

About this time we went over with the Hazel Myra(?). There came a boat off and load her with two masts, and it was rough, very rough, it blowed hard. It was too rough to load a boat. But they wanted it. They wanted it. They said "Load her up." Well we hitched her fast with all the best of the lines. We had lines that would tear a boat to pieces, four inch ropes, that kind of brand new ropes, and we loaded and we loaded and the first thing one fella jumped down and he said, "I think she's going down, ain't she?" She used to crak like a gun alongside, the big new vessel. She was built out here at Boehner's. And as he came up he says, "Yes, she's sinkin'. See if we can get some of it out quick," and we started in all hands. We hove out and hove out and hove out till we put a half of it out and then down she goes, on the water. Well, we couldn't do anything but cut a line and let her go down there. She lay about five fathom on our vessel, and our vessel used to roll on top of her and our vessel started cracking like a gun and we wasn't goin' to have our vessel sunk too, so we chopped things off with a big butcher knife and left her go. Well the three men that was aboard of us they had a whole week. They had no place to sleep. We gave some of our blankets. We only had enough for ourselves, you can think. We don't carry a big load for somebody else. So we gave them what we could, coats, and they laid around on the floor and put in the whole week, and then they - I always used to get them to tell me yarns about ashore and how it was and how they'd get along with this and that with the boats. They used to say, "Look, we ain't used to this. We're used to being ashore robbin' trains getting our money that way. This is no way for us to make money. We ain't - we won't come no more. You'll never see us no more."

"Well," I says, "what do you steal? What do you go at the most?"

"Well," he says, "we got three hundred fur coats now. If you want one," he says, "we'll send it off to you, next boat comes."

I says, "Yes, good God, send me off two. Two or three."

"Well," he says, "we will. The next boat comes we'll send them," and I believe they would have sent them but two days after that we left and they didn't get off. No boat come, but I believe they would have sent them because they wasn't lyin' when they was talkin'. They was pretty nice fellas to talk to you know. They was dead scared of their life aboard this vessel because I guess they thought I guess that we was worse than them. I don't know. Perhaps they thought that we was rough fellas too and wouldn't care for nobody. All guns. No boats came without these guns and they used to watch you. Their eyes went like this back and forth across the water. They'd watch you like you was goin' to tie them up. We used to tell them, my gosh, we ain't people that's goin' to kill somebody. When they left they shook hands. They said, "Now I'm telling you. We got three hundred fur coats stole and put in places that I'm going to send you three of, for sure," and he looked and the captain and he said, "And I'm going to send you some too if you want them," and Scott(?) said, "Yes, send me one too." I says three is too many. "All right," he says, "I'll send you one. They cost up to eight hundred dollars. You can have one."

Question: How did they get on the ship that was sunk?

They came off with a boat full of rope. She sank down underneath the boat. She went down underneath our vessel. A great big boat it was.

Question: They came out to get the load, did they?

They sent in and told them to come out and get these men. There won't be a load comin', so they went off and we went home. I guess we'd have got the fur coats all right.

Question: Did you ever get caught?

No, only once; only once, and that time we cut the line in the night, and got clear. They was towin' us. It was blowin' hard that night, a gale of wind. One of our fellas went up with a wood ax and chopped off their line, an eight inch rope. It was somethin' like a hawser. Almost as thick as our cable; that we call a cable you know, it's a big rope that thick. It takes two three men to handle it from here to our float there. He went there and cut it and it was wavin' and blowin', you couldn't see nothin' and that fellow might have went perhaps four or five mile before he found out if we was in the stern. The minute we had the ? cut up it was on sails and away we went up right of f down to leeward. He did come back. He came back the same way that he left us but we wasn't there. We was way down to leeward where we went, with sails on.

Question: Didn't they put anyone on your vessel to watch you?

No, no, they had no one aboard.

Question: Why did they do that?

I don't know. This time they didn't, but they do do that. They did do it down here with Lawrence Mason. They put two men aboard him to watch him, but I guess they thought we was on one of them sailing vessels. You can't get out of the way with a sailing vessel. If we'd have had an engine vessel why I guess they would have put it but I guess they thought they had us like a spider with a fly. They thought "them fellas is easy." We never seen them. We went a hundred miles that night, till next morning. It blowed a gale of wind and we had them big mainsails on, that it's six hundred yards in a mainsail - more I guess, must be nine hundred, a thousand yards in it.

I went to sea for forty years. Forty years I spent at sea.

Question: Were you sorry to give up rum running,

Oh, I wasn't much struck on it, and at the last of it, it got pretty tight at the last of it. Oh yes, they got after you pretty tight. The last time that I was at it the cutter caught us off of New York - off of Boston this was, right of f Boston. We was in so that we could see the houses. A north easter blowed us in so that we couldn't get - we was frightened to steam to windward - couldn't make no headway. We had to go to windard, and we couldn't do it. It was a north-east gale of wind, right dead against us, and it was blowin' fearful for Boston Bay. Anyhow that evening the wind kind of died out, and we got of f a little ways, but we was in some blows I'm tellin' you that we could see the hotels. We could pick the hotels out. There was a fella with us and he used to say "Them is the hotels, the big high buildings, you know." Here and there was one, and we got out that evening and the first thing here was the cutter come. He run right in us. He had no lights up, and he spied us with a spy glass in the night and he - well, he had us. So we had to come down home. He followed us down past Cape Sable here. We came down past Lockeport, right down here to Liverpool, down further, we came in past here to the Cape and we came in past Ironbound on the one side. See, they come in the eastern side here to come in to Riverport. When we went in the western side came down. There's only water enough there to - you can go in and out, but anyhow this fella wouldn't trust it - he bok cold feet,

