

INTERVIEW WITH G. MERRILL NICKERSON

BETTY PECK CONDUCTS INTERVIEW

MARCH 15, 1978

BETTY PECK "Q" MERRILL NICKERSON "A"

Q YOU HAVE MANY TALES TO TELL. FOR THE MOMENT, LET'S TALK ABOUT RUM-RUNNING.

A ALLRIGHT. YOU TALK IN THERE, OR I TALK IN THERE?

Q WE BOTH DO, IT PICKS UP BOTH.

A OH, I SEE. TWAS IN ABOUT JULY 1926, I BELIEVE. I WAS IN WOODS HOLE, AND I CAME BACK TO COTUIT ONE NIGHT, TO SEE MY FOLKS. THEY SAID - MY MOTHER TOLD ME THAT MY FATHER'S NETS WERE STOLEN, CUT LOOSE, AND HE WAS PRETTY UPSET. HE COULDN'T FIND ANY OF THEM. BUT HE DID FIND THE ANCHORS. AFTER A FEW YEARS LATER, I FOUND THAT - BY THIS AND THAT - I FOUND THAT THEY WERE BURNT ON THE BEACH. THEY WAS TAKEN OUT OF THERE SO THEY COULD - THEY USED TO LAND THEIR WHISKEY IN THERE, COME ASHORE. THEY DIDN'T WANT TO GET FOULED IN THOSE NETS, WHICH WAS A HUNDRED YARDS LONG. THEY WAS FIVE OR SIX OF THEM, SO THAT BE SIX HUNDRED YARDS.

Q WHAT WERE THOSE NETS USED FOR?

A CATCH BLUEFISH. HE HAD 'EM TO CATCH BLUEFISH. SO AFTER THAT ONE DAY I WAS DOWN AT THE LOOP BEACH AT THE BAILEY HOUSE, AND MR REED WAS DOWN THERE WITH HIS GLASSES. THAT WAS IN DECEMBER, ABOUT 19 - I'M GUESSIN AT THIS, ABOUT 1930 OR 31. AND, ALL THESE BOATS WAS OUT THERE. THAT NIGHT I WENT DOWN ON THE PIER, WHEN THEY COME IN - AND SEVERAL BOATS WAS COMIN IN AND THEY HAD WHISKEY ON THE BOAT. THAT THEY HAD THROWN OVERBOARD. WHEN SOMETHIN GOES WRONG THEY THROW IT OVERBOARD. SO MY BOAT EVIDENTLY WAS IN THE GARAGE, BUT WE TOOK IT RIGHT OUT THE NEXT DAY.

Q WERE THESE IN KEGS?

A WHAT'S THAT?

Q KEGS? THE WHISKEY?

A NO, NO. WAS IN SACKS. YA, BURLAP BAGS, THEY'S SQUARE SACKS. THERE'S 12 BOTTLES TO A CASE. THEN WE WENT OUT THERE AND THE MOTOR STOPPED. AFTER WE'D BEEN FISHIN. WE COULD SEE PLENTY OF LIQUOR ON THE BOATS. THEY HAD IT IN THERE, SOME HAD FIFTEEN OR TWENTY CASES. IT TWAS RIGHT NEAR THE ROCK THAT'S OFF THE OSTERVILLE CUT. AND WHEN ANYTHING GOES WRONG LIKE THAT, THEY JUST DUMP IT OVERBOARD. SO, ONE OF THE CORES WOULD JUST GO ON ONE CYLINDER. SO I WENT DOWN THE NEXT DAY - MAYBE SHOULDN'T ADD THIS, CAN YOU SHUT THAT OFF? (SHUT OFF MACHINE)

