

Tony O Farrell

Corbally

16th May 2017

Ruth: am, this is the 16th May with Tony Farrell, am, in Corbally near Larkins Cross. now, thanks
Tony. ok, so, am, you were a fisherman, so was it?

Tony: that's right, I was (unclear) all through my life all my family like

Ruth: ok

Tony: we, had am, I don't know about four or five generations I'd say or maybe more, as far back as I
can go anyway. we were from a place called Crosby Row, which is in the parish

Ruth: ya

Tony: you know where the Civic Buildings are built now

Ruth: yep

Tony: that, we lived there, alongside the river.

Ruth: ok

Tony: and we had our own little sort of how would you say, harbour there if you want to call it, we
called it a soy yard,

Ruth: soy? S-O-Y is it?

Tony: ah ah, the soy yard I think that's what they called it like

Ruth: ok

Tony: ah, is this on now it is?

Ruth: it is oh ya.

Tony: and am, the situation was that ah, we fished out of it for years like, but back years before like
you know, was, there was a great vibrant community there as regards fishing

Ruth: ok

Tony: right, they they fished all the year round, ah, they made their own nets, their own ropes, ah,
their own boats

Ruth: ok

Tony: one of the boats is out there at the moment I have it upside down out there

Ruth: ok interesting

Tony: they were called gandalows, and am, they, it was the O'Farrell's that fished in that area there like you know, I I don't recall anyone else that fished that from that area you know, from Crosby Row, but there was a whole lot of other fishermen that fished with the Farrells if you understand me,

Ruth: ok

Tony: the Farrell's were the boat owners and that like, but it was, the crews like you know,

Ruth: ok

Tony: ah,

Ruth: how, so you...

Tony: ...this was down river now do you understand

Ruth: ok

Tony: it was down toward the estuary, down towards ah, the mouth like of the Shannon, though it didn't go quite as far like but that's the way, we were called the lower fishermen,

Ruth: ok

Tony: ah, there is another couple of books that's have been wrote about the Abbey fishermen but they were, further up, they were up river. And ah,

Ruth: so, you got involved because, you were saying four generations, so,

Tony: ya we all fished like you know

Ruth: ya

Tony: as kids and that and everything

Ruth: so that's how you got into it

Tony: I got into it but, I went a little step further like,

Ruth: ok

Tony: I had my own trawlers

Ruth: right

Tony: and I had ah, two trawlers actually, I also am, I studied in Green Castle for my skipper's ticket which I did

Ruth: oh my god ok

Tony: and am,

Ruth: where's Green Castle, sorry, Tony?

Tony: Green Castle there, there's a fishing college in Green Castle, ah,

Ruth: where is that?

Tony: ah, BIM, had it like, which is Bord Iascaigh Mhara you know, their, their, Irish Board Customs, they're not doing too much now with the, since we joined the EEC like,

Ruth: ok

Tony: but anyway, but getting back to the the the the fishermen in Limerick like at the time which you fished with the nets like for a living like you fished for salmon mainly right

Ruth; ok

Tony; and, there was a Strand fisherman which were the people who were across the river, over by St. Munchin's,

Ruth: right

Tony: Church, along that area there, and we were on the other so we were on the south side,

Ruth: ok

Tony: right, and the thing about the, we were called the 'townies' that's what they called us when we used to fish you know

Ruth: ok

3.20mins Tony: and with the townies, there would be four output engines (unclear, it may say it was before output engines) and all that craic, we used to carry two, two fourteen-foot oars and ah and ah, a pair of paddles which were nine foot each,

Ruth: oh my god

Tony: and a sail. And, the reason, the townies fished a lot more of the rivers than any of the Coonagh guys or or the county men because they were all living alongside the river, do you understand,

Ruth: right

Tony: they could come out and go back in for their tea like you know what I mean

Ruth: ya

Tony: but when we left on the top of the tide, we had to fish down the whole way and wait for the tide to come back up again, to come back, so we had to fish, ah, more extensively and ah, a longer area than the rest of them do you get me

Ruth: I do ya

Tony: you see the Coonagh guy could come out like, they only fish one small area and they could go back in and hop in and out because they live alongside it there you see

Ruth: ok

Tony: but we had to go all the way down like you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: and come back up with the tide,

Ruth: so how far down would you be going?

Tony; well we went from am, there is an area there called the `stent light' it's a stent light it's called (?), that's where we started, everyone had to start fishing for salmon there. you couldn't, it was illegal to fish above that east of that

Ruth: ok

Tony: so, it was called a stent light, but ah, we, you go down as far as Ringmoylan,

Ruth: oh ya

Tony: particularly in the salmon season we always fished on the south side, on the salmon, they would be the spring fish,

Ruth: the salmon would be?

Tony: ya,

Ruth: ok

Tony: and ah, then when the summer fish would come like which were the pale they are called, grillsc is their proper name for them,

Ruth: what is it, grills?

