



ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

An interview with
Miona M. Minor, 1910-2009
(*Mrs. Samuel Howard Minor, Jr.*)

August 18, 1997



[MP3 Audio File](#) [Length: 00:53:38] (26.8 MB)

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PREFACE

Mrs. Miona Mae Minor was the wife of one of the owners of H&M Sportfishing. In many ways she was more than the wife of an owner; she was a very active participant in the business.

Mrs. Minor had charge of all the business aspects of the company. All company costs, payroll, expenses, taxes, rents, leases, and so on were her department. And she, apparently, was outstanding in this capacity.

But, in addition to business aspects, Mrs. Minor was involved in all related activities. She was an excellent fisher(woman) - always caught fish - albacore, yellowtail, marlin, or whatever. Also, she helped others become good fishermen (and women).

Mrs. Minor was a willing participant in other sports and she provides an interesting account of these and other aspects of an active life in this interview.

Thomas E. Walt, Editor
June 23, 1998

INTERVIEWER'S NOTE

This is an oral interview with Miona Mae Hawkins Minor. She was connected with the sport-fishing industry of San Diego. My name is Robert G. Wright. The date is August 18, 1997. This interview is being made for the San Diego Historical Society and the Maritime Museum of San Diego.

ROBERT G. WRIGHT: Will you give me your full name, please?

MIONA MINOR: Miona Mae Minor.

RW: Where and when were you born, Mrs. Minor?

MM: I was born in Las Animas, Colorado on April 21, 1910.

RW: When did you come to San Diego?

MM: I was three years old when my family moved to San Diego.

RW: Why did they decide to come here?

MM: Some relatives had moved here so my family wanted to move here, too. My father went into the lumber business, but I don't remember with what company.

RW: What part of town did you move into?

MM: We moved on Boston Street over in Logan Heights. That was the elite section at that time.

RW: So you started school here? Did you go to Memorial?

MM: No, I went to Roosevelt Junior High School. I went to Florence for grammar school. For awhile we moved to Alpine, California, and I went to the 1st grade there. When we came back I went to Garfield Elementary School.

RW: Did you go to San Diego High School?

MM: Yes, I graduated from San Diego High in 1928.

RW: That was a pretty good class.

MM: It was the largest class that I think they had ever had. I think it was 600 students.

RW: A lot of well-known people came out of that class.

MM: Yes. In fact we had our 65th high school reunion a couple of years ago.

RW: Do you remember some of the people who were in your class?

MM: Robert Driver, the insurance man, I knew him. There were several football players, but I don't recall their names. Harry Hayes, whose parents used to play in the Savoy Theater, they were actors. Harry Hayes is still alive; he was quite active in the reunion activities, too. It was interesting. In fact, the last three reunions that we had, I helped. But we are not going to have one this next year, I guess. They want one, but I've had it; three is enough. Let somebody else do the work next time.

RW: This interview is going over to the San Diego Historical Society so we need to fill out this biographical questionnaire. Did your father stay in the lumber business very long?

MM: Not too long. They weren't too successful in that.

RW: San Diego was growing and changing. We had Depression times.

MM: I remember the 1930s. That was when I was married.

RW: After you got out of school did you go to work?

MM: Yes, I did. I worked for a stock and bond company; I set up their books for them.

RW: Do you remember the name?

MM: It was Julian Pole and I worked for him. Then I was offered a better job at the Union Oil Company. So I worked for them and was with them for 12 years.

RW: You know, I understand in those days you could work if you were single, but if you got married you were not exactly welcomed to work.

MM: I didn't have any trouble because I was married on January 31, 1930.

RW: What was your husband's name?

MM: Samuel Howard Minor, Jr.

RW: What did he do for a living?

MM: He was in the insurance business when we were married and also manager of the United Water Taxi Company of which he was a part owner. He had a boat in there.

RW: He sounds like a pretty active fellow.

MM: He was very active.

RW: When did you have your children?

MM: We were married 19 years before I had my daughter, Michelle. I caught a marlin when I was almost seven months pregnant with her.

RW: When did you get into the sport-fishing business?

MM: In 1935, but he still managed the water taxi business.

RW: Was it a social thing in sport fishing, or was it a business?

MM: It was business - H&M Sportfishing Company.

RW: Oh, he was part of the H&M?

MM: He was the manager there for 35 years. It was Hoss and Miller and Hoss and Minor.

RW: Was that the only sport-fishing outfit in town?