and we went inside Ironbound, and he thought we was goin' in River port, and we came there and laid there in behind, and we used to watch out and every now and then we'd start a boat lookin', and first thing we see them go up along the shore towards Liverpool and away he went, and we out too. Two hours after that we started goin', it got kinda dark, we started goin' after them and we went over and unloaded our load next day. The next night we unloaded our load in Boston Bay. We followed them back. The next night they said, "Stand by and you'll see a boat come off, a scallop dragger. It's comin' off about forty or fifty, and you'll see, one of them is goin' to come to you and give the booze to him." Nothin' like that came aboard of us before. So that afternoon about four o'clock here come the boats. I'm tellin' you it was about fifty or sixty come and they went right past us, not one stopped and they kept goin' out to sea. We was - we couldn't see no land, and first thing I see another one come and I sez, "This must be the one," and sure enough, it was the one. He had a rake hanging up, and this was goin' back and forward past the spars. You could see that it was no fella goin' -

Question: Had what hanging up?

The rake where they used to rake scallops. Yea, and it was goin' back and forth, this rake, and I sez, "That fella ain't goin' out to do nothin'. He's comin' here and he went over round us and he come round us and alongside and he says, "I'm here for the booze."

"All right, come." And he come there and he had two men. A big boat it was, and he put it aboard, and we had one of the hardest jobs to get out to all them boats that night. Oh my oh my oh my I don't know how many. I think they still came. We unloaded the boat, they went in and they unloaded the boat. There was nothing to it. They went out scraped scallops, next morning they went in with a bunch and unloaded the stuff and they told us the yarn next time they came off and the same as the scallop racket, they said there was nothin' to it. That night they took it off in cars right to Boston.

So that 's the way they used to pull it, but they was smart fellas that was at it I'm tellin' you. They didn't notice nothin', they didn't care for nothin'. They'd shoot you as quick as lightning if you'd do 'em anything I'm tellin' you. When a boat came alongside and a man said anything it wasn't long before out went the revolver out of your pocket, and said he didn't want to hear nothin'. And when a boat come alongside you, you'd have to get your revolvers out, like this, and hold them in front of you.

Question: What year was your last trip?

Oh that was the last year the rum running was.

There was no more rum running after that.

Question: About 1935?

I can't remember that. I couldn't tell that.

Question: About how many years did the rum running last?

They was at it a couple of years. They was at it a lot of years.

Question: Yes, it was longer than that, wasn't it,

It must have been - I don't know - they was ten years at that racket.

Question: It was fifteen, wasn't it?

I believe, because here in Lunenburg my, them vessels used to come in loaded for years and years and years.

Question: Did the men here say that there's no luck in liquor?

Oh I often heard that. They'd say liquor money was no good, but I know people that made it that's got plenty yet. That's thirty years ago. Not thirty years, but ever since it was runnin' and they got it still.

Question: So you don't believe that old saying.

No, it's just that whoever kep it had it, and whoever didn't keep it, well he didn't. He couldn't very well have it if he spent it. But it was people wise enough to keep it.

Question: As a wife being home, did you used to get terribly nervous when your husband was away? (addressed to wife)

Well I never was used to anything else, because ever since I was married he went away.

Question: Yes, but that was away fishing, but I suppose that was dangerous too.

It didn't seem much different. When they went fishing they were gone for three months at a time, weren't you, in the summer, yes. Trips were from one month to two months to three months, so this was about the same. We didn't know much difference.

Question: You didn't feel it was any more dangerous than going on a fishing trip,

Well, I don't believe I did. Perhaps I didn't know as much about it as what I've heard to-night.

Question: What's that (addressed to rum runner)

There was a French, a little French vessel came here to Lunenburg one year, and sold it right in the harbour. He went right in the dock and sold it, too. And there was a man who was supposed, you know, to be watching them things right here in Lunenburg, and this fella, this Frenchman, came in one night to the dock, down into Harry Adam's(?) dock and tied up to the end and he had the best kind of stuff on board, brandy and all that kind of stuff. Right from France he was. The best kind that you could pick out. Well, us fellas, we was only young fellas them times, twenty-five, twenty-four. We didn't notice nothin' them times ourselves. So we had a brand new motor boat. I went in town and this time my brother was with us again. I guess that fella was always with me. So anyhow we went there, and Frank Misener was there, and he says, "Steve, you ought to get a keg." He didn't have no kegs that I had seen. He said we ought to get a keg of brandy. "Yes," I said, "I'll take a keg along. I wonder how much it is." "Why," he said, "you can buy it for ten dollars a keg." "Why," I said, "I wonder how much is in?" "Ten gallons," he said. "Well," I said, "I'll take one myself. It's chust what I want, a keg of that brandy, now. There are fellas that make a good go of that; sell that."