Tony: Grillsc, G-R-I-L-L-S-C, grillsc, they are a summer run of ah salmon

Ruth: ok

Tony: then we fished the north side and we you know, ah, but as I said like the ah ah ah ah the guys from town like you know, there was two, there was a family, we were the Farrell's on that side and there was a family over then, in the, on the Strand, there was am, am, three families over there, one was the Doran's,

Ruth: ya

Tony: ah, and the other one was the King's, and the other family was ah, Tobin's. and they all fished, and you know they all lived on that side, but we all fished the same stretch of water like you know

Ruth: ya ok. and am, Tony, you were saying there that you used to make your own nets, ropes and boats?

Tony: that's right

Ruth: so, am how would you go about that and what would you have needed to make nets and all that?

Tony: oh, we had our own wheels for them, I still have the wheels in the workshop, I have a workshop in town like you know

Ruth: have you, ok

Tony: I have, where ah, where I made a few boats already

Ruth: right ok

Tony: and, it was a wheel like you know, that we had to spin the the the the yarn with it like, you know and we had what do you call it, top, you went through it with a top like, and it it it it formed a rope as you went along like you know

Ruth: right

Tony: but am, its, the women used to make the nets

Ruth: ok

6.30mins Tony: ah, there was one famous one, my grandmother used to make nets,

Ruth: did she, what was her name?

Tony: Annie, Annie, ah, Annie Farrell was her name or Annie O'Farrell, and ah, there was another lady, another lady, Cusack was her name, she she made nets up in Nicholas Street, which was just up the top of of just up from the,

Ruth: ya?

Tony: where we lived, and am, they only thing we bought was corks,

Ruth: ok, what were the corks for?

Tony: the corks were for floating the nets

Ruth: oh ya

Tony: you know the top of the nets

Ruth: ok

Tony: and am,

Ruth: and so, you mad your own, they were the ropes, and you made the nets, and for boats then?

Tony: the boats ya

Ruth: and you made all this in your workshop?

Tony: yes, well not in the workshop I have now, but there was a workshop we had originally down by the civic buildings,

Ruth: ok

Tony: the remains of it is still there actually

Ruth: is it,

Tony: ya

Ruth: where about is it?

Tony: its ah, it's out

Ruth: ya...

Tony: in the yard of the civic buildings

Ruth: ok,

Tony: you know, you go out

Ruth: that's where it was right there?

Tony: ya ya

Ruth: ok, and did you make, you obviously made boats for, lots, for Limerick and everything?

Tony: ya ya,

Ruth: very good ok

Tony: there was two boats builders, two main boat builders, one was the O'Farrell's and the other one was the Doran's

Ruth: ok

Tony: the Doran's built them across the other side of the river like you know

Ruth: right

Tony: but they were the two main, ah,

Ruth: and this was full time for you obviously was it Tony?

Tony: well it was full time in in for for me for me it wasn't like you know, we had ah, when I was on about, we were, we started fishing in the 50s,

Ruth: ok

Tony: and ammm, by that time then you, they used to fish, for flat fish as well during the during the the winter,

Ruth: ok

Tony: and this would go right up for Christmas, and they used to sell the flat fish, the women used to sell the flat, they were called fluke or flounder,

Ruth: ya I heard of those ones

Tony: ah they used to sell them, in Nicholas Street, there used to be a market there on Nicholas Street, two and three times a week like you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: but when the fifties came along like you know that's when it died off you know

Ruth: the fifties it started dying down?

Tony; no, it's ah, the winter fishing started dying off

Ruth: sorry ok

Tony: so, I I left I wanted to go out full time, so I went, that's when I went on the trawlers

8.48mins Ruth: ok, and what did you do with the trawlers then

Tony: well I was trawling like you know at at sea

Ruth: ya

Tony: and ah, then as I said I went for my skipper's ticket, and ah, I bought my own trawler in ah, the 70s, the first one,

Ruth: and where would you go trawling, sorry?

Tony: I trawled the lower Shannon

Ruth: ok (unclear)

Tony: ya down by

Ruth: that was in the 1970s right

Tony: ya

Ruth: you started in the Shannon, ok

Tony: ah, that would be around ah, 72/73,

Ruth: ok

Tony: I did that for four years anyway, after that then I sold her,

Ruth: ya

Tony: I sold the boat and I went back trawling at ah, in the winter time like you know

Ruth: uh ha

Tony: ah, I went back trawling on the, at sea, and then in the 80s I opened a fish shop

Ruth: ok

Tony chuckles

Tony: ah, Arvode Seafoods it was called

Ruth: what is it?

Tony: Arvode, A-R-V-O-D-E, Arvode Seafoods,

Ruth: ok

Tony: and ah, that was ah, then went for, a good couple of years, it was it was directly opposite the Franciscan Church actually, in Limerick

Ruth: ok

Tony: in Henry Street, and ah, and then we diversified, we started cooking it

Ruth: unreal, ok

Tony: so I opened a seafood bar there

Ruth: you did not, did you?

Tony: um, and, it was ah, very popular, dress crab and all that kind of carry on

Ruth: and what was the name of that place?

