

ORAL HISTORY 2013-27 SIDE A

Harold "Pete" Hurd

Elizabeth Baker, interviewer

September 15, 2001

Washington

Elizabeth Baker introduces Pete Hurd. She said they were looking at a book about ships during WWII. She reads a section in the book that mentions Pete Hurd and other men. The ship was torpedoed at night. They escaped on lifeboats. Pete talked about the rescue. There were twenty-three people in his lifeboat. He talked about where their ship was located. Pete Hurd talked about his military career in the Coast Guard. He traveled up to Barrow in 1938. They stopped at St. Michaels and every village all the way up to Barrow. They brought up the bronze plaque for the Will Rogers monument. Elizabeth said they saw the monument. Pete said they went to Frisco on the Northland and then they were taken off that ship. He was on the Coast Guard Cutter Duayne. They went up to Nome and Nunivak Island as well as Dutch Harbor. Then they went to the east coast through the canal. He was located in Boston for the remainder of his service. He talked about learning about Pearl Harbor. He was then a merchant marine during the war years. [talking in the background] He talked about the Navy Admiral King who killed a lot of merchant marines by his actions. He talks about his Coast Guard certificate for merchant marine. Elizabeth reads the certificate. They discuss different positions on a merchant ship. [talking in the background] He was made a veteran in later years because of his service during WWII. Pete said the merchant marine lost more people during WWII except for the marines. He was declared missing in action for five days. They drifted in a lifeboat until they landed on St. Thomas. Discussion of veteran's benefits again. He quit being a merchant marine in 1947 or 8. He then worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska. He ran a boat for four years. He talked about going on shore on the Pribilofs. [talking in the background] They collected flippers and took them up to Pt. Hope. They also shot a walrus and brought it ashore. He worked in the Cook Inlet area. He was the skipper of a boat with a crew of five. His crew did fishing closures and enforced regulations. They caught people with illegal net sets. They checked escapement of sockeye. They would pick up people in the fall on the way back to Seattle. The Penguin made trips to the Pribilof. He would go as a mate on the Penguin in February to the Pribilofs when the regular crew was off. He worked with the Fish and Wildlife for four years until the 1950s. He talked about shooting a bear. He then worked with the game department for the state of Washington. He worked for them for eight years. He then built boats. He joined the shipwright's union. He talked about the different boats he built. His father also built boats. He worked in a shipyard in Seattle. He established his corporation twenty years ago when he retired. He talked about his retirement with the union. He talked about enjoying building the hull and the cabin of the boats. They talk about another relative. Elizabeth asked about his family. Pete talked about his paternal grandmother, May Hurd Chapman. She was married to Emory Chapman. Her first husband was Bill Hurd. Elizabeth talks about relatives. Pete talks about his uncle, Lawrence Hurd. Pete said his paternal grandparents had four

children, three boys and one girl. Pete describes the small house he grew up in. They cooked and heated with wood.

---