So we tied alongside the boat. I was in the dock with the boat, so we went out and where the vessel was tied right in the end of the wharf like that up and down the harbour. So we had a small - tied her up just with a small piece of rope, you know, what we call a moorin', only ten feet. This boat that we had was a big long new boat about 30 ft. long and a brand new engine and everything in her; brand new everything. So I says to the fella, I says,

"How about a keg?"

"Sure," he says, "all you want" he says. Well, we said we'd all take one. Frank Misener was there, and Gordon and I and we said we'd take three. He said, "Get three." So this fella went for to get a keg. I said to get mine quick. "Brandy I want. I don't know what the rest of them asked for. Whisky, I think Frank wants whisky." Frank Misener, Capt. Frank Misener in town here. He's no captain no more, but he's workin' at Smith's now. So they went down aft for theirs. He went far out by the chain lock. I'll never forget it, this fella, for mine. And he come with it, big ten gallon keg. It was about this long, I guess, round. I says, "Let it come" and I grabbed it in my arms and I put it in the boat and I - they was in the boat, them fellas waiting for the other fellas - I says, "Look out for yourselves, boys." I grabbed the edge to me and I flew over and away the boat goes full speed ahead and the lines gave off and away I went and the keg. Frank Misener says, "My God, why do you do that for?" he says. I says, "Didn't you see the customs fella up there at the end of the wharf there lookin', comin' for me?" He says, "No." I says, "I ain't goin' to be caught for a couple of kegs of stuff," I said. "We go back again by and by. He'll forget 'em." Well I kep her goin'. I went down to Rouse's(?) Brook there and I put Frank Misener off and Gordon. I says, "You fellas get off and I'll take this home and I'll come back again" and I brought it over here, down here where I live, and I got a place down here, you know down here on Corkum's Island, and we had fish on the flakes, and I took it up and I put it on the fish flake and I put a piece of canvas on like a fish heap - you know, like the rest of 'em, and went in town again. When I got in I got Frank Misener. Gordon was gone. He went with a girl then. He went off with his girl, and when we got there we went down the cabin for to buy more. They didn't know me no more than the man in the moon. So he said he wouldn't because there was a lot happened to-night. He said, "We lost a lot and everything else, and we won't do no business to-night." So this is all right. I went home. I lived in town then. I went home and I kept the boat in town that night, and next morning I thought - our vessel laid out by the Head here, right by Kaulbach's Head there anghored - a fishin' vessel. I thought I must go aboard there on my way out. I came over here to dry fish in the daytime. I had fish to make. I thought, "I'll go aboard," and when I jumped on deck here was two solid bags of whisky standin' right up against the rail like two bags of salt. I guess there was about four cases in them two bags. I chugged them in the boat. I thought, "This is good enough; this is better yet." I shoved them in the boat and brought them on the island, and then I got over on the island and there was an old fella down here Henry Allen came down and wanted to talk

off to me. I put a boat off to the stake, jumped him in a dory and took him ashore that way, and he wanted to come there and talk to me and I hauled the dory ashore and he followed me and it was still in the bow of boat. I said, "I must go up and see them fellas in the house, I went up and I went about half ways and I went back again and he must have thought "Now where's he going?" He went up to his house. I went down and I tore up a lot of dry fish-dried fish, - a big hole and I put them in there and I put the fish on top of 'em and went off about my business. I went in town that night and the next morning I went down for to go in the boat to come over to the island again and I looked down and here was a case of alcohol laying right along side my boat in the water- a brand new case, it's five gallons in a case; a brand new one, like that kerosene used to be in cans at one time, they don't carry it no more, I don't tink like that. And I slapped it in the boat and I thought, "T is is alcohol, it must be." It was big dents in the side and here they loaded last night out of a boat and missed it. They fell down and they couldn't get them in a hurry and left them go. I took 'em up on board of Adam Moser's vessel and I said, "Adam, let's see what's in them cans?" He says, "It's alcohol." I says, "Alcohol." "Why," he says, "it 'tain't a hole in it, must be alcohol

So we opened it up, and it was alcohol. I says, "You take the one can and I'll take the other over on the island." I took it over on the island and I wasn't on the island, I'm sure, an hour, I'll never forget that, I took up and put it in our cellar. There we had like people has on them farms, you know, they got potato bins, they call them potato bins, bins, - you know (pronounced "pins") bins, they put potatoes in and I took it back and when it was real dark and I stood in the corner and I went up again and my father was hauling home turnips off the land. And first thing he stopped a car below the house. You know, Gordon's house, I guess you do, it's the big house on the top of the hill there, and out come two men. They never stopped for nothing but up like a rush towards our house, and they said to me, "Do you know anything about rum over here?" "Rum," I said, "Heavens, no, only I had some." "well," he says, "a fellow told me that should had a lot of rum over here."

