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Transcript of The Blimp Encounter

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Title: The Blimp Encounter

Storyteller: Allan Jensen

Interviewer: Casee Clark

Interview Date: 2011-07-21

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

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Transcribers: Casee Clark, Andrea Snyder

ALLAN JENSEN: Allan Jensen. Well, I fished here in Pacific City first time with my dad¹, I think it was 1942.

The war days, they had a Coast Guard station here, and they patrolled the coast see they, walked the beaches and, had a lookout shack up on top of the cape. We was all uh, what's the word, blackout, all the windows had to be, and no lights could be visible. Every morning when we'd go out we'd, have to stop by the Coast Guard station, and there was a uh, a little piece of shelving it was about a one-by-twelve maybe four or five foot long, and painted a bright color, orange or whatever it was and—. And that board was to lay a certain way in the front of the boat because we had the uh, Navy had the blimps up at Tillamook blimp base, and they patrolled during the day with the blimps along the coastline here for submarines, supposedly, and—. And if the board isn't laying in the position that is given for that day, then he come down and wants to know who the heck you are. One day we was out there fishing and, my dad and I, and I had crawled up in the boat, up in the bow to take a nap and, I had inadvertently moved this board from its designated position. And when I woke up the blimp was right, right there, with a, foghorn affair, and he's yellin' at us, and dad

realized it right away, and [In his dad's voice] "Get that damn board straightened around!"

But that was, that was things that happened in them days, yeah. Well, that was all through the war years, they, uh, well when the war ended, then, uh. They moved the Coast Guard out, the Coast Guard used to live, was the, in the hotel, which that building has been long since tore down.

NOTES:

¹Pete Jensen