

Launching through the Surf: The Dory Fleet of Pacific City

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Creative Projects Symposium

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A Dory Boat



Photo by: Tyrone Marshall

Project Overview and Significance

- The project involves collecting oral histories from individuals associated with the Pacific City Dory Fleet. The results of the research will culminate in an original multimedia theatrical script and production, digital archives, scholarly papers and poster sessions, a traveling exhibit, and a visual art exhibit.
- This project provides a chance for Linfield faculty members and students to document and interpret an important way of life and a cultural treasure unique to the Oregon coast.

Summer 2011 Team Members

- Brenda DeVore Marshall
- Tyrone Marshall
- Jackson Miller
- Kathleen Spring
- Casee Clark
- Stephanie Raso
- Caitlyn Olson
- Christopher Forrer

Collaborative Groups

- This is a collaborative project involving the following groups:
 - Linfield College Department of Theatre and Communication Arts
 - Jereld R. Nicholson Library
 - The Linfield Center for the Northwest
 - Keck Community-Engaged Research to Classroom Program
 - Pacific City Dorymen's Association (non-profit)
 - Pacific City Arts Association (non-profit)

Background Information:

- Pacific City is a small town located centrally on the Oregon coast.
- Dorymen have launched their boats from the cape located in the city, Cape Kiwanda, since the early 1900's.
- Although dory fishing has changed over time it has remained a major part of the community in the lives of both residents and tourists.

Method

- This is an oral history project.
- This method involves:
 - Collecting the stories and historical information from the interviewees.
 - Discovering the unique cultural experiences of the interviewees.
 - Uncovering the salient communication patterns.
 - Understanding the challenges faced by the dorymen and women.

Research Questions:

- Some of the questions have focused on developing an understanding of the dory community:
 - What traditions exist within the dory fleet?
 - How has the dory fleet changed over time?
 - How do people learn to operate dories?
 - What are some challenges faced by dorymen and the dory community?
 - What are some experiences that relate to dory fishing that have been memorable?

Final Products to Date:

- The summer 2011 project team collected oral histories from 55 dorymen and women resulting in more than 100 hours each of video and audio footage, with selected material edited and uploaded to the Linfield DigitalCommons.
 - 40 full interviews; 15 mini or “on-the-spot interviews” collected during Dory Days.
- Over 1,000 primary sources, such as photos and newspaper clippings have been scanned and are ready for processing for the DigitalCommons Archives.
- 23 individual stories have been uploaded to the DigitalCommons.
- One scholarly paper has been presented at the 2012 Northwest Communication Association conference.

Regional Recognition

- The collection of the oral histories, which began in June 2011, has energized many of the 500 members of the Pacific City Dorymen's Association and area citizens and attracted regional attention.
 - Was featured in *Oregon Humanities Magazine* (Winter 2011).
 - An upcoming episode of Oregon Public Broadcasting's *Oregon Field Guide* (November 2012).
 - In the fall of 2012, the archives will be promoted in the McMinnville and Pacific City theatrical performances of *Launching Through the Surf: The Dory Fleet of Pacific City*.

Sources:

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