Tony: ah, that was Arvode,

Ruth: Arvode sorry

Tony: but then, when when we diversified, we opened a ah ah ah a chipper, a fish and chipper there and and it was called the Lobster Pot

Ruth laughs

Ruth: oooh ya

Tony Chuckles

Ruth: that's very good

Tony; so ah, that went for a good many years like you know

Ruth; ok

Tony: that went, we were nearly there, we were in that premises for nearly 30 years you know,

Ruth: 30 years, and am, were you still fishing...

Tony: I was ya

Ruth: ...the whole time, ok,

Tony: ya

Ruth: so, you caught all the fish I'm assuming for these

Tony: well not all the fish like but most of the fish, you couldn't keep, catch all of it like you know

Ruth: right ok

Tony: sometimes you get a certain species of fish, that you would, you'd sell to the the local fish mongers

Ruth: uh hmmm

Tony: and that like you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: but I was landing into ah, I was fishing out of Carrigaholt, which is the, on the Shannon,

Ruth: ya

Tony: the lower Shannon, and I was, I was landing in there to the Co-op,

Ruth: ok

Tony: ah well the co-op is gone now like you know

Ruth: is it

Tony: ya, the fishing sort of, well the EEC made a complete, hames of the whole lot

Ruth: what happened there Tony tell me what happened that

11.15mins Tony: well, when when they joined the EEC sure they gave 75% of the fishing of of of the west coast away,

Ruth: right

Tony: and that's happening this very day now like you know, they, we don't own it anymore like you know,

Ruth: ok....so...

Tony: it's the EEC like,

Ruth: ya

Tony: that that were, were so called Europeans now, but they gave it away, just

Ruth: so is it your, your, do you think the fishing declined here in Ireland because of that

Tony: oh, there's no doubt in my mind now

Ruth; ya ok

Tony: because we weren't allowed to catch, we were only allowed 25% of it like you know

Ruth: right ok

Tony: and, I got out then like, I sold the, my last trawler, I sold that and,

Ruth: ok

Tony: you could say, semi-retired after that

Ruth: right, ok. do you think so that that's the main reason that fishing declined here, doesn't, can you think of anything else that may have led to the decline here?

Tony: ya but then, then recently like you know, they they took ah, they took all the fishing rights away from the fishermen on the river,

Ruth: what do you mean by that?

Tony: they took, you're not allowed to fish for salmon on the river anymore,

Ruth: is that for conservation or?

Tony: ya well, they said it was like you know, it didn't seem to make much difference like you know,

Ruth; ya

Tony: they are off it now about 15, 15 years,

Ruth: are they?

Tony: oh, we were, we were told that was it. I think the biggest compensation it was, that was handed out was about 13,000 or something like that

Ruth: ok

Tony: 13,000 like!!!

Ruth: that's nothing, sure it's not

Tony: crazy. didn't make any much difference anyway so,

Ruth; and

Tony: that killed it entirely then

Ruth: oh god it would do ya, and people then looking for work, am, Tony, was is the salmon, what is the fishing season?

Tony: well the fishing season used to, when we used to fish for salmon like that would be the Spring fish, that would start on the 1st February,

Ruth: Salmon, so, Spring Fish, 1st Feb ya

Tony: and that would go on then up to around we'd say ah ah be Spring fish coming around maybe April, up to the end of April,

Ruth: ok

Tony: and then from about the middle of May on, you start, the summer run would come on, which would be the grillsc,

Ruth: ok

Tony: and that finished then on the 19th July, we had to come off the river then on the 19th July, that was it

Ruth: ok

Tony: you weren't allowed to fish anymore

Ruth: ok

Tony: but am,

Ruth: and there was nothing then in the winter time?

Tony: no, there was nothing in the winter time, that's why I went, I, I, I went trawling in the winter time

Ruth: ok and you went down the Shannon then further down

Tony: ya, I don't think anyone else did it, in in in the fishing community that we were in like you know

Ruth: right

Tony: I don't think anyone else, ah, went to sea like,

Ruth: ya

Tony: in order words fished the winter you know

Ruth: right

Tony: it was, it was a part-time job then like you know, and they always had a bit of, they'd have work like you, and they'd go working for the winter and that and then their holidays they would go down and fish for salmon

Ruth: ok

Tony: that's where they went as far as like you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: they was no real full-time fisherman there like

Ruth: right

Tony: apart from myself I think

Ruth: ok, and how long were you gone for on the trawlers when you used to go

Tony: ah, how far

Ruth: it'd hardly be a day would it

Tony: oh no, I fish, we fish for, out, out of ah, Castletown where we fish for tuna,

Ruth: right

Tony: and we, it was ah, 550 miles southwest of the Fastnet and, off of the Azores, you heard of the Azores

Ruth: um

Tony: ah about 100 miles west of the Azores, we fished on the gulf stream,

Ruth: oh my god ok

Tony: ummm, we were am, five days steaming down there, two days fishing, and five days steaming back,

Ruth: ok, so you were gone awhile,

Tony: ah, we used to get 2000 tuna, and then we come back, unload them and head back down again like you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: ummm

Ruth: and where was the tuna going Tony

Tony: am, mainly to Spain,

Ruth: ok

Tony: ya,

Ruth: so, it was all export?

