

P. Of course he wid have hid tae conform then. They wid hae trained him.

W. Oh they trained him there doon in Falkirk.

P. Oh I mine atween the fishin the loons eeist tae play ower in the corn pitchie, about 50 of them, 25 a side.

W. Aye that's fit they did.

P. I can mine fin I wis a wee loonie playin among them. Aye.

W. Well div ye see thon park that wis at the back o' the Skemmils in Buckpool? Well that's far oor fitba park wis. Ye couldna kick the ba oot. Only wie you could kick her oot if it wis intae water.

P. Surrounded a wie?

W. Aye. The train line bank was on the north side, the brae was on the sooth side and the skemmils wis on the front and then it wis only that bittie open

P. You'd only tae rin tae Portgordon tae get the ba eh?

W. No.

P. No but, I'm jist sayin ye hidna tae ging tae Portgordon tae get the ba. Great times. Changed days now. I mine fin John Bowie eeist tae cam aff the boat on Saturday mornin.

W. Oh John. John wis a good player.

P. He'd no trainin but yet he was one of the best football players we hid.

W. I've seen John. John & Gunnie Garden. Div ye mine on Gunnie Garden?

P. No I dinna mine on him.

W. They were backs an they eeist tae play good for Buckie Thistle. Well that's fit Buckie Thistle was made o that kind a lads. Fin they cam up an the ither crowd saw them ye see they said Oh we can mak something of this lad take him awa and gie him a schoolin.

P. How long did the heerin fishin carry on after the war. Fan wis it they hat the peer times. 1926 wis it? Same time as the strike?

W. Aye that wis the time. Fit happened there?

P. General strike.

W. Aye. But this coopers they gied oot and they learned the foreigners the wie to cure heerin.

P. Oh that wis the start of it.

W. Aye that wis the start of it. They did their ane curen and far ye hid a market that market was gone by themselves.

P. Got the fish themselves.

W. Aye an that ruined a the markets.

P. Aye it wis gie dull times them in the thirties.

W. Div ye mine on the walk tae Strathlene?

P. Aye.

W. That wis the time o' the peer times. That's fit caused the peer times.

P. Of course the Russian market collapsed a the gither after the war didn't it?

W. Aye ye see they bocht aboot the maest cured heerin. They eeist tae cam over, the wie they tested the heerin they, they gart the cooper open up a barrel an they jist eeist tae tak oot a heerin.

P. Bite the back?

W. Aye, ate it.

P. Raw?

W. Raw, it wis the pickle they liket.

P. The must have hid awfa constitutions, eh?

W. It wisna that fin the foreigners cam ower for heerin they jist took ane oot o' the barrel an took a bite o' it.

P. There wis work for a'body that days.

W. Aye that's richt.

P. Coopers, sailmakers them makin masts an a' thing.

W. A' thing ye wid think about.

P. A dose of different trades.

W. Ye see there wis a lot of boats built in Buckie that time. Div ye mine on Toshie's yard?

P. I mine the ane ower at the cave yonder, the big black shed.

W. That's far Toshie's yard wis.

P. I mine on that shed.

W. Well the G. McIntosh an them wis a built there.

P. In the shed?

W. Aye, aye. Then there wis the slip. But the slip wisna the slip it wis in the present day.

P. Oh no it wis in Finechty wis'nt it?

W. Aye they hid a slip in Finechty but Jones is still there but he hidna that slip that there is now.

P. Now tell me Willie did Jones build a lot of drifters?

W. Well after the war.

P. The First War?

W. Aye. He did build a lot an he hid a good model ye see but it wis auld Thomson that wis the modeller there. He wis the modeller.

P. Aye he worket wi Jones first afore he started on his own.

W. Aye. An then him an his Uncle Jim started on his own.

P. Oh your uncle wis the Stewart o' Thomson & Stewart? Oh I didna ken that.

W. Dei ye mine they were repairin boats in the east basin. Mine they were a, they eeist tae be moored aff o' ane a nither. They were dein a bit of repairin tae boats an he'd hane something wrang wi his boat an he hid a big patch on it.

P. I mine fin he hid the patch.

W. An it blew up an he missed himsell an ye very near killed himsell that time.

P. Fit happened like?

W. He didna see far he wis gaen an he stepped doon atween twa boats an he near killed himsell. So I mine we wis workin at the boat wi my father.

P. Fitna boat was that Willie?

W. I forget. Wis it nae the Enavent. We wis worken in

P. Aye Jimmy Slater?

W. Aye Jimmy Slater. I think it wis her we wis in.

P. Hid she jist been bigget then?

W. Fa?

P. The Enavent.

W. No she wisna auld that time she wis built in Toshie's. An fin they cam ower for my father sayin Oh you'll ae tae come awa. Oh ye'll ae tae tik him awa tae Aberdeen. So my father gied through wi him ye see tae Aberdeen. I got orders like carry on fae far ye left aff. Fin its time tae ging hame go awa hame.

