

# Launching through the Surf: The Interview and Transcription Process

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# History of the Project

- Project began in Summer 2011 and is still in progress
- A collaborative project involving both academic programs in the Department of Theatre and Communication Arts, Linfield's Nicholson Library, the Linfield Center for the Northwest, the Pacific City Arts Association, and the Pacific City Dorymen's Association
- Summer 2012 team consisted of 5 faculty members and 7 students

# Project Overview

- The project involves collecting oral histories, through the process of both formal and on-the-spot interviews, from individuals associated with the Pacific City Dory Fleet.
- The results of the research culminated in an original multimedia theatrical script and production, digital archives, scholarly papers and poster sessions, a traveling exhibit, and a visual art exhibit.

# Project Responsibility

- My main responsibilities for this student-faculty collaborative research project included:
  - Interviewing
  - Transcribing stories for written documentation to accompany audio stories

# Preparing for the Interview On-site

- **Initial Introductions and Release forms**
  - Creating a common ground and connection among the interviewees and myself.
    - Usually entailed small talk and introductions pre-interview and audio recording.
  - Completion of release forms
- **Preparation for Audio/Video Recording**
  - Selecting the proper location and angle for video and audio accuracy, as well as miking the interviewees for clear recordings of their spoken words, avoiding “outside” noise.

# Interview Locations

- Interviews took place in a variety of locations:
  - Homes (Living Rooms, Kitchens, Porches, etc)
  - Beaches (Cape Kiwanda)
  - Events (Dory Days, Blessing of the Fleet)
  - Boat Houses (Garages, Sheds, Yards, etc.)
- The variety of locations required flexibility, adaptation, on-the-spot thinking, and the ability to respond and react to outside distractions, influences, and noises.

# The Interview

- Interviewees ranged from 9-91 years of age.
- Each interviewee had been in some way associated or involved with dory fishing or the Pacific City community.
- Interviews ranged anywhere from 1 hour to 4 hours in length of time.
- Interviews were done voluntarily by the interviewees.

# Interview: Formal vs. On-The-Spot

- Both formal and impromptu interviews were conducted.
- Formal interviews were typically scheduled, sit-down, lengthy discussions.
- On-the-spot, impromptu interviews were briefer and typically took place on the beach or during Pacific City/dory fishing community events.
  - 80 individuals have completed formal interviews.
  - 60 individuals have completed on-the-spot interviews.

# Interview Questions

- Questions originated from a variety of conversational/storytelling approaches. These included the following categories:
  - General Interviewee/Dory Information
  - Traditions/Community
  - Celebrations
  - Dory Stories
  - Challenges

# Editing the Audio: Creating Stories

- After each interview was completed, the audio was then edited into small 2-5 minute stories taken from the original interview.
  - Edited stories included highlights from the interview which we as researchers deemed relevant to the dory fishing community.
- Stories include topics of a marriage ceremony on a dory, first time dory adventures, and encounters with strange sea life.

# Transcribing the Stories

- I transcribed the stories using *Express Scribe* software.
- Transcribing a single 3-minute story took at least an hour.
- Each audio story that has been uploaded to the DigitalCommons@Linfield is accompanied by a transcript allowing for a clear understanding and interpretation of the interviewee's words and purpose.

# Using the Transcripts

- Transcripts were used in the original, fictional theatre production, *Kicking Sand and Telling Lies*, involving an additional 2 faculty members and 53 students.
- All of the archival materials are available for future research and for those interested in exploring the history of the Dory Fleet.