MM: There was the Sea Angler which was run by Captain O. J. Hall, Bud Hall's father. Then there was Otto Kessig, too, who came later.

RW: How long was H&M going before your husband got involved with it?

MM: There was one fellow that had the *Mascot I*. We bought him out. By we, I mean H&M Sportfishing Company, so that is why in 1935 we started.

RW: That was in the height of the Depression years.

MM: Yes, it was. You'll see from that pamphlet that Manny (Silva) sent you that we charged \$2.00 a trip to the islands (Coronados) then.

RW: I understand that really in spite of the Depression years a lot of people came down from Los Angeles to go out on the boats here.

MM: Yes, they did. I used to fish the boat a lot with friends.

RW: When you say, "fish the boat," do you mean go out as a crew member?

MM: No, I went out as a passenger. I was lucky in hooking fish. When the people couldn't hook fish I'd hook fish for them and hand them the rod.

RW: I heard that certain young people, like boys with oil on their hands, could catch fish more than anybody else. There are certain people who have that knack.

MM: I was always lucky in hooking fish, I really was.

RW: Did your husband see a demand for sport fishing? I assume he was really interested in sport fishing on his own.

MM: Yes, we fished. We had a water taxi. He converted that just for our personal pleasure. He put a bait tank on it and we would go out fishing on that boat and take friends with us. That is how I started fishing. Although with the old Point Loma barge here we went out on that once or twice. That is where I caught my first yellowtail. As I remember, I caught six that one trip. Oh, I was so thrilled. I was quite young then.

RW: You were only about 25 years old at the time, or even younger than that.

MM: I was 20 when I was married.

RW: One thing that I wanted to ask about, the water taxi business. Did he actually run it himself, or have somebody else do it?

MM: Yes, we had hired skippers.

RW: And they would go from the Broadway pier, to where, North Island?

MM: They ran to the ships out in the harbor, the Navy ships.

RW: Do you remember what they charged?

MM: I think it was 25 cents.

RW: Well, if the sailors needed to get back to their ship, money was not an object, especially if they were late.

MM: I don't recall that it was any less expensive.

RW: Then did your husband go into partnership?

MM: For H&M? Yes, that is when Bill Hoss and "Barney" Miller (William Hoss and Ralph G. Miller, Sr.) and Howard Minor and Tony (Antonio) Hoss - there were four of them who all went in on it. We had a rough go there for a long time.

RW: Was it a lack of customers?

MM: Well, people just didn't fish too much then. We had to build the business up. My husband was an excellent manager; everything that he managed he was successful with.

RW: It sounds like it. Did you advertise?

MM: Oh, yes.

RW: In the Los Angeles papers?

MM: I don't remember that we advertised in the Los Angeles papers. I really couldn't say that for sure. We advertised, I'm sure.

RW: Usually, if you have a successful run, word-of-mouth is your biggest advertisement.

MM: We had a lot of people from LA [Los Angeles]. One thing, later after we got organized, my husband and I shot a lot of skeet. We had shooting jackets that had H&M Sportfishing on the back of them. We would go up to these tournaments up in LA. We met a lot of the movie stars up there.

RW: Oh, so you were a walking advertising billboard?

MM: That is right. In fact, I shot in the same squad with Fred McMurray. We met a lot of the movie stars: Gary Cooper, Andy Devine. In later years Andy Devine chartered our boat. I remember one time when we had a small charter boat for marlin fishing he chartered the boat all by himself. I prepared his lunch for him. We used to go over to Imperial Valley and we would meet him over there.

RW: It sounds like you developed a friendship with him.

MM: We did. I remember one time down at the Barbara Worth Hotel (El Centro) there were about 20 of us. We had the hotel cook some of our doves. We had a big party that night. I didn't care for the breasts of the birds so much; I liked the legs because they were white meat. So everybody would tear off the legs and give them to me and I would pass my bird breast along to them.

RW: Do you know there was a movie about that Barbara Worth, an old silent movie? I never saw it either, but I got involved with restoring the organ at the Fox Theater years ago and I had heard about this movie. I was hoping that we could acquire the use of it and have an organist play to the movie. Somebody said that if you ever saw the movie, you wouldn't want to do it. It was probably pretty bad. But there is a movie about Barbara Worth, whoever she was.

MM: I think it is still over there in El Centro, isn't it? It has been quite a while since the last time we went hunting over there. There were very few doves at that time.