P. Jones there wis their first drifter the White Rose? Somebody tellt me they bigget a drifter in 1904.

W. Aye she wis sellt tae Shetland.

P. Did he build many drifters afore the war?

W. No. Ken fit wis adee with that boat. There wis a motor launch gied wrang comin intae Buckie an she gied up the back of the harbour and they took the twa engines oot of her an they put them intae that boat.

P. Intae the White Rose?

W. Aye that wis the loss of her.

P. Oh she wis a motor drifter wis she?

W. Aye that's far the motor came oot o' see.

P. An wis she built like a drifter the same style as a drifter?

W. Well aye she wis somethin similar tae a drifter.

P. But she hid a motor engine?

W. Aye motor engine.

P. Did they build many drifters afore the first World War?

W. Fa Jones?

P. Aye.

W. I canna mine on Jones builden drifters afore the first war.

P. I can jist mine them sayin that they built the Imbat and the Icicle, twa standard drifters during the war.

W. Aye that wis the time of the war. Noo George Smith built a lot doon at thon, far they eeist tae hae the electric shed. He built a lot there.

P. My father's cousin Jim Slater, he wis a carpenter there.

W. Aye Jim wis a pal o' ours. It's a filey since he wis in noo.

P. I mine I saw him wis it twa year ago?

W. He wis in, the last time I wis speakin till him. Wis't a that time?

P. Aye it wis awfa caul that time. He wis glad to get awa back hame. The day after they sailed bonny weather came on. It wis summer after that. Jim said he wisna comin back.

W. I think he bides wi his daughter noo.

P. That's right.

W. Oh aye he wis ane o' the lads that gied awa oot tae America. My Uncle Jim's Alex in a. Div ye mine on him?

P. No I canna mine on him.

W. He served his time as a carpenter in a. Beelix an them cam in.

P. Oh he wis oot?

W. Aye they cam in. A curn o' them cam back in. Dodie Codlin wis oot that time.

P. Were they a in Philadelphia far Jim wis?

W. Aye they were scattered a oor the place. They gied far they got a job but my father hid a sister oot there an eh a good lot of them landed there. Made that their base ye see till they got a job and they gied far the job wis.

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P. They scattered. Probably never met ane anither again.

W. No I dinna think it wis as bad as that. I think they did crew up but an awfa lot came back hame.

P. I suppose things started getten better at hame did they?

W. Well aye there wis mare work comin on at hame and I think they were a kinna fed up oot there.

P. They didna tak tae the country?

W. No they didna. But a good lot of them stuck it and they made themselves a richt the lads that stuck it.

P. Well look at John Cowie. He did a richt in the aircraft.

W. Oh aye. That wis jist the hard times you were gaen through.

P. Did ye ging in the mare modern motor boats Willie or did ye.....?

W. I've been in a different kina anes bar this big anes that is noo. I hivna been on them. I dinna ken them. Fin I read their names in the paper landin or hear aboot them I says fa's that boat or far did he cam oot o'.

P. Was the Rely or the Frugality the first motor boat that Tappie built?

W. The Rely.

P. The Rely wis first ane. She hid a roon starn?

W. Aye. Ye see. Div ye mine on her?

P. Aye.

W. She through the lad oot that wis on the fore stem fin she gied doon she bumpet doon. He gied richt ower the stem.

P. No I dinna mine on that.

W. No. He wisna hurt.

P. Did he land in the water?

W. Aye. After she gied doon she struck the water. She hid a bit o' weep aff the walls. Mine fin she gied aff the walls it struck the water. That wis the time she gied the bump. Through him oot ower.

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P. Bit the Frugality wid hae been the last Zulu type boat that wis bigget? She hid a Zulu starn. She hid an ootside roter.

W. Aye that's richt. I canna mine muckle on the Frugie. It wis aye the Frugie that we eeist tae ca her. But Georgie 'Gyke' wis skipper o' her ye see afore Jim hid her.

P. Och aye I can mine that. I can mine fin Georgie wis skipper.

W. They hid the Culard Bank the drifter. Div ye mine on her?

P. Yes BCK 144.

W. An then Jim Bruce an them got her after that. Fin they got the Frugie see they sellt the Culard.

P. Did Georgie Gyke see the writing on the wall for the drifters that he gied in for the Frugie?

W. Possible.

P. He must have seen't.

W. Fin they were workin the balins there, the lads that were worken the balens were makin a good thing o' it.

P. That's the seine net?

W. Aye. No they werena the seine net.

P. The drift net?

W. The codlin nets that gied ontae the seiner net then. An this auld lads that wis good at worken the balins jist the land mast. Workin the land afore radar an a modern gadgets. They worked the land.