Tony: we landed, we didn't land in Spain, we landed in back in Castletownbere, through the co-op, and then the co-op exported them to Spain like you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: ya, and John West got a lot of them as well I'd say

Ruth: ya, ya

Tony laughs

15.33mins Ruth: and am, what were the rules and regulations for fishing Tony, you mentioned there you were restricted from the 19th July so

Tony: 19th July it stopped

Ruth: right

Tony: you weren't allowed to fish then until the following February,

Ruth: right ok

Tony: and ah

Ruth: what happened, how, who'd who'd be there to catch you or how would you

Tony: oh, there would be bailiffs on the river like you know

Ruth: right and how often would they be up and down

Tony: oh, they'd be up and down quite regularly,

Ruth: ok

Tony: they would be checking the length of your net as well, you were only allowed 200 yards,

Ruth: right

Tony: but we used to carry a tail, what we call, a tail,

Ruth: ok

Tony: that would be about another maybe 100 yards, maybe 50 or 60 yards, and when they would be around then we just tie it onto the end then and we'd be fishing more

Ruth: ya, ya ya ya

Tony: cover more ground like

Ruth: and what kind of fishing did you do

Tony: that was for ah, salmon,

Ruth: that, and, was there a name for this time of fishing

Tony: ya drifting

Ruth: just drift, drift fishing

Tony: drift netting ya, umm

Ruth: and what would happen then if the bailiff, would you get fined or,

Tony: oh, you would ya,

Ruth: can you remember what they were, the fines?

Tony: well the fines were, I was fined once around a fiver or something like that

Ruth: oh, so small

Tony: I was caught, ya,

Ruth: right ok

Tony: well it, it wasn't too small in the 50s like

Ruth: in the 50s, right ok

Tony laughs

Tony: ya

16.56mins Ruth: ok, and what were you doing Tony that would got caught, or do you want to say

Tony: I was poaching, on, down by the, by the dock, too near the *chuckles*

Ruth: do you want, is that ok

Tony: oh, ya sure that's all gone now anyway

Ruth: ya it is ya ya but still ya. right ok, and am, for licences Tony, what had you to do to get a licence? how did you go about that?

Tony: the licences were in the family down through the,

Ruth: right

Tony: through the, through the you know, but you had to apply for a licence every year

Ruth: ok

Tony: you know, that was the

Ruth: each family had to?

Tony: ya,

Ruth: and then could anyone in that family fish with that licence?

Tony: yes, you could fish with that licence ya

Ruth: ok, so how did you get one

Tony: but only one boat fished for that licence you know

Ruth: right

Tony: but you could, you could have different crews fishing it all,

Ruth: I get you

Tony: 24 hours you know

Ruth: and how would you go about getting one of those licences

Tony: well, as I said like, it was a tradition in our family,

Ruth: uh hum

Tony: we are going back into the 1800s they were issued like

Ruth: ok

Tony: and ah, they, it was just handed down from father to son that type of thing do you know what I mean

Ruth: ya

Tony: ya,

Ruth: and did you have to apply anywhere, or pay for the licence

Tony: you had you had to apply to the ESB,

*Ruth: right

Tony: it was the ESB that issued the licence ya

Ruth: and did they cost much money?

Tony: ah I don't know, was it around at the time was it about 12, 14 quid, around that time you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: it went up in later years like you know but

Ruth: oh, ya ya

Tony: but that's what we used to pay around that time

Ruth: right ok

Tony: which was around am, '70s you know

Ruth: ya

Tony: in the '60s or '70s

Ruth: ok, and, were there many women involved?

Tony: ah, not really, there was no women like involved, on the, well not, there was one guy actually who lived on the on an island down there called Greene's Island,

Ruth: ok

Tony: and he was ah, he had an aunt, he lived with an aunt there, and her name was Mary Greene, she was the only woman that I knew of that fished,

Ruth: right

Tony: and she used to fish with him like you know,

Ruth: ok

Tony: but it was very hard work like you know

Ruth: sounds like it, well when you were saying about the oars and stuff that sounds like tough...

Tony: so am, women did a lot of work like ashore like, they, sold fish, and they, mad nets and, you know

Ruth: ya (writing) ok, ammm, and, with making the boats Tony, how did you go about doing that? where did you source...

Tony: well we made the boats too, just, there was timber that used to come into the dock, there was ah, timber boats there were called, and it was ah, there was ah, (rustling in background) ah, white deal it was called but he was down Archangel,

Ruth: right

Tony: in in Russia, used to come in, McMahons used to bring it in

Ruth: oh ya, ya, timber

Tony: the timber merchants, and am, we'd go down and pick out the planks like, for it, so we had like you know

Ruth: right and what kind of timber did you say that would be?