SO AFTER USING MY BOAT OUT THERE, I FOUND OUT THE MOTOR WENT BAD, AND I WENT DOWN TO ALLEN'S HARBOR IN HARWICH TO HAVE IT FIXED. WHILE THE MAN WAS WORKING ON IT, FRANKIE BURLINGAME COME RUSHIN IN THE DOOR - OH - A BOAT FIRST, CAME IN AND WANTED SOME GASOLINE. THEY WAS FEELING PRETTY GOOD ON THE BOAT. THEY'D BEEN OFF OF BASS RIVER SOMEPLACE FISHIN FOR SOMETHIN THAT HAD BEEN DUMPED. AND HE SAID, NO, I HAVEN'T GOT ANY GAS. AND SO FRANKIE BURLINGAME, HE WAS DANCIN AROUND ON THE BOW OF THE BOAT THAT WENT OUT - WAS ABOUT A 36 FOOTER - AND HE SAYS "HEY, HE'S GONE OVERBOARD!" - SO I RUN OUT THE DOOR, AND THEY WAS A DINGHY THERE, AND THEY WAS ICE, NOT, WINDOWPANE GLASS, ICE, ALL AROUND THE EDGE OF THE HARBOR 'BOUT THREE FEET OUT. I PICKED THE DINGHY UP - I DON'T KNOW HOW I EVER DID, AND DUMPED THE WATER OUT OF IT, AND I SAYS, GIVE ME A PAIR OF OARS. I WENT OUT THERE ON THE BOAT, AND I GOT RIGHT WHERE IT WAS THAT JUST THE TOP OF HIS EARS WAS SHOWIN, AND I PULLED HIM UP - I HAD A BLUE WOOLEN SHIRT ON - I PULLED HIM UP AND SOAPSUDS LIKE COME OUT OF HIS MOUTH AND HIS NOSE, BUT I COULDN'T GET HIM INTO THE BOAT. HE WAS PRETTY HEAVY FELLA, AND THE DINGHY STARTED TO GO DOWN WITHIN TWO INCHES OF THE STERN, AND I KNOW I COULDN'T PULL HIM IN. SO FINALLY THE OTHER FELLA'S MOTOR STOPPED - HE FINALLY GOT IT GOIN, HE COME ALONG SIDE, GOT HIM IN THE BOAT, HIS BOAT AND I PULLED HIM OUT IN THE MIDDLE AND ABOUT A PINT OF WATER COME OUT OF HIS MOUTH AND THEN I GAVE HIM ARTIFICIAL RESPERATION AND IN THE MEANTIME, WHEN I WENT TO HOLD HIM ON THE SKIFF, I TOLD THEM TO CALL THE POLICE AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, WHICH THEY DID. SO WHEN WE GOT INTO THE DOCK, THEY WAS RIGHT THERE. THE DOCTOR AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND HE TURNED ALL BLUE AND PURPLE. AND THEN THE DOCTOR LISTENED TO HIM, AND SAYS, HAS THIS MAN BEEN DRINKIN? THE OTHER FELLA SAYS, YA, HE HAD A DRINK OR TWO. AND I SAYS, DOCTOR IF IT MEANS HIS LIFE, HE WAS DRUNK. HE WAS LOADED. SO HIS NAME WAS, I NEVER FORGOT IT, HIS NAME WAS RENIE DOANE, FROM HARWICH.

THEY LAST I KNEW, HE HAD DOUBLE PNEUMONIA, AND LAST I KNEW HE WAS STILL LIVIN. BUT ANYWAY, I GUESS HE WAS QUITE A CHARACTER. SO THAT SETTLES THAT. NOW YOU CAN SHUT IT OFF AGAIN.

SO WE GOT THE MOTOR FIXED, AND WE WENT OUT THE NEXT DAY AND THE FELLOW WITH ME, I WON'T MENTION A NAME, A COTUIT FELLOW - AND WE GOT TWO CASES. AND THEY WAS TWO FELLOWS IN A ROWBOAT, I COULD SAY WHO THEY ARE, THEY'RE GONE NOW. THEY SAID OH - WE SAW THE COAST GUARD COMIN. THE OTHER FELLOW SAYS, HEY LOOK AT THE COAST GUARD, HE GOT RIGHT IN THE LINE OF THE SUN, AND COMIN RIGHT FOR US. SO I GOT THE MOTOR STARTED, AND I TOOK THE CASES, AND WE SLOWED DOWN, AND I SAID, NOW PUSH THESE CASES DOWN, TO GET THE AIR OUT OF THEM. IF YOU DON'T, THEY'LL FLOAT. THE TWO FELLOWS, I MIGHT AS WELL SAY IT CAUSE - EVERYBODY WAS FISHIN THEN. TWAS SOUZA AND JOHN SOUZA. BILL SOUZA, JOHN SOUZA. SO I DUMPED THEM RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS BOAT, AND THEY GOT EM. COURSE, SO WE DIDN'T CARE. THEN THE COAST GUARD PULLED UP ALONGSIDE AND LOOKED THROUGH MY PAPERS, LOOKED THROUGH MY BOAT, WANTED TO KNOW WHAT I WAS FISHIN FOR AND I SAID FLATFISH. YOU GOT SOME PRETTY BIG HOOKS FOR FLATFISH - WELL, WE SNAG EM. SO, COME TO FIND OUT, THE FELLOW THAT OVERHAULED US, HE SAYS, DO YOU KNOW ANOTHER NICKERSON? HE SAYS, - I SAYS, YA. I KNEW HE PULLED HIS BOAT IN AND HE LOST A SEVENTY FOOTER, CAUSE THEY HAD, OUTSIDE OF THE ISLAND, THEY WAS FISHIN, NANTUCKET - NO, THE VINEYARD, THEY WAS FISHIN OUT THERE, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS A FISHIN GROUND. THEY HAD TWO OR THREE HUNDRED CASES OF WHISKEY, BUT THEY HAD THE FISH OVER THE WHISKEY. YA, HAD THE FISH OVER THE WHISKEY. THEY STARTED TO FORK IT OFF AND THEY FOUND IT, SO - HE NEVER WENT FISHIN AGAIN - THEY TOOK THE BOAT. WELL HE'S GETTIN ALONG IN YEARS ANYWAY. SO -