That fellow who had it aboard our vessel, you see, whoever it was must have knew that I took it and took it on the island and he sent ~~idem~~ fellows from Mahone Bay, ~~iden~~ it was. They was Liquor Inspectors. And he said "I'd like to have a look around". I says, "My dear man, if you want to look around, look around." He says, "Let's down in your cellar." /Well, I tot you're going in a good place, you can't go in a better one, You're going right where it is. Down he went, he says, "You go ahead." I says, "Yes." He went down through the outside doors you know, like into ours, outside down, He took the search light and he went ~~over~~ around that side, I had it here, on dis - over here about in the middle, right below they go up to the steps in the main house. He went right around pretty fast, he walked with a search light, he came so fast and I don't think he could detect it, and I was looking at it, the same time. Looking at it, it was a big board with a big hole in it went again st the partition, and here was the big can standing and he went so fast he said, "Would you take me out to the pig stable?" We went up and he said "Someone told me you had it up by the pig stable door, - floow." I said "I don't know nothing about it, but let's up and I'll help you tear it,

up, if that's what you want. Look." So, we went into the pig stable he said, "Where do you tink it could be?" I says, "Well, look, I'm going to tell you something, my dear man, now I'll tell you something. If I had any whiskey, do you think I'd bring it here, in any building for you or anybody else to see." I says, "Look it down, here, along that shore, it's nothing but sand for a quarter of a mile." I says, "It's sand, do you think I wouldn't shove it in the sand somewheres along there on our property." I says, "Do you tink I'd carry it up here." I says, "I don't live here. My home's in town," I says, "I chust ~~mayxaxax~~ have it hid away, someday I'll take in town." "God," he says, "I tink ~~xax~~ I smell booze on you." "No," I says, "you can't smell no booze on me, I got no booze in me," I said. And all the time I had two drinks. Had it in there in Lunenburg before we went out. He said, "I tot, I could smell it, but perhaps I am mistaken." So he looked at the pig stable and then I says "I won't tear that out, my goodness, I wouldn't tear that up if there would be ever so much there." I said, "It's ~~nowhere~~, if ~~xxxxxxx~~ there'd be some there, I'd help you to tear it up, only to get it." I said. And he looked awhile, he says, "I guess the fellow that sent me here," he says, "is spiteful of you or something." I says, "I couldn't think of who it was." I said "Who was it? Tebl me will you?" "No," he says, "I can't. I don't want to catch you anyhow," he says. He went off, he says, "I don't want to catch you." Then he went off and that's it and I took the stuff after that and I took it up in our ell, over down here on the island, it was a place you could go up to, it was a finished out ell you know, a good finished out ell, but it was a place you could up to, if you'd stand something high that you could get up to it, it was something like a skylight you could go up inside and it was a big L there, the whole room and I took lines and I tied it around the bottles, and I lowered them down the whole length of the ell, down in the roof and I drove little nails down a little ways, you know, about thatfar down, and tied lines there and that's the way I had bottle after bottle.

One day- I had it done in town too, when I was down in St. Pierre I bought ~~xxxxxxx~~ off there with me, and I didn't go on that trip, and I took it ashore and I took it up and I lowered it down in the same way. One day Daniel and I was painting dories we came home and I said, "If I had a swig today, I could take a drink if I had it." "Yes," he says "and I could, I'm tired." I says, "I'm going up for the fun of it and look up there, I believe yet there is some up there. I always tot there was some up there." And I went up and I went along with my hands and here I got a hold of a nail and here was a line and I hanled it up and here was a bottle of ."

Q; Where was that?  
 A; Home, in our own home .  
 Here they was often after me because really we was all the time at it. Why we used to come home offa/ trips and take it up and put it on-we came home one trip and Gordon says, - we had about 25 cases that time, him and I- he says, "Gonna go over with and help put it up?" "No, I'm not going o over with it. One is enough to take that home." "Well," he says, "and fire it out on the shore and it'll lay there, I'm not going to bother myself with it." Then he was going, like I said, with a girl and he didn't care, he hadn't his mind on that and when he got home he was gone. Well, he took that load home, and ~~xxxxx~~ it was a man down here by the name of James Selig and as he carried it up James Selig used to take it from him, when he'd go down for another and James Selig used to take it off, case by case and next morning there was only half of it there, the rest of it was gone. So James Selig said that after that he took it from him as fast

as he carried it up, till he had enough of it, he said, "I didn't want no more." (Much laughter) That was our-pretty near our last trip.

Q: And then did you go back to fishing?

A: Yes, we used to go fishing in summer time.

Q: Did you only run rum in the winter?

A: Yes, but once I was at it two summers, all summer, down at St. Pierze. We used to go down there and load. Take it right in.

Q: To where? in Maine?

A: To Maine, that was our place with dem boats, up in Maine we used to work. Up that river we used to work all the time with them people. You know with little boats/ But with the vessels we used to go down off New York with different people all together.

Q: You didn't do any in Nova Scotia?

A: No, I never did.

Q: Some of the other fellas did?

A: Oh yes, they'd go off here and sell it out here and down to Mahone Bay and dem places, but I never got in with them people.

Q: Did you prefer going on the longer trips?

A: Well, I never got on it, you see, I didn't happen to get with/ I'd be only too glad to get on to them kinds of trips, because you'd get in alot quicker. This way you had to take the long trips.

Q: Some used to sell them right off of Nova Scotia?

A: Oh sure, yes.

Q: People in Halifax?