Tony: ah, white deal, or spruce.

Ruth: ok

Tony: ya,

Ruth: ya

Tony: and ah, we got them cut it like, to the size we want and then we shape them ourselves like you know, and make the boat

Ruth: ok, cut to size, right (writing) and how would you go about making the boat then, I just saw one outside the window, am, how would you go about making,

Tony: well that boat there now, that's a currach Ruth: right

Tony: that one, that's a Currach design, I built that, but, it was a friend of mine we built both, two of them actually, he has one and I have the other one

Ruth: right

Tony: but I have a boat here which is the gandalow (gets up)

Ruth: ok

movement

Tony: that type of boat,

Ruth: oh my god, ok

Tony: ya, that was ah

Ruth: and you made that?

Tony: ya I made that one ya

Ruth: how do you but how? how would you make that?

Tony: well you do the floor first,

Ruth: right

Tony: and then you build up the sides,

Ruth: right

Tony: and then you put in ribs into it and that you know

Ruth: ya

Tony: and build it like know

Ruth: and how long would one of them take to make?

Tony: ah you'd make that in about maybe, if you were, well if you were working away, nor-normally you'd make it in about, you'd have it on the water in about, 5 or 6 weeks (sitting down again)

Ruth: right ok

Tony: and you'd have it ready for fishing you know

Ruth: and are they all painted different colours Tony, was there a different

Tony: no,

Ruth: no

Tony: they are all that type of battleship grey

Ruth: ya

Tony: and black

Ruth: right ok

Tony: usually like you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: that boat is called a gandalow

Ruth: ya

Tony: and ah, they they were the main boats that were, I, I tried to get into history about that boats and I tried to, study it like you know, where, how did they originated on the river, you see that boat can go on mud and there's a lot of mud on the river and they can slide on the mud

Ruth: right

Tony: you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: and I put it back to the, back as far as the Vikings, that boat,

Ruth: do you?

Tony: oh, that's no doubt in my mind, I think

Ruth: why do you think that

Tony: they, they built it, well, it was a utility boat for them that they built for the for the Shannon, see when they came up the Shannon originally, they founded Limerick you know that didn't you?

Ruth: ya

Tony: the Vikings, but when they came up originally like you know, well the tide went out, and they had keel bottom boats, in order words they had a keel underneath

Ruth: ya

Tony: and they get stuck in the mud

Ruth: understandably

Tony: and sure, all the guys ashore like, would be picking them off like you know

Ruth: right

Tony: because, because they couldn't jump out, like, it wasn't like that, like, when they when they arrived in places like Waterford and Dublin they could jump out onto the sand,

Ruth: and that was, ya

Tony: and they could run along it, but when I go, jump out in on the river in the, they go up to there in mud like

Ruth: ya, ok

Tony: so, I reckon they built that boat as a, for the Shannon, because ah,

Ruth: to make it easier

Tony: the, the Shannon was the only means, when they came up from the mouth of the Shannon they travelled up like you know, I mean they sacked Clonmacnoise, which is well up, the Shannon, but those boats they had like you know they could pick them up

Ruth: ok

Tony: and bring them across the field

Ruth: right

Tony: and go on to the next lot, you know where there are all these differently lough and falls like you know

Ruth: right ok, that's a good theory ya

Tony: so, oh this is my theory

Ruth: ya, but it's good

Tony: ya

Ruth: and they're not too heavy, are they? or how big are these Tony, these boats?

Tony: well, that boat now is 21 foot,

Ruth: right

Tony: but ah ah ah, the three-man boat, which is a three-man boat, was which was used, the townies used it the three-man boat and the reason they did was because they were travelling so far, you know, they fished a longer stretch than anyone else in the river

Ruth: right

Tony: and ah, they would be 23 feet,

Ruth: 23 feet ok

Tony: 23 feet ya,

Ruth: and the 21 foot one, this one, is a two-person boat?

Tony: well, the 18 foot ones were built after, 20 foot, well, 21 foot is kind of in the middle like you know

Ruth: right

Tony: but normally 18foots were were built after for two man to fish

Ruth: for two men

Tony; ya

Ruth: and most...

Tony: that was with an output engine then you see,

Ruth: say that again

Tony: we had output engines then,

Ruth: oh ok

Tony: so, you could, so you could ah, travel down, you could travel home further, you could go a lot further like, we didn't have, need a sail or you didn't need too big oars to pull, you know

Ruth: ya ok

Tony: so, you used to fish too men, instead of three,

Ruth: and when did the engine come in, sorry all the questions?

Tony: the engines came in around the late '50s

Ruth: late '50s, ok

Tony: first engines used were an engine called in the Seagull

Ruth: ok

Tony: ummmm, then after that, the Johnsons, American ones came in and that like you know

Ruth: right, ok and ammm, ammm, before that then you'd put on the sail then or whatever and obviously, would you be going with the tide then you'd work it with the tide?