P. Different bearings fae the land?

W. Aye thats right. Oh that Transcend. I wis wi Jock, he wis good at that.

P. That wis the first motor boat?

W. Aye.

P. Nae the drifter?

W. No, no. The drifter Transcend wis afore that.

P. Aye she wis a standard?

W. Aye bit afore that time at a the first Transcend eeist tae rin coal.

P. Oh far fae Buckie like?

W. No. Three or four of them eeist tae dei that. They were converted intae coal boats. A they hid wis the bittie cabin an a' thing wis cut oot for coal.

P. A the lines were tane oot?

W. Aye. A hale team howl. They eeist tae rin fae Blythe or Methil an cam richt up an intae Finechty. Well they supplied a Joe Campbell an them wi coal.

P. An fa owned that drifters at that time? The skippers?

W. Aye that wis Jockie's father's that ye see that hid that Transcend. His father and his breether. Noo his brother got fed up gaen tae sea. Ye maybe see him knockin about in Buckie noo an he gied awa sooth tae London I think he brung up at, an he got a job as a pilot in London I think an he worket his wie intae a good job. He wis the Boss ower a the port there.

P. Fit wis his name?

W. I forget.

P. Wis it Flett?

W. Aye, Flett wis his ane name.

P. That's nae Peter Flett that wis heed Salvage Officer ower the whole

W. Aye that's fa it is. It's him. Well that's far he started fae.

P. He started wi the River Police first.

W. Aye doon there. He worket himsell intae a that jobs himsell. He packet up gaen wi his breether on the Transcend and gied awa himsell.

P. I suppose a lot of the men gied awa tae Aberdeen trawlin fin the fishing.....

W. An awfa lot gied tae Aberdeen. An a awfa lot gied tae coasten. It wis ae the coasten I liked best. Aberdeen you werena sure o' yoursell. If ye cam in wi a bad trip ye see if the skipper got the sack the whole crew got the sack.

P. There wis no mercy?

W. No, no.

P. It's a job that's mare steady at the sailin?

W. Aye that's richt. Well it wis ye're ane job.

P. I mine my father gied a winter or twa in the Ashdean. Mine the Ashdean the coal boat?

W. Aye well that's coasten an a ye see. Coasten wis fine. I liket the coasten.

P. Did ye ever come intae Buckie fin ye wis coasten?

W. Och aye. I mine ance we took a cargo of something fae the distillers here.

P. Aye that wid have been barley.

W. Barley wid it? Well we took it fae Goole. We cam fae Goole, came up tae Buckie wi it and we gied fae here up tae Invergordon wi it. Fit did we get in Invergordon? Scrap. Scrap I think we landed in Invergordon and gied back tae Grangemouth and then gied tae..... We eeist tae ca intae different ports. There wis ae a cargo for you. We finished up wi a cargo o' scrap again in London. We landed it in, my memory is poor Peter.

P. Wis it doon the river or up the river?

W. Up the river. I forget the name of the bit but that's far we finished wi the scrap. That wis sent tae Germany tae mak shells tae be sent back an fire against us.

P. Tae kill the rest of us. Thank you very much Willie for putten us through it.

W. Well ye see there's an awfa lot of bits you forget at the fishing.

P. It comes tae ye're mind later on.

W. Ye think aboot it later on. My father eeist tae tell me an awfa lot aboot the auld boats. He wis sayin that eh. Div ye mine Punnims? Well Punnims my father's auldest breether.

P. Is that right? Oh an Gash. Gash bed next door tae us.

W. Aye, well Gash wis the neesht ane.

P. The hid the Lebanon.

W. Aye. Punnims finished up wi the Lebanon, but he eeist tae gang in the Mary Reid.

P. Did he?

W. Aye. He hid the Mary Reid a good while. Bit my father
wist tae tell me fin they were, he could jist mine on it and
Punnims wis new started the sea, an they hid been workin doon
at Orkneys and they were. I didna ken if she wis sunk or they
were washed oot ower her, they lost the boat onywi and they
made up tae a farm hoosie and they hid jist the clathes they
stood in. Punnims wis the sma'st ane of the lot an the wifie
took pitie on him and gave him, she hid nae loons hersell, it
wis a quines frock in a'thing she gave him.

P. He hid been gie embarassed.

W. He came hame wi that. He hidna nae clathes.

P. Hid he nae.