A: 'es, I have to sell it in Halifax, right off the rail. I used to go in - we used to do everything that was fit to do with that business, there couldn't have been nothing done that we didn't do. We went to Halifax one time, we went to St. Pierre with a load, Shaw used to have a charter and we ~~XX~~ 'd go in there, dere's where his home was, them times, that was the first of it. Then you could in any place, in Lunenburg, anywheres around, dis Nova Scotia, in the harbours, and tie up. Customs would come off and seal your hatches and that's all it was-and put a watch aboard, that's all there would be to it, till you go out. But this time we went to Halifax, we went to ~~XX~~ A.M. Smith's with this vessel, well ~~xx~~ in dem times we washigher, that wasn't enough money for us guys to go down there and make so much a month, that's a hundred dollars, or something like that, two hundred. We'd bring a lot with us of all kinds, wines and well, everything w you could name, the best of kind too that you could get, so you could sell it, no matter where you'd go, the boats that you used to come off used to buy it from us to, and there was a fella came aboard, and he says to me, - I knew him well, it was a fella dere, ~~XX~~ he used to up the fish casks, he said, "Could you sell me a case?" I says, "Sure, I'll sell you ten." Mind/ you we had some nice fellers too.

Q: This super cargo, you say, he wanted a hundred dollars before he'd-

A: Den he wanted to skip, here in Lunenburg, They didn't give him the hundred but he got the money anyhow, and he got out and went off and we never seen him ~~XXXXXX~~ no more.

Q: Well, what was your method of taking on super cargo?

A: They had charge of the vessel, the vessel was there's when you left home.

Q: When you left Lunenburg? Did they join the vessel in Lunenburg?

A: No, we got 'em over there, but we took the vessel over and they came off aboard and they had letters to identify themselves and the skipper and everything was in that letter, and what to do and how to use the

everything was there, orders of all kinds.



- Q: Where the big boys Americans, who ran the rum running business?
- A: Oh yes, oh yes, Jewish people, mostly Jewish people, they was pretty tough/ people and some was nice. One trip we was over we had the finest kind of people there but they was Jew people and the boss's son was off and he was a wonderful nice boy, I'll say that, the nicest boy I ever met in my life, he was a feila about 21 and he gave us anything you wanted that he had, he'd have gave the works. When he went home, he gave everything-all he had was the clothes on his back, he gave everything, didn't take nothin' with him.
- Q: How could you be sure that the super-car/goes letter was authentic?
- A: Oh, the skipper's name was on and the vessels name and everything, just passed it to the skipper, ~~xxxx~~ and den we went to load up on the steamer. That was next orders. Next was to sell it to the boats that come.
- Q: Why couldn't the steamers sell it to the boats?
- A: Well, they couldn't get it up and down, the steamers was ~~xxxxhix~~ that high up, that our spars-only the top of our spars took his top rails. He was about 300 feet long, the steamer.
- Q: I suppose it wouldn't be safe for them to be doing that over the rail?
- A: No, there was one caught one time, oh, yes, it was a bunch of them around Lunenburg, hi-jacked a big steamer, oh, they got rich people to it, they took the whole works that the man had, that the steamer had. I think it was about 40,000 cases that they took off the steamer in one hitch. Put 'em ~~xxxxhix~~ under bars in a room and locked 'em up and took charge of the steamer-took the steamer perhaps 200 miles from that place and unloaded her and when they had her all unloaded they went off on their vessels and good bye. Left them open.
- Q: That was piracy on the high seas was it?
- A: Yes, then we went over another vessel, ~~xxxxix~~ the what-you-call - it, over here at Robin Jones' not George King but it was a big vessel and what was that vessels name, the Giant King. We went over it they only had a half-they had here with a half a load, then I went-me and my brother went in that one, we left Annie , she was going fishing and we went took her over to unload this load and there was another fellow that came over that was married down here to my sister, he was lost at sea, before the war, they sunk a three-master, they went in the boat, a submarine sunk then and they went in the boat, they was all hands lost but one or two men, in the boat the rest all drowned. He drowned, my sister's husband and anyhow they sent us over and we unloaded this load, he took it off of this man down here that was married to my sister, now he says, "You stay here 'til we come," we couldn't understand that, stay here 'til we come. We laid there for one week, and not one come then yet. Then it start getting hot weather, cold, it was wonderful that winter tunned out to be, nothing but ice, you couldn't get in town half a year

when we got here. Anyhow he says, "What do you think about it," "well," I says, "I think we go home." ~~xxxxxx~~ What's the use to lay here, there's no booze aboard, no nothing we're here a week now and no- by and by the food'll be all, we wasn't fitted for a real long time, we only had a half a load." We was for o come back to Lunenburg, well, when we came back to Lunenburg we couldn't get - all we had a wonderful gale of winter, coming Nord East - Nor' West - a wonderful fale, nothing but ice, we left over there and him and I brought the vessel down 300 miles. Then you want to talk about a man's hair getting grey. Three hundred miles, him and I brought the vessel down alone, not one man would come out from forward to help to steer, I'll you proof of that, men yet alive that was with us, Morris Ginck, was our cook, he was married to my sister.

Q: Why wouldn't the others come out to help?