Tony: you'd have to go down with the tide

Ruth: ya?

Tony: so, when you're coming home then like you know you might get your, what you call your high water, around Coonagh

Ruth: right

Tony: well when there is a good breeze of wind like you'd have a sail, they would only sail with a fair wind, in other words with the wind behind them

Ruth: ya

Tony: they don't tack like a normal, you can't, because they they are a flat bottom you see

Ruth: right

Tony: and a skidder, so so there is no keel,

Ruth: ya

Tony: so, you can't tackle them, so you have to have a wind behind you with them

Ruth: right ok

Tony: course if you had a wind coming down from Limerick you were snookered, I could *laughs*

Ruth laughs

Ruth: that's very good

Tony: ya, you had to pull up then,

Ruth: oh, very good

Tony: but the outboard engines done away with all the sail like

Ruth: ya

Tony: you just put on your outboard engine and you could

Ruth: and that's it then

Tony: either ah, no matter what way the tide went then

Ruth: and would they go into very deep water then, these, they would be fine, but you wouldn't take them too far out to sea, would you?

Tony: no no we wouldn't go to sea with that boat like

Ruth: just up and down...

25.52mins Tony: that boat now is designed for sea because it's a Currach,

Ruth: right ok

Tony: the blue one

Ruth: right

Tony: am, I do a lot of fishing, sea fishing with her actually,

Ruth: do you

Tony: I do ya,

Ruth; ok

Tony; ummm

Ruth: and you can go out by yourself in that and?

Tony: ya well I, I, always one person with you like

Ruth: ya, ya

Tony: never, go out on your own, it's too dangerous

Ruth: ya,

Tony: no matter what kind of a boat you have

Ruth: ya, ok

Tony: ya some people do like but I think it's, its

Ruth: not worth it

Tony: stupid, its stupid (unclear)

Ruth: ya if something happened god forbid, am, speaking of that, was there any accidents that you remember

Tony: oh, there was ya there was, there was one lad, a Coonagh lad, he went down, they went down the (unclear) fishing, Durty Nelly's, you know (mumbles) Durty Nelly's?

Ruth: ya I do ya a pub there

Tony: there was a guy called Roger (Porridge (?) Unclear) that owned that orig- originally, and he used to buy salmon,

Ruth: ok

Tony: he had a buyers licence and he used to sell the, I sold salmon to him as well, and he used to get, he used to use them, he used to smoke them, that's what he wanted them for, smoking like for the restaurant

Ruth; uh hum

Tony: you know, and and and, fresh as well, well these two lads went down one time, there was one lad I think his name was, Hickey was his name, that was his name actually and he, had a few drinks in Durty Nelly's and came out on the boat,

Ruth: right

Tony: and he was trying to start the engine and he fell out over the boat anyway and he got drowned,

Ruth: ok

Tony: there was one saved alright, the guy that was with him, called Munchin, and ah, that was the only accident, there were a very safe boat like you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: and a very safe for an est- for the estuary, because I never really remember anyone really am, that's the only, one, I can remember,

Ruth: ya

Tony: and I'm 30 years one the river now you know

Ruth: 30 years?!

Tony: ya

Ruth: ok

Tony: more than 30 years, what am I talking about, since the '50s, how long ago is that?

Ruth: oh god, over 30 years, over 50 years even

Tony laughs

Ruth laughs

Ruth: even 60

Tony: a long long time

Ruth: ok

Tony: but am,

Ruth: and you just made, sorry go on

Tony: there, that's the only accident I can remember of

Ruth: ok which is good, that's good, ya it's not many then

Tony: ya

Ruth: thank god, ammm, you just mentioned there a buyer's licence, was there many different types of licences Tony?

Tony: well a buyers licence,

Ruth: ya

Tony: well you had to have a buyers licence to buy fish, you see, you have to have one at the moment as well like

Ruth: right

Tony: if you want to,

Ruth: ok

Tony: you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: am,

Ruth: and what was your licence called did you say?

Tony: well the licence I had was am, I had a, a tonnage, it was tonnage for, the trawler you had, that was your licence you know

Ruth: right

Tony: you could only ah, you could, whatever capacity you could fish in other words, the bigger your trawler, the bigger tonnage you had like

Ruth: right

Tony: you could go out further, and fish more like you know, the last trawler I had was a 60-footer,

Ruth: right

Tony: and ah, there was a licence on her, you had it painted one your ah, painted on the side of the boat, G57 then L63 and all that carry on you know,

Ruth: right

Tony: so, they know who you are

Ruth: ok

Tony: do you know when you be out there fishing

Ruth: right

Tony: but am, but but a buyers licence is different, I think I think anyone can get a fish buyers licence if they want to ah, buy fish commercially

Ruth: ya

Tony: ah, you

Ruth: (unclear)

Tony: you applied, you applied to ah, BIM for it

Ruth: right

Tony: the Bord Iascaigh Mhara ya,

Ruth: and was there any other types of licences? if you wanted to go out in the gandalow, what kind of licence would you need?