THEN ONE FISHIN BOAT, A SEVENTY FOOTER, CAME IN TO NEW BEDFORD, PULLED UP ON THE WAYS, AND THEY WAS LOADED WITH A COUPLE OF HUNDRED CASES WITH FISH OVER THEM. THEN THEY UNLOADED THE FISH AT NIGHT AND THAT WAS ALLRIGHT. BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER PLACE IN NEW BEDFORD, I WAS UP THERE ONE AFTERNOON, GETTIN' SOME PARTS FOR A BOAT, A MOTOR I WAS INSTALLING IN ANOTHER BOAT. I SEE THESE THREE SPEEDBOATS IN THERE. THEY CALLED THEM SPEEDBOATS. THEY WAS ABOUT THIRTY TWO, THIRTY SIX FEET LONG. MOST OF THEM HAD TWO LIBERTY ENGINES, WHICH WAS FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY HORSEPOWER APIECE. SOME OF THEM HAD THREE. SOME OF THEM WAS MADE SO THAT ON THE AFTERDECK,

SO THEY PUT A BIG TARPAULIN DOWN OVER THE SAND, SO IT WOULDN'T SHOW TRACKS, AND SO THE TRUCK WOULDN'T GET STUCK. AND THEY HAD OTHER CARS THERE, TOO, AND TRUCKS. THEN THEY LOADED ALL THE WHISKEY ON THE TRUCKS AND ON THE CARS, WHICH THEY USED TO HAVE - TAKE THE BACK SEAT OUT - HAD BIG TOURING CARS, LINCOLNS AND PACKARDS. THEY GOT OUT OF THERE, GOT RID OF THE WHISKEY AND THEY COME BACK TO THIS CAMP THAT WAS IN WHAT THEY CALL SOUTH MASHPEE DOWN THERE, NEAR PROBABLY JEHU'S POND OR SOMEPLACE. THEY LOOKED OUT - THEY GOT THE MESSAGE THAT THE COAST GUARD WAS COMIN IN, BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING AROUND, SO. THEY WENT OUT THE BACK DOOR, BECAUSE THEY KNEW A FELLOW THAT KNEW HIS WAY AROUND THERE.

PROBABLY THEY HAD A PATH IN CASE THIS DID HAPPEN. SO THEY HAD TO WALK THROUGH THE WOODS AND EVERYTHING, UP TO MASHPEE SOMEWHERE TO A TELEPHONE AND CALL FOR A TAXI. THE NEXT DAY WHEN I WAS IN WOODS HOLE, WORKING FOR THIS WOMAN, I NOTICED ONE OF THE CARS WENT BY. I RECOGNIZED THE CAR CAUSE IT WAS IN THE PAPER, "COAST GUARD MISSES BIG HAUL OF WHISKEY", OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. AND THIS SAME BOAT, THE BLACK DUCK, WENT DOWN AND WAS OPERATING OFF OF RHODE ISLAND, AND THEY WAS MACHINE-GUNNED BY HIGHJACKERS, AND I THINK THEY WAS ONE OR TWO GOT KILLED. WHAT HAPPENED, AND THIS I READ IN THE PAPER, AND I KNOW THEY WAS ONE OR TWO THAT GOT KILLED. BUT WHETHER THEY GOT THE WHISKEY, OR WHETHER THEY GOT THE BOAT OUT OF THERE, THAT I DON'T KNOW.

THEN THEY WAS ANOTHER TIME WE WAS DOWN TO BASS RIVER, AND ONE AFTERNOON, AND THE COAST GUARD WAS ANCHORED ABOUT THREE HUNDRED YARDS OFFSHORE. RIGHT NEAR THE CASA MADRID. AND THEY WAS BRINGIN CASE AFTER CASE - THE STATE POLICE WAS THERE, AS WELL AS THE TOWN POLICE. THEY MUST HAVE HAD, BEFORE THEY GOT THROUGH, A COUPLE HUNDRED CASES ON THE BEACH. THEY HAD DUMPED IT. SOMETHIN HAD GONE WRONG, MAYBE THEY WENT AGROUND AND JUST DUMPED IT THERE, LIGHTENED THE BOAT, GOT OFF. I DON'T KNOW.