RW: You know who else used to do that was Phil Harris. He went dove hunting over there. Were there any other movie stars, who were customers of yours, who would come down and fish off your boats?

MM: Clark Gable and Carol Lombard.

RW: Were they pretty good people, too?

MM: Yes, very good. Of course, there were a lot others that I didn't meet. Later on after I didn't work for Union Oil anymore, I did the books of the company, payrolls, and so forth. I can remember we had about 65 people on our payroll at one time.

RW: It developed from the *Mascot I*. Why was the boat given the name *Mascot*?

MM: I don't know; we didn't name it. It was already named when we bought it from Tadlock. We built another boat and called it the *Mascot III*.

RW: What happened to *Mascot II*?

MM: We sold it to some people up in LA as I recall.

RW: So there was the *Mascot I*, the *Mascot II*, and the *Mascot III*.

MM: All I know of were the *Mascot II* and the *Mascot III*. I don't know who had the *Mascot I*.

RW: But the boats kept getting bigger, I assume.

MM: Oh, yes. Then we built the *H&M 85*.

RW: Was that a steel boat?

MM: That was an old Navy boat. I never will forget that one. It was in June when we were still outfitting it. Like I told you, I was the bookkeeper at that time. The weather was so terrible this June. I had the whole weight of H&M on me because we didn't have enough money to pay. I'd have to write letters and tell them that we would pay as soon as we could. But we managed and came out of it. But it was a rough go there for a while. I used to cry; I would get so upset and my husband would say, "Don't worry about it." But that was me. I was concerned.

RW: Was the fishing seasonal, or could you fish all year around?

MM: Eventually we fished the year around to the kelp beds on the half-day boats.

RW: Then did you have all-day boats that went to the Coronados?

MM: That was during the good seasons. We would start, I think in April, whenever the yellowtail appeared.

RW: The water gets warmer about that time, I guess.

MM: Yes. For years as I can recall we didn't catch any albacore. They'd be out there jumping, but you couldn't catch them. In later years the people got smarter and the boats got smarter, too. Then we'd catch an awful lot of albacore. We had Driscoll Brothers build a 30-foot cabin cruiser that was very nice. My husband told me that we were going to charter it, but we never chartered that boat. He knew I wouldn't condone putting that much money in a personal boat. We had lots of fun on that boat. In fact, I didn't sell it until two years after he passed away. He passed away August 7, 1987; he has been gone for ten years.

RW: What happened? Did he have a heart attack?

MM: Yes, he had a heart attack and only lived seven days afterwards. He was 82 years old. There was five years' difference between us.

RW: I would assume that during the war years you couldn't do any fishing, or could you? I am talking about from 1942 to 1945.

MM: No, we were closed down. In fact, my husband worked at the Humane Society; he was managing there. We lived at 1931 West California Street right up above it, really. It was near Mission Hills.

RW: The Human Society is on the other side of the river.

MM: As I recall, it used to be right down below us, someplace in the Old Town area. He didn't like that very well because he had to put to death so many dogs. He started running his own boat. We were able to run the water taxis, so he started running his boat doing that. They needed the water taxis during the war.

RW: So he was still making money at that?

MM: Yes. At the Kelly Slough on the other side of Carlsbad, five of us leased an area. There was myself and three other people, Tony Hoss, Jack Foster, Howard Minor and myself. We used to go up there and shoot ducks, which was a lot of fun. He built sink boxes sunken down in the mud and slush.

RW: I think your husband was a very lucky guy to have a wife who was willing to do a lot of these things with him.

MM: I loved it. The first time he went hunting he didn't take me. We were living at 3595 Louisiana Street at that time. When he came home with all these doves, I said, "I want to go." He took me down to Stanley Andrews, a sporting goods store. We were very friendly with Stanley.

RW: That was probably when he was down at 3rd and B Streets.

MM: Yes. Stanley said, "Take this Stevens 20-gauge double barrel and try it. Don't pay for it now; let's just see how she likes it." We went down to Jacumba and stayed there overnight and drove on down further into the valley to Calexico. I was lucky. I hit the first dove I shot at. He had taken me out to Telegraph Canyon to practice and show me how to shoot the gun because I had never shot one before. I was shooting cactus apples. That is how I learned to shoot.

RW: You seem to be a natural on sports, shooting and catching fish.

MM: I was lucky.

RW: So after the war years, did your husband and H&M start up again?

MM: Yes. In 1940 the port district kind of didn't want us down there at the foot of Broadway anymore. So we had to move out here to Point Loma and that is where the boats are now.