Tony: well you ah, your fishing licence with that

Ruth: just the fishing licence

Tony: ya

Ruth: that's all it's called

Tony: ya, that was the one you fish with like with the nets,

Ruth: right ok

Tony: but you could (unclear) like you know,

Ruth: say again?

Tony: it it it was more of a chariot for us, for our family

Ruth: ya

Tony: we used to go off, when, when the fishing would be finished, we'd go off down for picnics down the river and everything else you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: you know

Ruth: and where would you go for picnics?

Tony: we'd go down to a place, Greene's Island, down to, that would be down the mouth, down by Bunratty,

Ruth: ok

Tony: there is another place called Kay Island and you know

Ruth: ya, and you used to go down on the boat

Tony: just go down on the boat,

Ruth: lovely

Tony: we did all our things on the boat and we'd often come up river on the boat as well

Ruth: ok

Tony: up to Thomas's Island which is not too, it's only, you can see it from here actually from my house now

Ruth: ya

Tony: across there. and ah

Ruth: ok

Tony: picnics again just for the summer you know

Ruth: ya that's that's for your family

Tony: ya ya

Ruth: and food on the boat when you used to go out before, if you were going out for a few days would it be, or, what did you do for food then?

Tony: oh, we carried it with us

Ruth: you carried it

Tony: ya we have what they call a grub box,

Ruth: right

Tony: ya, and we we used to have to carry fresh water as well

Ruth: oh ya

Tony: fresh water now, I have one, there is one of those there, see that (unclear) jars,

Ruth: what are we looking at?

rustling

Ruth: oh my god I remember those, ok

Tony: we used to carry fresh water

Ruth: what did you call it?

Tony: An Earthenware Jar

Ruth: earthenware

Tony: we used to carry the fresh water in that,

Ruth: ok, and how long did you say you would be gone for if you went out on the boat?

Tony: well, on the salmon like, we go up, the go down the tide and come back like, you'd be talking about a 12 hour, 12 hours like you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: but on the trawlers like you'd often be off for three or four days like

Ruth: be gone awhile

Tony: and as I said you'd be, ten days if you were fishing further down like, for tuna, but I was fishing another boat then like, t'wasn't my own boat like

Ruth: ok very good, am, and what kind of food would you take with you Tony, if you were

Tony: oh, the best of grub,

Ruth: ya

Tony: you'd have steak,

Ruth: would you?

Tony: oh, you would have the best of steak, and spuds and vegetables and all that craic, in the trawlers

Ruth: right

Tony: and you'd have fresh fish

Ruth: ya, oh ya ya

Tony: you know

Ruth: and if you went in the gandalow what would you have

Tony: oh, in the gandalow we'd only have a little grub box, we'd, we'd bring ah, a sandwiches and stuff like that you know,

Ruth: ya

Tony: the only thing we do is ah, we used to have what they call a fire bucket,

Ruth: right

31.51mins Tony: it was a bucket, with am, with holes punched in it like you know, like a grate,

Ruth: right

Tony: and then we fill the bucket with am, with earth, halfway, and when we light a fire on top of it, do you understand,

Ruth: right, ok

Tony: and I have our, and our kettle would be on that then, that's how we used to cook like you know with ah,

Ruth: that's very good isn't it

Tony: it was the best thing to have used because if you were bringing an old primus lamp or one, is a gas lamp, they keep blowing out in the wind like you know,

Ruth: right

Tony: but a fire bucket, used to get hotter with the, with the wind like blowing you know

Ruth: uh hum

Tony: and ah, that's what we used to have, the fire bucket

Ruth: that's really good, ok. and, am, am, had you nicknames or anything?

Tony: loads of nicknames

Ruth: ok

Tony: I could tell you we had one, I fish with a guy like, who, my father had my brother fishing with him, but I fished with two guys like you know,

Ruth: right

Tony: one was called Nowlers, Nolwers, we used to call him

Ruth: right

Tony: N-O-W-L-E-R-S, that's the only way I can say it

Ruth: Nowlers ya

Tony: ah, and his brother was ah, his name was Paddy Carroll, his brother's name, we, Storm, we called him,

Ruth: ok

Tony: because he was a real sea dog you know

Ruth: was he? *laughs*

Tony laughs

Tony: and he was in the first world war actually, he was in the Dardanelles, they were, you might have heard of it

Ruth: no, I haven't no

Tony: well that was am, Mr, Mr. Churchills the battle I call it, there in the first world war down in the, Gallipoli,

Ruth: ok

Tony: and ah, he he came out of Gardenias, they were, they were taking, they were like sitting ducks down there, but that's what we used to call him, auld Storm, you know

Ruth: right

Tony: and he had auld old sayings and that, then there was another crowd across the *chuckles* across on the, the, on the Strand side,

Ruth: ok

Tony: one guy was called Blackie Doran, that's what they called him, he used to build the boats, and they called his son Blackie after, when he went, when he died like you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: and then they was ah, there was a guy called ah, Timmy Tobin was his name, and they used to call him, the Dead Egg,

Ruth: oh god

laughing

Tony: so, ah,

Ruth: ya, and what was your nickname?