A: Scared, so hard it blowed, you couldn't get back at it, he would always say, "Don't let her go inside, don't let her go inside that course," - we was running for Cape Sable, he said, "Don't let her go inside of that." Because we'd have made up Bay of Fundy, we'd have ran her ashore in a gale of wind like that, and all hands lost. Notin' but snow and ice and ice froze on your face. Well, we got down and next morning we made just a little shade to the Eastard of Cape Sable we could see the land as plain as could be. It was pretty-it was a lot of-it was pretty cold. You know how it is in the winter time. And they only had a foresail onto her and they said "Do you think we can get the storm sail out." Well you know how they got them, high straight up a loft. It was notin' but one bank of ice, that sail, we got it down and we pounded it I'm sure for 4 hours, 'till we got half of it up, it was still a reef into it but we got from the reef up. It was only half of the sail up and we got down here by Corkum's Island, he says, "We won't get in." And everything was ice and I went forward with the gang and we started pounding ice and counting and countin' 'till we got the chain loose, we had about 60 or 70 fathom of chain, and we got the chain clear and he got in here to Corkum's Island, we came along land you know with the wind here from the Nor' West and we could fetch along pretty good, 'till we got in here inside of Corkum's Island, we got in here between Rose Head and Ironbound, Rose Head and the Ovens. We stood across there and he says, "If she don't tack, we'll have to keep her off and run out again." And by the sweet she came 'round. She was so far down in the bow you know with ice, that she was like a spinning top, she came right round.

Q: You wouldn't have any cargo then, would you?

A: No, notin' in but - we got in here a piece of the way and the cutter came out. I don't know whether they was drunk or not but they had the vessel all smashed to pieces forward, they went cross-ways over and they done everything they could, they had five weight to our one, they vessel-we had about a hundred ton of ballast in the vessel, she was about that stout that from the deck, from there up you know was an empty hold and the water was over the top of that floor, so much water she had in her, no one would pump and she was

about half full of water when we got there, I guess she'd have sunk if we'd a-had to stay out two more days in rough weather like that, because there was no one there to pump, you couldn't get there to pump 'cause there was so much water, - too much ice.

Q; The boat that you were on?

A; Yes, so we got in and tied her up and that settled her, we didn't go no more that winter, we stayed home, we wouldn't go no more. They wanted us to go hi-jacking over there, go aboard of a steamer or something. No, I didn't finish my yarn, Then they came and they wanted to know who gave us leave to come home. Well, we said, we just came home and that 's all there was to it, well, they said, you were suppose to go on a steamer and take their stuff, their booze away from them, well, I says and Gordon, "We don't do them things, we ain't goin' to do, and won't do it for nobody." And they told us right off the vessel, get off, they said we don't want you fellas, we want somebody that will do what we tell them.

Q; Did you ever get put in jail?

A; No, but pretty close, they paid us out so we didn't get in. But I'll tell you theyarn, stop it! (He means the machine)

This is the time that we loaded - that he built us a new boat, over in Maine, this boat was 60 feet long, with two red(?) engines in them, she went forty miles, she was suppose to but I don't know whether she did or not but she went fast anyhow, so we were suppose to go off and load off a schooner and we left Metagen, that night before dark and we got off and we made the vessel before it did get dark. We took one thousand cases that was our load. We started for Maine. The next morning about dinner time we got there, seventeen mile off, that was our mark where we were suppose to go, no closer in the daytime, and then we laid there all day, 'til night came, and we never was there before. Anyhow we started off for this-from up this Maine river and we went in. ~~xxxx~~We was suppose to see a boat was there with two men in it, a pilot boat, there was suppose to be the pilot and we got there. ~~xxxx~~ It was only a little island, I should say about not a quarter of a mile, just a hide-out place, for this boat, so the cutter wouldn't see him or the shore people wouldn't see him. No one lived on this island but rocks. We stopped the boat, we was-we had noise out of the funnel, and ~~xx~~ no noise of no engines you couldn't hear, not on deck, you couldn't. We stopped the boat and we said "listen now, all hands," First thing, here came a boat, puff puff puff a little boat, off about 15 feet long. Two men jumped on deck, the one fellow took t the wheel. All we done was just to stand watch, look out we don't run into the shore and look out we don't run into motin'. So we went forward, we stood there and used to say to one another, " I guess this is our last, we'll never get out of this, the police station will pick us up perhaps . "So we went and went and went and went, at last we got up to where we was going to land we shot right into a place where there was two houses one on either side in the dock and we went right up past the house up yet further in the dock, well, I should say that the dock was about fifty or hundrd feet long, it could been that long. In the dark you