ANOTHER TIME, I WAS, WE WAS RIDIN AROUND AND THEY WAS THREE OF US IN THIS CAR, AND WE WAS DOWN AT WELLFLEET, AS I REMEMBER, ORLEANS OR WELLFLEET, AND IT HAPPENED TO BE A LOW TIDE ON A SUNDAY, AND THESE PEOPLE, THE NATIVES WAS GOING WADIN WAY OUT ON THOSE FLATS, BRINGING IN CASES OF WHISKEY. BUT NOBODY BOTHERED THEM, CAUSE THEY KNEW THEY WAS JUST PICKIN IT UP, THEY FIGURED IF THEY PICKED IT UP, THE RUM-RUNNERS WOULDN'T GET IT.

AND COURSE, THEY USED TO COME IN OYSTER HARBORS WITH IT. THEY ALSO ANOTHER TIME THEY WAS DOWN AROUND THE LOOP BEACH. AND TWAS JUST MIDNIGHT AND THERE'S A GIRL IN THIS TOWN THAT WAS THERE AT THIS TIME, SHE'S STILL LIVIN. SHE SAW THE WHOLE THING. AND THE TWO FELLAS WENT ABOARD OF HER, THEY WAS COTUIT FELLAS, ONE WAS A CAPTAIN AND THE OTHER ONE WAS JUST A NATIVE, THAT WAS IN THE OYSTER BUSINESS. AND HE SAYS, GOD THESE FELLOWS DRESS PRETTY GOOD, DON'T THEY. HE SAYS, GOD, THEY LOOK JUST LIKE THE COAST GUARD! HE SAYS, I GUESS THEY WANT TO FOOL THE COAST GUARD. HE SAYS, JUST UP YOU DAMN FOOL, IT IS THE COAST GUARD! THEN HE SAYS, "WHERE'S THE BOOZE?" OH, THE FELLOWS SAID, WE'LL FIND THE BOOZE, YOU JUST TAKE IT EASY.

SO THEY ANCHORED THE SCOWS, WHICH WAS ANCHORED ANYWAY, WAITING FOR THEM. SO THEY TOOK THAT TO WOODS HOLE, BUT IN THE MEANTIME WHEN THE BOAT DID COME IN, THEN THEY TOWED THE BOAT, LIQUOR AND EVERYTHING RIGHT TO WOODS HOLE. SO THEY GOT MEN, AND EVERYTHING THAT TIME. BUT THE FELLAS THAT WORKIN, THEY DIDN'T BOTHER THEM. IF THE FINE WAS FIFTY DOLLARS, WHATEVER IT WAS, WHY THE 'HIGH COMMAND' PAID FOR IT, YOU KNOW.

THEN THERE WAS SOME THAT COME IN TO WEST BARNSTABLE. THERE WAS A CARPENTER WENT DOWN THERE, JUST LOOKING OVER THE BEACH. GOD, HE SAW IT, AND BROUGHT HOME FOUR OR FIVE CASES - AND WHEN HE GOT, JUST FOR HE GOT TO THE MAIN ROAD A COP WAS COMIN IN, SOME COP. MAYBE TWAS A REVENUE MAN. BY GOD, HE GOT WITH HIM AND HE SAYS, I'M NOT IN THE BUSINESS, HE SAYS, I JUST WENT DOWN THERE TO LOOK AT THE BEACH. OH YEH, I KNOW. SO THAT WAS THAT. BUT, THEY DUMPED IT ABOUT EVERYWHERE.

Q SO IT WAS EASY ENOUGH TO GET INVOLVED WITH IT?

A WHAT'S THAT?

Q IT WAS EASY ENOUGH TO GET INVOLVED WITH IT.

A OH YA. BUT AT ONE TIME WHEN THEY WAS BRINGING IT IN, THEY'D BRING IT ON THE TOWN DOCK, AND DOWN MRS MEYERS PIER. THAT WAS - I FORGET THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE BEFORE MRS MEYER HAD IT. AND THEY WAS BRINGIN IT RIGHT UP THE STEPS, AND THERE WAS AN INTERNAL REVENUE MAN RIGHT THERE AND HE DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER IT.

HE DID ASK THEM WHAT THEY GOT IN THERE, BUT HE KNEW THEY WAS POOR, AND TWAS A SMALL TOWN, AND THEY DEPEND ON FISHIN AND THEY DIDN'T PAY NO ATTENTION TO EM AT'TALL. THEY FIGURED, WELL, WHAT YOU'D GET, THEY WON'T GET.

THEN, ANOTHER DAY I WAS OUT THERE, AND THERE'S A FELLOW FROM FALMOUTH, AND HE HAD HIS DRAGGER OUT. WELL, WHEN I LOOKED OVER THERE, WHEN HE PULLED THAT DRAG IN, I BET HE HAD FIFTEEN OR TWENTY CASES. BUT HE DIDN'T DARE TO STAY TOO LONG, CAUSE COUNT OF THE COAST GUARD, IF THEY COME ALONG, THEY'D HAVE CONFISCATED THE BOAT. HE DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE THAT, YOU KNOW. BUT HE WAS IN THE AREA WHERE IT WAS.