RW: That is before Shelter Island was even created.

MM: That's right.

RW: If Shelter Island had existed I wonder if you would have been set up over there rather than down off of Scott Street.

MM: They've got the piers over there. Later on we went into the pier business, running piers.

RW: The port put the piers in and then you managed them?

MM: In 1968 we had the lease on the Imperial Beach pier, also the Ocean Beach pier later; then Shelter Island pier. I did all the book work. I was keeping five sets of books. My daughter is an attorney in Alaska. I would go back and forth and set up her books; did all her bookkeeping. I still did some of H&M's bookkeeping and payroll, and all three of the piers.

RW: Was money coming in from the concessions on the piers?

MM: That's right. We did fine. Tom Ham had the restaurant part (on the Ocean Beach pier) and we had the bait and tackle business. He didn't do too well. We had to make up for what he didn't do.

RW: I knew that out at Ocean Beach pier there was sort of a hot dog/hamburger stand. Did Tom run that? He certainly improved when he went down over to Harbor Island.

MM: Yes, that is a very good restaurant now. In fact, I still go there.

RW: I talked to him a few months before he died with the idea of interviewing him for the Historical Society. He was willing but he didn't have time. Then he passed away. He was quite a guy. Was there good money on those piers?

MM: The best one was Shelter Island; that is where we made the best.

RW: You don't charge to go out on the piers?

MM: No. We did make our money on bait. We sold tackle, sandwiches, cold drinks and candy. We had some merchandise in there, too, like hats and things.

RW: It sounds like your husband was a smart businessman in that he kept money coming in by being involved with the water taxis and the piers.

MM: We were also in the insurance business.

RW: Did he keep his hand in the insurance business at the same time?

MM: Yes. I did all the work there. He contacted the customers, but I did all the work.

RW: Was he sort of a natural salesman?

MM: Yeah, he was. He was such a kind man. People liked him; he was just a good guy. I was lucky to have him.

RW: It sure sounds like it. I think you were both lucky. In the later 1940s did the sport-fishing business sort of pick up? Did you still have the *Mascot II*?

MM: After we moved over here, yes. I don't remember when we sold the *Mascot II*. As I remember, we built the *Mascot III*, maybe we just bought it. I really can't remember that.

RW: Manny (Manuel P.) Silva started with you in 1935, about the time you started, or perhaps a little later.

MM: He was just a kid; he was a deckhand.

RW: That is how they all start. He stayed with you until he got to be a skipper of the boats.

MM: That's right. He hasn't been retired too many years. I went to his retirement party which they had on one of the boats.

RW: Can you name some of the other people who were involved with the H&M boats, like skippers?

MM: I should remember because I used to write their checks. Dwight Pollard was one; he was a good skipper.

RW: So, did the business, say from 1946 to 1950, start building up? You probably had more than one boat.

MM: Yes, it did. I can't remember when we built the *H&M 85*. I think that was around 1965. That was 85 feet long. That boat is still down there.

RW: Do you ever go down there anymore?

MM: Occasionally. I used to go down more than I do now. I was down there not too long ago for dinner.

RW: Do you have any papers or things that the museum could copy that would indicate the names of the boats, the people connected with them, and so forth?

MM: I gave all the pictures and things that I had to Ralph Miller. His daughter is Catherine Miller. He is an attorney now.

RW: Oh, Cathy Miller is the one who got in contact with Ray Ashley of the Maritime Museum, and he came and asked me if I would do these series of interviews, which I am happy to do. But, also, I am doubling up because I work not only for the Maritime Museum, but also for the Historical Society. Do you think advertising or word-of-mouth got the business going after the war?

MM: We used to advertise on the radio, too. I don't remember what year it was, but they set up a radio in my bedroom so that I could contact the boats from here. It was a big set. When need be, I could take their grocery orders and then push them on to the office.

RW: In other words, the boat on the way in would put in an order for groceries so that you would have them ready so they could turn around and take the boat out again?

MM: I didn't do it all of the time, but I did part of the time whenever they needed me. I had so many sets of books to handle that I was always in there.

RW: Do you remember what they charged to go out sport fishing on your boats? I am thinking of the 1940s, for instance. Would it be \$10.00 for a day trip?

MM: You know, I always went; I didn't have to pay. If I wanted a bunk though, as a rule I had to pay for the bunk or sleep on the deck. If the bunks weren't all taken, then I was allowed to have a bunk. I'd just take a blanket and sleep on the deck. Really, I can't remember what the prices were.

