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Transcript of The Ocean Becomes a Part of You

Paul A. Hanneman

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Title: Transcript of The Ocean Becomes a Part of You

Storyteller: Paul Hanneman

Interviewers: Casee Clark and Brenda DeVore Marshall

Interview Date: 2011-07-28

Collection: *Launching through the Surf: The Dory Fleet of Pacific City*

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Transcriber: Mary Beth Jones, Kathleen Spring

PAUL HANNEMAN: My name is Paul Hanneman. 1948.¹

It was the first of the summer I guess. And just around the corner from where we lived, Victor² and Alice Learned were converting, um, something that was a chicken house or something and they were, moving from across the river over to build their place next door. And Victor had a Model A with the 16-inch tires on it, and a, a really old plank boat³ that came from somewhere in the '30s, I think, and there's a picture of it, um, with an inscription in a, in the book, and that's the first boat I fished in. I think it was only about 19 feet long, I don't think it was 20. Uh, but uh, I was down at the dock with all of these river boats we had, and down there doing something in the morning and, uh Victor drove in with the Model A, and uh, in the driveway, so I went up to see what h—he wanted, I barely knew him. And uh, uh, he said that he couldn't go fishin' because uh, all of his regular guys that he fished with couldn't go that morning, and it was gettin' late and the wind was gonna come up and he wanted to go, and he wondered if I wanted to go. And, Dad didn't know what to think about it, and Mom was absolutely opposed too because I'd never been on the ocean before.

And with my head down bailing most of the time⁴, um, I didn't feel very good, but I didn't get sick. And so the next time then, uh it didn't bother me and—he thought I was adequate. His—it's, he's just a real nice guy.

[Laughter] And so, he asked me to go quite a few times with him. And a, guy by the name of Haskin⁵, where the County Park⁶ is at Woods now, here on this side, had a house there and, so between the two of them, um, I got to go quite a few times during the summer.

Uh, one of your questions on the excitement of the first trip. Can't describe it. I was so excited. I just couldn't believe it. I, I was gonna get to go in the ocean. Dad had never been out either. He, uh he only was here from 1945 to 1956 when—'55 when he had his stroke—uh and died in '57. So, um, Mom and I kinda made our own way, but—they were over 50 years old when we moved here and to the blackberry patch [Pause] with, with kind of a, afterthought child. [Laughs]

BRENDA DEVORE MARSHALL: So it's—

PAUL: [Overlapping] I guess, if—if there's any time exciting in my life, it would be that first trip. The ocean becomes—and the rivers—I was a, a guide for 30 years off and on on the rivers too mixed in with all this other stuff—uh, becomes a part of you. And uh—the good and the bad. The bad days when you don't catch fish, and the bad days when the weather's terrible, and the bad days when you're running bad oceans and—uh and the good, flat days when, maybe you'd—back then anyway—take a cassette recorder and play music on the boat and not care if you catch fish or not. Go to Cape Lookout and sit in the sun, and, and uh watch the, the birds, and come back with the wind. It's a part of you that always will be

there and, the, the feel of the ocean and, and understanding the water, and what to do and what not to do and, hopefully where there's fish where other people are not thinking about the same place. [Laughs]

NOTES:

¹Paul Hanneman began dory fishing in 1948.

²Victor Learned, Jr.

³A spruce-planked double-ender named *Shittles Skonk* (spelling according to Alice Learned)

⁴Paul's job was to row the forward oars in the surf and bail water.

⁵Dale Haskin

⁶The park is now named the Woods County Campground/Park. It is part of the Tillamook County Park Department system.