AND EVEN, LONG AFTER THAT, WE WAS IN SHORE ONE DAY, AND I HAPPENED TO SEE SOMETHIN THERE, IN THE SAND GOIN ROUND, AND OH GOD, I MUST A GOT A HUNDRED CASES OUT OF THERE, I GUESS. MAYBE MORE. BUT WE WAITED A WHOLE MONTH BEFORE WE DARED TO TOUCH IT, BUT. THAT WAS THAT.

BUT, ANOTHER THING, WAY BACK IN THE 20'S, A SEA CAPTAIN I KNEW WELL, AND HE DOESN'T LIE. HE SAID THAT THEY WAS COMIN FROM NEWPORT IN THEIR LITTLE, - THEY GO FISHIN, YOU KNOW. THEN THEY GO OUT TO THE MOTHER SHIP AND PICK UP MAYBE TEN OR FIFTEEN CASES THAT THEY COULD SLIDE UNDER THE FLOORBOARDS, YOU KNOW. AND THEY'D COME IN, AND THEY WAS DOIN THAT ALL THE TIME. BUT WHY THEY WAS OUT THERE FISHIN ALL THE TIME, YOU KNOW, HAND LININ' FOR COD OR SOMETHIN, THEY WASN'T BOTHERED. THIS FELLOW GOT AWAY WITH IT FOR YEARS. BUT IT WAS THE BIG BOATS THEY WAS LOOKIN' AFTER, YOU KNOW, THAT WAS RUNNIN' IT. NOW YOU CAN SHUT IF OFF.

WHEN THESE BOATS WENT OUT TO THE MOTHER SHIP OUT THERE, THEY USED TO BUY THIS OVER THE SIDE FOR ABOUT \$22.00 A CASE. THE BOAT BRINGING IT IN WOULD GET \$3.00 FOR EVERY CASE FOR BRINGING IT IN. BUT IF IT EVER WENT WRONG, AND SOME WENT WRONG, AND THEY HAD TO DUMP IT, THEY WASN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. YOU, IF YOU GIVE THEM \$5,000.00 TO BUY THAT STUFF, AND THEY HAD TO KICK IT OVERBOARD, WHY, THAT WAS YOUR HARD LUCK. SO, IT COST THEM ABOUT \$28.00 TO GET IT ASHORE. THEN THEY'D SELL IT ANYWHERE FROM \$65.00 TO \$72.00 A CASE.

WHAT IS IT I WANTED TO SAY - OH, HOW I KNOW ALL OF THIS - I USED TO BE IN BOSTON FROM 1925 TO 1930 IN THE WINTER. AND I USED TO WORK FOR A LADY STAYED AT THE VENDOME. SO - HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE. AT THE VENDOME.

AND WHY I PUT UP IN THE GARAGE, WHY I PUT IT IN THIS GARAGE, THEY WAS - TWASN'T A - THEY'D NEVER SELL QUART BOTTLES, ANYTHING LIKE THAT, TWAS ALL CASES. AND ALCOHOL USED TO COME IN FIFTY GALLON DRUMS AND AGAIN, IT USED TO COME IN THREE GALLON CANS FROM SOMEPLACE IN EUROPE. BUT MOST OF IT COME FROM ST. PIERRE, YOU KNOW. UP IN THE CANADIAN PROVINCES. BELGIAN ALCOHOL WAS 190 PROOF, THEY COULD CUT IT TWO OR THREE TIMES, AND STILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF WHISKEY AT 82 OR 86. SO THAT'S HOW, AFTER I'D BEEN THERE ALL THESE YEARS, I GOT TO KNOW EM SO WELL, YOU KNOW.

WE'D BE TALKING ABOUT THIS, AND TALKING ABOUT THAT. AND THEY USED TO BRING IT UP ON THE NORTH SHORE ONCE AND AWHILE, ALL THIS STUFF. THEN IT TWAS ABOUT TWO OR THREE DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS - I'LL OPEN THAT AND LET HER IN. NOW YOU CAN SHUT IT OFF.

