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Transcript of Origins of the Ukranian Fleet

Albert Knopf

Noel Knopf

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Title: Origins of the Ukranian Fleet¹

Storyteller: Noel Knopf and Albert Knopf

Interviewer: Chris Forrer

Interview Date: 2011-07-11

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

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Transcribers: Casee Clark, Andrea Snyder

NOEL KNOPF: I'm Noel Edward Knopf.

ALBERT KNOPF: I'm Albert Lanier Knopf.

NOEL: Well we all started the same year. Uh, it was 1969. Ben, and Mike Tadeshi, Ben Neely and Mike Tadeshi, had bought the, the old original boat.

ALBERT: It was called the, it was—

NOEL: *Dirty Wog*.

BOTH OVERLAPPING: No, the *Bloody Wog*.

ALBERT: The *Bloody Wog*. They came up their senior year, and we put a new bottom on that boat. And, uh, and it was one of, one of our high school mate's father that came up to visit and coined, coined the uh, the term Ukranian Fleet.

NOEL: We were walkin' up the slope. We hadn't gone fishin' that day, and he, he said, "You guys gotta have a name." And he says, "I know a good name. You're the Ukranian Fleet." So we became the Ukranian Fleet. Well,

Ukraine is, is a land-locked country. So the Ukranian Fleet would just be a bunch of dories. I guess.

ALBERT: Without an ocean.

NOEL: Without an ocean. And, and that, maybe the Caspian Sea.

ALBERT: And, and that's part of the humor, in that—um, do we really fit?

NOEL: Yeah.

ALBERT: Do we belong? [Laughs, overlapping under Noel]

NOEL: Do we belong here?

ALBERT: And of course, our, our artist in residence, uh, Jim Enemark, uh, took that to uh, to, to, putting our logo together, which happens to be a turkey vulture perched on a broken oar. So we even had little sails—or little uh, little uh, flags made up, uh smaller versions that we flew on our, on our, our V—our UHF antennas, our CB antennas, and—and, uh, like I said earlier, we had up to seven, seven boats, for a couple years, and then people started filtering off and, and then, and then, then, but the core group has, has stuck around and commercial fished uh into the '80s.

NOTES:

¹ Although Ukrainian is the accepted spelling, the flags created by the fleet used the spelling Ukranian.