

Narator: Peter Nielsen

Date: September 16, 1981

Interviewer: Isabel Ingram

Place: Nielsen Home,  
Homer, Alaska

I. I just wanted to ask you a few questions about the fishing industry, mainly on the herring over in Halibut Cove. We went on a trip over there.

P. You made a trip over there?

I. Uh huh. And we interviewed a few people over there. And we were just interested in some of the details on the herring industry from over there. Around when was the boom, the big part?

P. Oh, between 20 and 30.

I. 1920, and 1930?

P. No, between then, that was the main part of it. Then it kind of died down, the herring didn't come back, they cleaned them out, in the 30's.

I. I see. I understand that Halibut Cove was like Homer is in the summer, a really big, it just boomed in the summer.

P. Oh yeah. Oh, Halibut Cove?

I. Uh huh.

P. Not so much in the summer, but in the late summer and, oh, out to about the first of the year.

I. Uh huh.

P. Then it kind of died down 'till the next year.

I. So the herring is more,

P. Just 3 months every year.

I. In the winter time?

P. October, November, December, yeah. August, oh in September and October, and November, and December. About 3 or 4 months.

I. Uh huh. There was alot of canneries over there?

P. Oh, there must've been at least a dozen, several big ones and the rest of them just 2 or 3 men.

I. I see. Was the people that fished over there, were they all local, or were they from outside also?

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P. Oh, there were alot of them from outside.

I. Alot of them?

P. Yeah, they come up just for that long.

I. Was there alot of competition between them?

P. No, no there's, didn't seem to be. No, they didn't have no  
                    (?) for anything in them days. When it came time to fish  
they'd go out.

I. Yeah, was it hard to fish during the winter, like it gets stormy  
and stuff?

P. No, these fish was all in, like out in Halibut Cove lagoon, inside.  
The only outside fish during the herring season was on the outside  
along Galcier Spit and some of the bays, Autumn bay(?). We seined  
for them, and gill netted and.

I. And this was all herring?

P. Just herring when we,-----(?)

I. Was there much Salmon fishing then?

P. Not that much, not like it is now.

I. Uh huh.

P. All trap fishing, <sup>hardly any gill netters,</sup> ~~hardly any seiners.~~ That didn't come 'till  
from 40 and then on, 1940 and on.

I. Uh huh. Well what, oh I guess they fished it out and then, do you  
know what happened to all the buildings that were over there?

P. Oh, some of them they sold, tore them down and sold them. Were you  
over there?

I. Uh huh.

P. Did you notice on the, a bunch of pilings there on the, just before  
you went into the lagoon on the right, left-hand side going into  
the bay? The biggest saltery was there.

I. Oh.

P. Yeah, Buyers was the name of the outfit.

I. So, do you think they're fishing out the bay now? The Kachemak  
Bay?

P. Hm?

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I. Do you think they're fishing out Kachemak Bay?

P. If there is any fish?

I. Well, are they fishing it out?

P. No, not for that, I don't think. No, they have a quota, isn't that what that's called, just a few every year. I don't think they'll fish it out like they did.

I. Yeah.

P. Over there they just kept on fishing day and night.

I. Did the canneries keep working year-round or did they.....

P. No, just that time only, just about 4 months in a year.

I. I see.

P. They quit right after moose season.

I. Uh huh.

P. -----(?)

I. Now it's the opposite, a summer job (?)

P. Huh?

I. Now it's the opposite.

P. Yeah, it is.

I. Were there many residents in Halibut Cove at that time?

P. Yeah, not as much as the ones that are over there, has to do with making a living on the herring. There's quite a few of the residents that used to own some of the salteries. \_\_\_\_\_(?)