THE CANADIAN ALCOHOL WOULD COME IN, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, WOULD COME IN 50 GALLON DRUMS AND OTHER TIMES IT WOULD COME IN 3 GALLON CANS. BELGIAN ALCOHOL WHICH WAS 190 PROOF. NOW THEY WOULD SELL THAT ALCOHOL FOR AROUND SEVEN OR EIGHT DOLLARS OR SIX TO EIGHT DOLLARS A GALLON. THE PERSON, HE COULD CUT IT AT LEAST TWICE AND THEY COULD GIVE YOU BRANDY, OR ALL THESE FLAVORS YOU COULD BUY IN A STORE. THEY COULD DOCTOR THAT UP SO GOOD THAT YOU COULDN'T TELL IT FROM GENUINE WHISKEY THAT WAS BOTTLED. THEY WAS A MASTER AT IT. WHEN THEY MIXED IT WITH WATER, THEY DIDN'T USE TAP WATER, THEY USED DISTILLED WATER. THEN IF THEY JUST SOLD ANOTHER CAN OF ALCOHOL, SAY THERE'S THREE GALLONS, THEY PAID SIX DOLLARS FOR, THEY'D TURN AROUND AND SELL IT FOR TWELVE. SO THEY WAS DOUBLIN THE MONEY THERE. AND THE CANS WAS ALL GREASED AND A CARDBOARD OVER EM SO THEY WOULDN'T RATTLE OR WIRED.

AND, AS I SAY, THE OTHER ALCOHOL THEY USED, AT TIMES, TO PUT IT IN FIVE GALLON CANS. THEY DIDN'T BOTHER WITH THIS PINT, QUART STUFF. THEY'D SELL IT IN FIVE GALLON CANS AND THEN THAT FELLOW, HE COULD MIX IT UP. YOU COULD EVEN BUY BOTTLES BY THE DOZEN. YOU COULD BUY ANY LABEL YOU WANTED THAT WAS PRINTED. WHETHER YOU WANTED BOURBON, OR WHAT IT WAS.

BUT THEY WAS A BIG HOLDER, IT WAS MELLON, WASN'T IT? HAD A LOT OF WAREHOUSES THAT WAS MAKIN LIQUOR? WHISKEY, IN BALTIMORE, I THINK IT TWAS MELLON. IT WAS CALLED STUART RYE WHISKEY. AND BOY, THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL STUFF. THAT WOULD GO FOR ABOUT OH, SEVENTY FIVE - EIGHTY DOLLARS A CASE. AND THEY HAD TO SELL IT TO THE GOVERNMENT WHEN IT WAS REPEALED IN THIS COUNTRY.

THEN AGAIN, WHEN I WAS WORKIN AROUND THERE, THEY'D SAY, ONCE AND A WHILE, - YOU WANT TO GO WITH SO AND SO IN THE CAR, HE'S GOT SOMETHIN TO DELIVER? SOME TO DELIVER AT ONE OF THE HOTELS DOWN THERE. SO THERE WAS A FELLOW IN COTUIT, YOU KNOW HIM REAL WELL, AND THERE WAS ME AND ANOTHER FELLOW - WE'RE TAKIN THIS IN TO THE BACK DOOR. OF COURSE, THEY KNOW WE ARE COMIN, THEY ALL READY FOR US. HERE THIS FELLOW I KNOW REAL WELL WAS GOIN IN WITH A CASE OF WHISKEY - COURSE IT'S WRAPPED WITH A PIECE OF PAPER ROUND IT,

WAS ALL WRAPPED UP, AND TIED. HE SAYS, HEY FELLOW, WHERE YOU GOIN? HE SAYS, I'M GOIN IN HERE. AND HE SAYS, WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT YOU GOT IT THERE? HE SAYS - HE KNEW HE'S GOIN TO KNOW - SO HE SAYS, I GOT BOOZE IN HERE, WHY? AND HE SAYS, WELL, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO RUN YOU IN. HE SAYS, WAIT A MINUTE, SAYS, HERE'S A DIME, YOU CALL THIS NUMBER. HE CALLED THAT NUMBER. HE TURNED AROUND, HE WALKED RIGHT OUT THE BACK DOOR OF THAT HOTEL, THEY KEPT RIGHT ON UNLOADIN.

ANOTHER TIME, WE WAS IN THERE, AND THEY SAYS, 'BOUT SUPPERTIME, WOULD YOU GIVE THEM A HAND? THEY CHANGE COPS AT SIX O'CLOCK. SO WE GO DOWN ON COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, THE MAID WOULD MEET US, THEY'D JUST OPEN THE DOOR A LITTLE WAYS JUST TO LET US KNOW IT WAS READY AND THEN THREE OR FOUR OF US WOULD GRAB ONE OR TWO CASES AT A TIME AND GO RIGHT INTO THE HOUSE, YOU KNOW. WALK RIGHT UP THERE. THEN WE'D GO ON ANOTHER STREET, AND I THINK IT 'TWAS NEWBURY STREET AND WE'D GO IN THERE AND TAKE SOME MORE.

