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Transcript of My Father's Heroics

Sidney Fisher

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Title: My Father's Heroics

Storyteller: Sidney Fisher

Interviewer: Stephanie Raso, Casee Clark, Brenda DeVore Marshall

Interview Date: 2011-06-16

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

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Transcribers: Casee Clark, Andrea Snyder

SIDNEY FISHER: Sidney Edward Fisher. My dad¹ took me out the first time when I was—five years old. So that would have been what, let's see, '36.

My dad, when he was fishin'—he started when he was 16, so just, overgrown kid. And, they would, when they got done fishin' they'd take all their gear out of the boats, and then they'd play with their dories in the surf, usin' 'em like a surfboard.

And then, this time I'm talkin' 'bout now I was out there and I was in Northwest slop comin' over the side quite a bit as I was runnin' back and my bailers, in the back of the boat got plugged up so I had four, five inches of water back there, which added quite a bit of weight and—. Previous to that time I'd always, kinda, let a wave slide out from under—under me and get in a little ways, and then I'd just, gun 'er and, kinda get up on top of the wave about the time I hit the beach so I could go up quite a ways. So I started following this wave in and all of a sudden I realized that I couldn't keep up with it, so I, gonna slow down a little bit and get the next one, and, the only thing wrong was the next one it caught me. Started shovin' me. And I was goin'—it, and, then it—motor—[Clears throat] I mean, the front, front of the boat bit into the waves so that I turned par—and I was just

running parallel to the beach. Ready, y'know, it was ready to throw me over. But my dad grabbed a hold of the gunnels, and just threw all his weight right over the side. He said his face was right in the foam. And that weight of his pushed the boat around straightened out and I got back on—I got onto the beach. That was the year that I changed from a 35- to a 50-horse, too. [Laughter] But if he hadn't—if he hadn't a played like that when he was younger and knew what to do, I'd a rolled.

NOTES:

¹ Walt Fisher