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Launching through the Surf Traveling Exhibit Panel 16: Yamhill County Connections

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Launching through the Surf: The Dory Fleet of Pacific City

Mike Dussin from McMinnville began commercial fishing in 1971. His current dory is the Native Son. He often fishes with boat friend, commercial doryman, Kenneth (Ken) Finnbald from Amity. Ken, who began dory fishing in 1976, is an avid high school sports fan and named his current dory Warrior Pride in honor of the Amity teams.

Noel Knopf, born in McMinnville in 1954. His sons fished with him and now sons Bob in fishing with his family. Steve Macy, originally from McMinnville, began dory fishing in the late 1950s. In 1967 he and his wife Marlene purchased the PC Trailer Court and moved their family to Pacific City. In 1972 they opened the Kiwi Trailers, which became a Pacific City institution. All of the children fished and/or worked at the fish company. It’s a Lark.

Gary Smith, originally from McMinnville, began dory fishing in the 1950s. He and his wife Teresa now live in Pacific City in a house on McMinnville Ridge built by Frank Wortman. He is a great-nephew of Bernard McPhillips. Gary’s dory was the Tugger II.

Three-year-old Rusty Best, a fifth-generation dory fisher lived in McMinnville. He is Rusty Best’s elementary school friend and next door neighbor. He grew up fishing with best friend, commercial doryman, Jack Hogevoll of McMinnville. Jack named his dory Warrior Pride in honor of the Amity teams.

In honor of the Amity teams, Mike Cellers of McMinnville began dory fishing with his grandfather, Al Cellers, in 1958. A pharmacist, Mike named his dory Remedy. Mike Cellers from McMinnville began dory fishing with his son, Mike Dixon.

Paul Hammarman from Pacific City began dory fishing in 1948. His dory, which he built in 1960, is the Kirschke clipper. From 1963-1970 he served in the Oregon House of Representatives. His district encompassed part of Yamhill County, including Sheridan, part of Williamsia, Carlton, Yamhill, and Gaston. He still serves as co-chair of the PC Dorymen’s Association.

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