THEN ANOTHER DAY WE WAS - ONE OF THE FELLOWS SAID, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A RIDE, SO I DROVE THEM DOWN TO STATE STREET, AND HE COME OUT, AND MY GOD, I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY HE HAD, THEY HAD TWO BIG HANDSFUL OF MONEY. THEY WOULDN'T TAKE CHECKS, 'CAUSE IT WOULD SHOW HE WAS MAKING SOME KIND OF MONEY ON - LEGALLY. SO HE SHOVED ONE BIG POCKET IN MY POCKET AND HE HAD THE REST IN HIS POCKET.

NOW HE SAYS, SOMEBODY KNOCKS ME OFF, THEY'LL THINK THEY'VE GOT ALL THE MONEY, BUT YOU'VE GOT HALF OF IT. SO WE WENT DOWN TO THIS BANK IN COPLEY SQUARE, WALKED UP TO THIS FELLA. HE SAYS, OH, I'VE GOT SOMETHIN FOR YOU. SO HE PULLED THIS OUT, AND HE REACHED IN MY POCKET. OH, THE BILLS WAS THAT THICK. PULLED THAT OUT AND HE SAYS, "UH, YOU PUT THAT ON MY ACCOUNT." HE COUNTED IT ALL UP, PUT IT, OF COURSE, WAS A PHONY ACCOUNT, AND THEN, IN MY WAIST HERE, HE STUCK IN TWO QUART BOTTLES OF WHISKEY. SO HE OPENED MY COAT AND HE PULLED ONE BOTTLE OUT AND THEN PULLED THE OTHER BOTTLE OUT. HE GAVE IT TO HIM, YOU KNOW, JUST FOR A LITTLE GOOD DEED, YOU KNOW. COURSE, HE'S GETTIN MORE THAN THAT, BUT THAT WAS HOW YOU CAN HAVE A PHONY ACCOUNT YOU KNOW, NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT IT.

THEN ONE NIGHT JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS, ABOUT THREE NIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS, THEY HAD A FELLOW THAT WAS ON THE VICE SQUAD, AND BOY, HE DID HIS WORK RIGHT. YOU WASN'T GOIN' TO BUY HIM OFF. AND HE WALKED IN THERE AND WALKED RIGHT DOWN BACK THERE AND EVEN SAW

POLICE LIEUTENANTS AND ONE THING AND ANOTHER HAVIN' A LITTLE DRINK. THEY HAD A LITTLE SMALL BAR THERE AND THEY WAS DRINKIN' AWAY. HE SAW ALL THIS, DIDN'T SEE THE WHISKEY OR ALCOHOL, HE THOUGHT TWAS OIL DRUMS, HE DIDN'T BOTHER THE ALCOHOL AT ALL. SO WE SENT THE TRUCK AROUND THERE TO PICK IT UP, SO AS THEY WENT TO PICK IT UP, WENT OUT OF THERE, WHY. WHO OWNS THIS? SO THE FELLOW THAT, HE DIDN'T OWN IT, BUT HE WAS IN THERE A LOT, SO HE TOOK THE BLAME, SAID IT WAS HIM. SO I THINK THEY FINED HIM A COUPLE HUNDRED DOLLARS OR SOMETHIN' AND THIS GUY PAID FOR IT. THAT KEPT THE TWO BIG SHOTS CLEAR, YOU KNOW. BUT THEY'RE BOTH GONE. BUT THESE FELLOWS THAT WAS IN IT, AS I KNOW THEM, THEY NEVER CARRIED ANY GUNS, THEY NEVER WAS OUT TO SHOOT ANYBODY, OR KILL ANYBODY, CAUSE THEY WASN'T GOIN TO GET IN ANY BIG JAMS, YOU KNOW. BUT THE MAIN THING WAS, THEY HAD TO WATCH FOR THE POLICE AND THE INTERNAL REVENUE, AND THE COAST GUARD, AND THE HIJACKERS. THEY HAD EVERYONE AGAINST THEM. SO AS I SAY, THEY WASN'T OUT TO - THEY JUST WENT AND GOT THE STUFF AND TOOK A GAMBLE THAT THEY COULD GET IT BACK AND DELIVER IT. LOT OF TIMES THEY'D LOSE OUT. BUT IN THE END, THEY ALWAYS WAS AHEAD.

WHEN I WAS FOURTEEN AND A LITTLE ISLAND DOWN IN -----I REMEMBER SOME OF THE BOYS USED TO GO OVER TO A PLACE CALLED GULFPORT AND THEY USED TO PICK UP THIS MOONSHINE, THEY CALLED IT, IN GALLON JUGS.