RW: Would Mr. Miller have the papers now?

MM: He might. I threw away so much of the stuff that I did, all the books and things.

RW: You know, that is very common. What we think is not of any value, it is valuable to somebody else maybe later.

MM: I bought a shredder because I've been in the process of shredding a lot of the Shelter Island pier books.

RW: You see, some of that might be of interest to the Historical Society or the Maritime Museum, showing costs and things like that. The thing is, what the costs were in those days versus what it is today. You can always look back and say, "Oh, gee, it only cost \$2.00 to fish on the pier, now it is \$15.00."

MM: I had to take the inventory down at the Shelter Island pier, too, and I had all the costs. A. E. Dann & Company was one place that we used to buy a lot of things from.

RW: Did you deal with the DeFalcos for groceries for the boats?

MM: They may have, but I am not sure.

RW: One question I forgot to ask you is why did the port want you to move away from the foot of Broadway?

MM: They said they wanted to use it for other purposes.

RW: You mean like for the harbor excursions?

MM: Yes.

RW: I wonder if Ed Hall was behind your company being moved out?

MM: He could have been. I wouldn't say for sure.

RW: It is a big tourist area and even more so now. You just can't believe the number of people who are down around there now. I work part time selling tickets for the *Star of India*, as I did yesterday. This has been a banner summer. It seems like thousands of people are coming along Harbor Drive now.

MM: After my dad retired he used to go down there and sell tickets for the harbor excursions, but the water taxis had a harbor excursion. They just used the boats that we had. He would sell those tickets and he loved doing that.

RW: Yes, you meet all kinds of people and from all over the world. I love it. Now, getting into the 1950s and 1960s, I would assume that business just kept growing?

MM: It did. As long as there were fish there we were okay.

RW: At different times would you fish different areas? Was it always Coronado Islands' area?

MM: That is where they usually went. They've caught fish up off of La Jolla and then they started those long-range trips, too.

RW: You must have acquired a bigger boat than the 85 to go further out.

MM: I never rode one of them, but I did ride the 85 and went down below. I caught a big yellowtail one time down there, 35 pounds weight.

RW: What about this marlin fishing that you did? Was that off of your own personal boat?

MM: Not all of it. The first marlin I caught was off of Ralph Miller's boat, the old Barney Google. That fish weighed 198 pounds. I sat down that time but it was just on a camp chair. We didn't have all those fancy chairs that they have now.

RW: Were you strapped in?

MM: No. I never caught a fish from one of those chairs (with the restraints on them).

RW: It is a wonder you didn't get pulled in into the water yourself.

MM: I caught that (fish), I think, on medium tackle. Of all the marlins I've caught I think I've only caught two on 60-pound test line. All the rest were on much lighter, down to nine-pound.

RW: Is there a certain time of the year for the marlin to come into this area?

MM: Yes. Sometimes they will be in here very sparsely in June. I can't say right now when the first marlin was caught this year, but there have been a few caught.

RW: Is that standard from year to year?

MM: Sometimes it is better than others. There is not nearly the marlin there used to be. I've hooked marlin right out here in the kelp beds in years gone by. I've had them follow my bait clear in almost to the Point. They catch them at the five-mile bank quite often, even yet.

RW: Now, if you are going to fish for marlin, do you fish differently for them than you do for the yellowtail or bonita?

MM: Oh, yes, yes. You have different tackle and you have bigger reels.

RW: Different bait?

MM: Yes. In the olden days we used flying fish and then we'd catch mackerel for bait. I've even hooked a marlin on an anchovy. I had that fish on for, oh, I think, three or four hours. We were right by the island. Some big great whale came around my line. I could see his hump coming up. We had John Pepper from the Union-Tribune [newspaper] aboard that day and he was taking pictures of my fishing. Finally this whale came up and my line was over his back and he cut me off. That was really sad.

RW: Was there a marlin on the other end?

MM: Yeah, I had a big marlin on the line. He cut the line and I lost the fish. Then I had a big Navy ship cut off a fish on me. I wrote the Navy about that. I got a letter back, but that didn't retrieve my line for me. You know, that line is kind of expensive. Although I was lucky having had the world's record on marlin fishing by a lady, I had lots of tackle given to me, and line.

RW: What was your record?

MM: A marlin at 241 pounds.

RW: When did you catch that?

