



**MORECAMBE BAY PARTNERSHIP
HEADLANDS TO HEADSPACE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
2015-2018**

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TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY

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INTERVIEW NO: H2H2016.20
 INTERVIEWEE NAME/S: Ken Calverley
 YEAR OF BIRTH: 1933
 INTERVIEWER/S: Mandy Bannon
 DATE OF INTERVIEW: 11/05/16
 LOCATION: Heysham
 SUMMARISER: Deborah Coleman

Track 1

00.00	Introductions. Kenneth Richard Calverley, born 8 June 1933 in Heysham [<i>wife Dorothy also present</i>]
00.40	Parents & grandparent's. Father, Richard, worked in 100 year old family coal delivery business. Mother, Elizabeth, took in visitors during summer season. Ken didn't know his grandparents. Story of paternal grandfather, a local councillor, who died after intervening in fight (hit over head by policeman)
02.38	Early memories. Grew up at 40 Middleton Road, Heysham, opposite the holiday camp (now houses). Heysham quiet little place full of retired people. New houses being built; the odd farm. Dad kept hens
03.30	Heysham Head in late 1930s. Could spent whole day there for threepence. Rabbits to feed; its own zoo with monkeys, birds, a big brown Russian bear. A fun palace with slot machines; slides, swings & a roundabout on the front; later there were marionettes – Pinky & Perky started out here. Dance floor & music. Packed with holidaymakers; closed in winter. V popular tea gardens serving fresh Lune salmon
08.00	Early married life. Met Dorothy at school, lost touch, eventually got married & moved to cottage at Sunderland Point they still have today. Worked at Heysham Golf Club, cycling to & fro & getting used to tides
10.30	Involvement with fishing [<i>nb transpires didn't work as fisherman</i>]. Mainly through son, also Kenneth, who from 10 or 11 used to go out shrimping with Tom Smith in the day & salmon fishing at night. Bought boat when son Ken got older & started shrimping himself
12.15	Shrimping. From bottom of river at Sunderland Point, low water after tide had turned. Beam trawl from back of boat, moving slowly down & pulling net in. Threw back crabs & flukes. Boiled shrimps in salt water on board over gas while still

	dragging. Came back when tide flooding, boiling last shrimps. Shrimping day say 8am to 2pm, best time September onwards. Could end up with 4 or 5 stone
16.15	Preparing & selling shrimps. Picked shrimps round big table at home after tea with friends & family, telling tales. Messy but fun: a good laugh. There's a knack to picking shrimps [<i>Dorothy demonstrates</i>]. Could sell at door on Sundays; £2 a pound [<i>lb.; weight</i>] - now around £30 per lb
19.00	Making a living. Son Ken served time as joiner then started fishing on his own, selling to Morecambe Trawlers, but couldn't make a living & went back to joinery. Other shrimpers fished for whitebait or salmon too
20.20	Salmon. Salmon season 1 March to end of August; couldn't fish between 6am on Saturday & 6am Monday. Needed long nets. Ken [<i>interviewee</i>] tried salmon fishing once or twice but just sitting & waiting – always something to do if you're shrimping
23.00	Story about lending friend Philip Smith spare gas canister to boil shrimps
24.20	Heysham Harbour, 1961 - 1993. Ken worked at Heysham Harbour for 33 years, at first on dredgers. Tales of gales. Harbour belonged to British Rail, then Sealink, then American company who turned out to be asset strippers (sold off IoM boat), then Peel Ports. Nightly services to Belfast: mail boats, cargo boats (bringing cattle from N Ireland), containers
32.00	Co-operation between Bay users. Everyone watched out for one another; Morecambe Trawlers used to give dredger crew fish; dredgers gave them coal
33.00	Later jobs at Harbour. When dredgers finished Ken worked at power house (electrics), looking after cranes, boats, lights at end of jetty which always went out on worst nights, anything. Mail boats finished in 1970s; Ken moved to workshops, fitting out boats. Involved trips to Belfast during Troubles to work on engines & then Isle of Man. Busy IoM service, taking tourists to & fro
38.00	Wartime. When war broke out in 1939, Heysham holiday camp closed abruptly & all the holidaymakers had to go home – buses came to collect them. Then bus after bus of soldiers arrived, looking knocked [<i>or mucked?</i>] up – Ken realised later they'd come from Dunkirk. One had German hat. Army took over Middleton holiday camp too. Ken worked there for a couple of years in the early 1960s; remembers ballroom burning down
41.30	Fishing characters. Philip Smith: likeable, tale teller, gave lectures at Lancaster University; Tom Smith; Harold & Tom Gardner; Jim Braid (nickname: Turpin).
44.00	Weather & rescues. Weather can switch very quickly. Various tales of rescues from tides, including Ken rescuing 2 lads, father & dog trapped in car on road [<i>and later – at 100.12 Tom Smith rescues man trapped in invalid car – false leg comes off</i>]
47.30	Names & types of local boats. 'Peggy': pilot boat, ex lifeboat. 'Walrus'. 'Sirius': a Whammel [<i>spelling checked!</i>] boat for salmon – no engine, rowed or sailed. Older fishermen like Dorothy's father never had engines, always sailed. Whammel boats made at Overton, boatyard opposite 'Ship' pub. 'Sue', yacht owned by Manzies / Menzies (?) family (big red brick house on Sunderland Point), also built at Overton – finished in 1919, no work on it allowed during WW1
50.50	Ken's own boats. 'Girl Mandy', bought from Philip Smith, wooden, built at Fleetwood, painted white, nice looking, now rotting in a field at Sunderland Point. 'William Arnold', fibreglass, built at Overton, fitted out by son. Ken liked working with boats & engines, but getting older, doesn't do anything with boats any more, and his son is more of a motorbike man now. Dorothy's family were all fishermen, but either dead or not involved with fishing now
56.15	Sunderland Point. Not the same now; all cars; only Margaret & Trevor (Owen) (age 70) still fishing there. Ken & Dorothy had some grand times. Used to clean shore, collect rubbish & have bonfires – now it gets taken away. When Morecambe cabbies had landaus they used to put horses on Sunderland Point. Scariest tide on 10 Nov 1977 – 50 years after last big one [<i>Dorothy tells story</i>]. Tides often put incomers off Sunderland Point, but one regular visitor calls it Paradise Island .
01.16	Thanks & close

Track 2

00.00	Ken is asked to describe 2 photos of fishermen with nets at Sunderland Point
00.23	Photo 1. William & Arnold Townley, 'stealing / steeling (?) on': fastening nets on to ropes with floats & lead weights at the bottom ready for fishing. Fishermen would knit the nets in winter at home from cotton string [<i>more below</i>]. Interviewer remarks on length of nets - up to men's chests. Ken explains they're 2-300 yards long, for salmon fishing – whammel nets for whammel boats [<i>see at 47.30, above</i>]. The whole long net would go over the boat & float down river
03.02	Photo 2. Three men packing nets away for the weekend – would have been hanging on posts to dry on the Friday, ready for the boats on Monday morning. Because they're cotton they'd have rotted if just left – all nylon now. The cotton came from a shop in Lancaster – like a ball of string, very fine. All fishermen made their own nets individually, or brothers would work together. Women never made nets.