AND THEN COURSE I WAS THERE FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS, BUT AFTER I LEFT, WHEN IT GOT INTO THE LATE TWENTIES AND THIRTIES, TWO OR THREE OF THOSE FELLOWS I KNEW, THEY WAS BRINGING IT IN BY, THEY WAS SPORT FISHERMEN YOU KNOW, THEY WAS BRINGING IT IN BY CASES UNTIL ONE OF THEM, HE GOT NAILED OR JUMPED OVER BOARD OR SOMETHIN, AND I DON'T KNOW. HE WENT TO CUBA OR MEXICO OR SOMEPLACE TILL THINGS COOLED OFF, AND THEN THEY DROPPED - I GUESS NOTHIN WAS DONE ABOUT IT OR ANYTHING. BUT IT JUST SHOWS THAT THIS SORT OF THING HAD BEEN GOIN ON A LONG TIME. AND MOONSHINE IS ALWAYS GOIN ON, AS NEAR AS I CAN FIND OUT. CAUSE, WHEN I WAS IN THE AIR FORCE, I MET FELLOWS FROM WEST VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA. THEY USED TO SAY, THEY USED TO GO OUT AND GET SOME OF THAT MONKEYSHINE OR WHAT DO YOU CALL IT, MOONSHINE OR MONKEYSHINE. AND HE SAYS, LOT OF TIMES, THEY HAD A STILL WAY BACK IN THE WOODS THERE, THEY WAS MAKIN IT BY THE GALLONS. AND OF COURSE, THAT EVEN GO INTO FLORIDA, DIFFERENT PLACES. COURSE IT WAS MUCH CHEAPER, YOU KNOW, AND FURTHERMORE, YOU COULDN'T BUY IT ANYWHERE ELSE, YOU KNOW. THEY WAS GREAT FOR MOONSHININ DOWN THERE.

AT THAT TIME, IF THEY KNEW THE REVENUE MAN WAS COMING, THEY LIABLE - SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW, THEY DIDN'T COME OUT OF THE WOODS. THE REVENUE MAN DIDN'T. THEY DIDN'T PLAY DOWN THERE, YOU KNOW. COURSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH SCHOOLIN' DOWN THERE. THAT DIDN'T BOTHER THEM ANY.

Q THEY WERE TOUGH GUYS.

A IN REGARDS TO THIS COUNTRY OF OURS, BACK IN FORTY, 1942 AND 45, THE BRITISH POUND WAS WORTH \$4.96. IN THE FIFTIES, THE LATE FIFTIES I THINK IT WENT TO \$2.56. AS NEAR AS I CAN FIND OUT NOW, IT'S ABOUT \$1.27 A POUND FOR THE POUND NOTE. AND THE WAY THIS COUNTRY IS IMPORTIN' GOODS IN HERE, ANOTHER FIVE YEARS, IF OUR GOOD PRESIDENT THINKS HE'S GOT TROUBLE, IN ANOTHER FIVE YEARS THE EMPLOYMENT IS GOING TO BE SO BAD, THAT NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO, THEY CAN'T CATCH UP WITH IT. THE ONLY WHY THEY'RE BRINGING THIS STUFF IN, CAUSE ALL THE BIG SHOTS OVER THERE, AND THEY DON'T DARE TO BOTHER THEM IN ANY WAY. BUT THE MAIN THING, IF THE BRITISH POUND IS STRONG, THIS DOLLAR, - WE MAY THINK WE GOT FIFTY THOUSAND IN THE BANK, YOU MAY WAKE SOME MORNING, YOU'LL HAVE TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND. THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT TEN THOUSAND. YOU KNOW HOW THE DOLLAR IS RIGHT NOW. IT'S TO THE POINT WHERE THIS COUNTRY IS IN ONE HELL OF A MESS.

NOT SO LONG AGO, IS IT CONGRESSMAN STUDDS? HE SENT ME A LETTER, LIKE HE DOES A LOT OF PEOPLE. HE SAID, HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO TAKE THE RUSSIANS TO TAKE WEST BERLIN? AND I SAID, 48 HOURS. AND I SUPPOSE HE THOUGHT THAT WAS A BIG STATEMENT. BUT WITH THE PLANES THEY GOT, AND THEY GOT AT LEAST FIVE THOUSAND IF NOT MORE, TANKS IN EAST GERMANY RIGHT NOW, AND THEY'RE TURNING OUT SUBMARINES EVERY SIX WEEKS. THAT THEY, WHEN THEY GET READY, I DON'T THINK THEY'LL EVER FIRE ATOMIC WEAPONS. I DON'T THINK THEY'LL EVER BE USED, UNLESS IT'S BY MISTAKE. BUT THEY CAN, WHEN THEY GET READY, THEY CAN CUT US RIGHT OFF ON THE SEA LIKE NOBODY'S BUSINESS. SO IF THEY THINK THEY'VE GOT HARD TIMES NOW, YOU JUST WAIT ANOTHER FIVE YEARS. IT'S RIGHT ON THE WALL, ANYBODY CAN SEE IT.

END OF TAPE.