Tony: well I didn't have any nickname, they didn't give me any

Ruth: you didn't have one

Tony: no

Ruth: ok

Tony: the old timers had all these like,

Ruth: right

Tony: mind you if I did have a nickname they might have said it behind my back

Ruth and Tony laughing

Tony: you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: well, there was a name that I was called one time, I remember it, Brooks,

Ruth: right

Tony: Young Brooks, and the reason why that was, ah, I met, they used to be an old guy Tom Kane, he, he lived, he fished out of an, Mungret and I can remember we pulled up alongside it, you'd pull up alongside one another waiting for your drift like you know

Ruth; ummm

Tony: and, he said, he said to my father, I was fishing with my father at the time, and he said, I was only about 12, and he said is that Young Brooks, and I couldn't understand why he said that like

Ruth: ya

Tony: but, my great grandmothers name was Aggy Brooks,

Ruth: oh ya

Tony: and it was all handed down through word of mouth you know, and that's,

Ruth: that's, how you got it then

Tony: that's the name they gave me then Brooks,

Ruth: that's lovely though isn't it, a nice memory as well.

Tony: ya

Ruth: when you just say, you used to pull up beside you for drifting, how did you work that, how did ye?

Tony: you had different stations where you went and, when you went off that drift then, you could go, the next guy would go on like, do you understand what I mean,

Ruth: ya,

Tony: take it in turns, ya

35.29mins Ruth: and who allocated the stations to you?

Tony: well, they were just handed down like for years and years like

Ruth: ya?

Tony: you know you you you just follow the rules,

Ruth: (unclear)

Tony: because if you didn't follow the rules, everyone would be, fighting with one another you know what I mean

Ruth: ya, ok

Tony: because you see the fish were coming up all the time,

Ruth: right

Tony: and if you were too near a guy, you'd be catch the fish before it got to his net so you had to give enough of space you see,

Ruth: so, it was kind of respect as well,

Tony: ya it was ya

Ruth: and did you get people, that used to,

Tony: oh, you would of course

Ruth: ok

Tony; you would ya

Ruth: am, what used you wear Tony?

Tony: wear?

Ruth: ummm

Tony: well we would have oil skins like

Ruth: ice skins?

Tony: oil skins

Ruth: oil skins sorry

Tony: ya.

Ruth: ok

Tony; and rubber boots

Ruth: and that's all you'd need, is it?

Tony: that's all you need like

Ruth: and where would you get this, these stuff then,

Tony: the the oil skins?

Ruth: uh hum

Tony: oh, you'd buy them, in ah, you'd get them from the, locally, or you could get them from the manufacturers, or the nets, we bought nets after like you know, we we didn't, you know when the nylon nets came in

Ruth: ya

Tony: we got them from ah, from, the suppliers like, one crowd called Gundry, they were called

Ruth: right

Tony: we used to get the nets from them, and ah, you you could order oil skins from them or anything else you wanted like you know, and corks!

Ruth: oh, so it's, it's easy to come across them?

Tony: ya

Ruth: ya, ok, am, am, there was another lady that am, she wants to know had anyone ever of a Pollock?

Tony: A what

Ruth: as Pollock

Tony: A Pollock ya,

Ruth: ya

Tony: a Pollock is a sea fish,

Ruth: right,

Tony: ya

Ruth: but it's not like, oh its, sorry a pollan! a pollan

Tony: a pollan?

Ruth: ya, p-o-l-l-a-n, you hadn't heard or it no?

Tony: a pollan?

Ruth: ya

Tony: no

Ruth: no ok, she was trying to find out more about this particular fish but,

Tony: ya

Ruth: ya, so, some people heard of it others haven't

Tony: no no I never heard of a pollan like you know

Ruth: ok

Tony: but that might be, a local name for a type of fish, you know

Ruth: maybe ya

Tony: ya, because down in ah, Kinvara, they love Pollock, Pollock is a very ah, fish is very plentiful you know,

Ruth: right

Tony: but they don't call them Pollock,

Ruth: right

Tony; they call them bollock, 'b', that's right, and you know you wouldn't know what they would be on about like unless you see

Ruth: right, ya

Tony: and ah, maybe that's what, maybe, that might be some name she has for ah,

Ruth: for something

Tony; for ah, herring or a mackerel or something like you know

Ruth: right, Tony, thank you, ok I can't think of anything else to ask you,

Tony: pardon,

Ruth: I can't think of anything else to ask you

Tony laughs

Tony: well I mean as I said like the, you can always come back later on if you want to check anything

Ruth: ya thanks, that would be brilliant,

Tony: ya

Ruth: thanks very much for that

Tony: no problem

Ruth: ya and thanks

Tony: you have my number anyway

Ruth: I do, Tony

Tony: ya

Ruth: and thanks a million, ya, I'll stop these so

Tony: right

END