couldn't see much, but this fellow that had the wheel he knew where he was going. He was a fellow from right there, a Johnstone, his name was Johnstone. So we unloaded, kep' unloading. We didn't help none of us. We wasn't allowed to touch a case. They done that, there was about eighteen men I should say, and as like I said a while ago, every man had the best of kind of shooting irons, they wasn't them cow-boy ones. Long fellahs that you would let go, I guess and you could kill any kind of a creetur with them, a long distance. Anyhow we unloaded a half of it and now we said what's going to happen, not word, not a word spoken, if there was any it was done outside the boat, whispering no talking and away they went, and next time they stopped the boat, we got in a place that I should say was about the half as big as Halifax, a lot bigger a- twice as big as Lunenburg. Right in the dock she went, no stopping and the cars was going and the people was talking and out went the stuff, we went in a building in the dock, and there was a building that come right done, you know, jax to be shot right in like a summer house, exactly and there they put the stuff. Well, we went out, now then you've got to get out before day-light and get your fifteen miles outside, that no one don't see you, no cutter, if you do you'll ~~xxxx~~ be hung up, you'll never be able to come again, because the cutter will get ahold of you and he'll have you marked exactly them times, whether you come without any or notin' so next time we went ashore on Metagen, this time tied up to the dock, went into our house. We had a fine house, the finest one was in Metagen and everything in it that you want to eat, it was no cockin'k or anything like that it was just you could open the cans, the best was all right. It was everything there that I could name it. I wouldn't know what I would be eatin' here all my table, if I'd have to see there opened up there again, everthing that was nameable. Well, we laid there and had a good time for a couply days up at the bowling alley and round, we knew everybody that was in Metagen for about ten miles. We used to go down to Yarmouth, they'd take us down, car drives, and then this was round the super cargo, this was, he was the boss there. We had a real super-cargo he ran the engine and was super cargo. "Well, we're going tonight boys, be here at four o'clock, we're going off to load again." So we went off and loaded and we went over and laid the same way, seventeen miles off. You could see the land, it was high land, we passed Mounty Seward(?) it was a great big mountain, I don't know whether you was ever over there or not, and anyhow, we was sleepy you know, wore out, all night, it was only two men to steer, that's all and an engineer man, three of us. Well, he'd take her until nine, ten o'clock, and then I'd have to take 'til pretty well daylight, we generally made it before daylight. He'd stop her. Gordon would be sleepy, I'll catch a little snoze, he'd call it snozes, and he says, "You look out awhile." And I says to myself, I'm not going to - I don't see nothing, what's the use of setting around here, I'm going to have a sleep too, I laid down and the first thing we heard something go boom up on deck, I made leap, here was the cutter laying along side of us. They all hands, the whole gang was there, I don't know how many was aboard of her. Four-stacker again- that's all we ever seen was

them four-stackers, and all hands on deck, and looking down on you deck, laughing, at the booze, the hold was full and the deck was full too. She was all engine room you know, a big fer'castle was in her about that long, fine fer'castle, eight ten places to sleep. So there they was laughing, so she used to say to us what do you want to be towed in or what, how would jails suit you? Gordon used to say, "My God, how far are we off here? We couldn't - perhaps we're not off as far as we should be. I don't know he says no log out, just go by judgement, by the engine - by the boat how fast she went and when that time was up, you know, you'd stop. You was there within four or five miles anyhow, you'd know how fast you was going by the engine. Well, they'd go round us and round us and this boat ~~was~~ was deep in the water, very deep that the water used to come up, we thought he'd sink us and he done it I believe it to try to sink us, he done everything he could, 'twas kinda getting rough and he'd send that water, that big boat shooting out past you why it would send the water up high and the wind would blow it right across you. It was pretty dirty. So he says, "What will we do? We'll have to go back, we can't get clear of them because he can go faster than we can." Well, we went back off of Yarmouth and we laid there all afternoon, we go back pretty early. I guess we get back there about four o'clock and we went there to the light ship and laid. We said we'd wait there 'til dark, now we were trying to go round him and round him and tried to get clear of him that way and keep our lights on and then put them off. He was laying right along side of us from here to that door out there. He wouldn't go no distance from us to be sure that - he didn't know how fast we could go you know. So we started manuevering, we'd start going around this light ship. She was anchored you know.

Q; The Lurcher Lightship?

A; Yes, we went round and round this lightship and ~~xxxxxxx~~ around and around and him afterus. Sometimes he'd turn the other way and give it to us oppositè, you know ours could turn quicker than his - his was that big long boat but we could not do it. We could not - we was there until one or two that night, going back and forward and around and around, and the fellas there they was standing looking out-the-light-ships they go big places that you can in the body of them and open up them big doors and look out. There they was laughing and heeting at us, you know, - and saying all kinds of stuff to the fellas aboard the cutter that they should getaway and let us alone. Well, we said we'd go to sleep all hands ~~xxxxx~~ let her lay, and the wind died out and it got calmy as calm as it could be, it wouldn't blow a match out. And we had it made out we laid 'til four o'clock in the morning, it didn't get day-light until about six o'clock, we'd wait until they was good and sleepy and 'til all hands get arround we could be a long ways 'til they'd get their boat and the skipper out and all hands started in again. So four o'clock, I should say he was about - he might have been a quarter of a mile, drifted away from us, kind of you know the tide took him and we started, we put these things over the engine ~~xxxxxx~~ that he couldn't hear and we started her off and we'd look back over the stern and we'd think, my gosh they didn't wake up yet

and the first thing we got so far away from them that we knew that we could duck them, that it got so dark that we knew then we could duck 'em and the first thing he started coming full speed, we could see he slapped his lights on and something roared behind us coming and then we went to windward, the wind you know, no-- we had ~~xx~~ a light rigged on a cork wood and we put the light aboard and left it drip on a pole was in it, one them spot buoys that was exactly like the ~~only~~ only not quite so big but he thought that we put our light on starboard and when he got there it was a lantern on and we wasn't there at all and the lights had gone off our boat and we went up to windward and away we went and he couldn't find us and away we went, and he used to go around in a ring and around in a ring and around in a ring and around this thing and at last we didn't see the light. He must have run into the light for spite anyhow we got over to - in the morning we got over that afternoon and we got in that night and unloaded our load and came out. That was to the school teacher.

Q; That was in Maine?

A; That was wherethe school teacher, where she kept that house, there she boarded, I don't know, she kept a house there and kept the school and we loaded there and had one of the finest nights we ever spent in our lives, just got out nice. We went in early that night he said we'd go in early this time, we went right in the minute it got dark and went up- this time we didn't wait for the pilot fella, we had a little trouble with the pilot fella, the trip before that, home up here in Yarmouth, he wanted to act boss and he came forward with a lot of people and we said no, we wasn't cooking for that bunch. So he went home, he was insulted and went home and that settled him, see he used to come down, I guess he brought the money down but he felt out with the Super Cargo some which way and we went up and had the finest time and we didn't, after that we went over without him, we didn't bother with him, they said over there we didn't need him, you fellas can do better work than with him, 'cause I think he used to tell them fellas that we didn't come or something and he always had something that we didn't make connection sometimes, they said don't bother with him, you come, and tell us when you're coming and we'd go as soon as we'd go out there was a fella up there in Metagen, that was I guess the real boss of all, that done the pay and everything, he paid us when we come back and fella right from Metagen, shipbuilder/. I think he's dead now, I ain't sure but I believe he is. Then we came home and we took another boat and the boat was ~~marked~~ caught and they got put in jail and the fellas went on the bum that they worked with, they took a hundred thousand dollar boat, they took kep her. I don't know what became of them fellas. But they had a new bunch in over Christmas you see they thought that we should go home over Christmas well, we went home over Christmas but he got so eager into that he wanted to get his trip in before we got back. When we got back the boat was caught and all hands in jail and I think they put the whole bunch on the bum. They lost the whole works, a load of booze and all.

Q; You went to Bermuda too, didn't you?

A; Oh yes, we was there twice in one winter, a month each trip. In Bermuda we knew everybody ~~xxx~~ was out there, in St. George's. We knew the ministers and there was a woman from Lunenburg kept school

there when we was there.

Q; How would you ever get up that harbour?

A; Up that harbour? Oh, we went there to load. Oh yes, we went there to load.

Q; Did you load inside the harbour?

A; We helped to load her rightout of the warehouse. Yes. We used to load her up there, and we was there a month the first trip, it was a fine place, Bermuda, when in the dead of the winter, oh, it was a beautiful place in St. Georges, we used to make our-~~that~~ ~~xxx~~ was the place we used to go. We used to load there. That was a bigger boat we used to take a lot, we almost our lives coming back, struck a hurricane. There was a Ella from Lunenburg here, a Backman, he had his spars tore out and everything, a sailing vessel he had,

Q; Was he a run-runner too?

A; Yes, he struck a gale of wind, there was a couply of them come in all tore to pieces, but we just got there and got in before it all happened.

Q; In the rum running business, how did they look upon the Lunenburg men? What reputation did the Lunenburg men have?

A; Oh, good, good, they thought there was no one like them. You know, because they was so used to the sea-faring that they just put their mind and soul to them, and thought there was no one on the earth like them, because they was all people that ~~the~~ the sea. When they got in with us they could see that we knew everything about it, about going to sea, and they didn't concern themselves about notin' but just grabbing the money so we took that load on and sold it. The first load that we sent ashore was 900 cases, they caught him, they caught the boat and the booze, they lost the works, and then ~~xxx~~ we went over again, then it was yacht came off to - -

Q; Over where to Maine?

A; No, to Bermoods, we stayed there a month until they got straightened up again, the fellows over in New York, this was in New York. The next time we caught, then our engine broke down, there was fourteen days that we never moved an inch but what the wind blew us. We sent for an airplane to come, we had ~~xxxxxx~~ talking machines aboard, you could talk shore to them when ever you like. They had just an hour that he talked to 'em at 6 o'clock, or 8 o'clock in the morning or something.

Q; A certain set time?

A; You didn't make no practice talking to them because they went out sometheres they said they did out in the woods, and hooked up something up on a spruce tree, ashore.

Q; Then did you have a code?

A; Yes, a code, oh yes, and we went over and there they sent off a yacht and I was for to stow them in the hold, no one could do it better than I could, I used to get every time more in, a lot more, than anybody else. And I'm telling you it was some yacht. I don't know how many bedrooms was in 'em, all them was filled from stem to stern, bedrooms and everything that was into them, it didn't make no difference what it was. It was every room that was in her and every little place that you could shove a case, well, they had fourteen hundred cases on her. That was the second trip she went there. Well, they took that load ashore they done alright, they made it good, so three days after that here she was again.

Q; Took it ashore where?

A; New York, three days after that she was off again for another

load, she was going to take it all this time. Well, I said I won't stow it alone, it's too much, I won't do it, so he sent down two more fellas with me. We stowed it full, pretty well, loaded, she was pretty well sacked down, it was some boat I'm telling you. It was some boat it was no American boat that I ever seen here, like her. She was not a spar in her, just two engines like lightening and she was big almost as long as our vessel. Perhaps 80,90 feet and they went in this time ~~xxxx~~ was caught, they lost the boat and the works, so that settled that bunch.

AQ; You weren't on the boat that was lost?

A; No, no we didn't go in, we often said we'd go in with them

Story of Rum Running recorded anonymously by Skipper I. Cont.  
Reel 135 A and B. Excellent for story and dialect, Lunenburg dialect.  
Recorded by Helen Creighton, June, 1954.