MM: In 1941. I've got a plaque over here for that one that gives the exact date. That is the one that is mounted over here.

RW: Did you and your husband stay with the business until he died?

MM: No, we sold out in 1966. That is when we went into the pier business.

RW: Who did you sell out to?

MM: The whole company bought us out. Tony Hoss was deceased. Ralph Miller, Jr. and Bill Hoss were both alive when we sold out.

RW: What did you do then? You just stayed with the pier business?

MM: That's right; that kept us pretty busy.

RW: Then how long did you stay with the pier business - Ocean Beach, Shelter Island, Imperial Beach?

MM: We sold Imperial Beach. I don't remember just when.

RW: You had the concessions to run those piers?

MM: We got permission to sell our interest in that one. Then we sold Ocean Beach, too, or we just got out of Ocean Beach.

RW: When did you do that? Are we talking about in the 1970s?

MM: You know, I don't remember; it could have been.

RW: I think you told me earlier that you got out of the pier business about 1980. Is that about right?

MM: Completely, by 1980. My husband died in 1987, seven years later. We just played after that. My son bought this house up in Ramona and we would go up there every weekend and help him.

RW: How long have you been living in Point Loma?

MM: Forty years.

RW: So you really settled down and enjoyed life then?

MM: Yes, we did. We had no other business, just living off the fat of the land.

RW: Well, you earned it.

MM: We worked hard; we did. I worked hard, but it didn't hurt me I don't think.

RW: Did you go sport fishing much? Did you keep a boat?

MM: Yes, we went out fishing. We still had our boat. I sold it, the *Ya-Hee*.

RW: It sounds like an Indian name.

MM: When our daughter was a little girl she kept saying, "YaHee, Ya-Hee" and my husband said, "What do you mean, YaHee?" She'd say, "me, I ya-hee. I didn't mention about my son. He is five years younger than my daughter. He is a gem. He is a wonderful man.

RW: What does he do for a living?

MM: He is in the mortgage business out of Del mar and lives in Ramona.

RW: What is his name?

MM: Michael H. Minor; and my daughter's name is Michelle V. Minor.

RW: Is she married?

MM: She was married but she is not married now. I have one grandchild who is 12 years old. Her name is Jennifer.

RW: I'll bet it was with reluctance that you sold the boat. Your son didn't want it?

MM: He is out there in Ramona and his interest is in horses, but he still misses the ocean, he says. He would have liked me to keep it, but it got too much work for me keeping it up. I had to go down and start the engines, be sure it was painted properly. This was after my husband died. It was just

too much work for me. I used to go down and have lunch on it quite often. He died in 1989 and I sold it two years later. I sold it to a friend, John Taylor. Since then he has stripped the boat down and made a run-about out of it. It was just 30 feet long. I haven't seen the boat.

RW: Why don't we finish off this tape. I understand that you are part Indian.

MM: That is right. I am a quarter Indian Cheyenne. My grandmother was a full-blooded Indian princess. Her name was Amache Okonee. My grandfather's name was John W. Prowers. So my mother was half Indian and I am a quarter Indian.

RW: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

MM: Yes. I had two brothers, one a half-brother who died of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 42 years old. Then I had a younger brother who passed away quite young. My mother lived to be almost 96 years of age. My father died when he was about 72. He had smoked all his life and that didn't help him.

RW: All I can say right now is, thank you for the interview. Can you think of anything else we should cover?

MM: I can't think of anything at the moment either. I know I've had a wonderful life.

RW: It sure sounds like it, but you gave a lot to it.

MM: Yeah, I worked at it. Should I mention the fact about the number of fish I've caught?

RW: Sure.

MM: I caught my first marlin in 1935 and since then I've caught 105 marlin. I have kept track of them.

RW: That many marlin - to say nothing of all the yellowtail, bonitas, and everything else you've caught.

MM: The largest marlin weighed 265 pounds. The 241 was the record, but somebody had already beat the 265 when I caught it. I caught it on a 30-pound test line.

RW: Did you ever catch any sea bass? They can get awfully large.

MM: When I first started fishing my husband took me up the coast a ways to San Clemente. I caught a 65 pound halibut. I was so proud of that fish. We bought a great big washtub and brought it home so I could show my mother. I've done some trout fishing, too, up in the high Sierras, Lake Constance. Those tiny fish weren't so good. The ones at Convict Lake were good-sized trout. I've also fished up in Alaska.

RW: For salmon?

MM: Well, not in Alaska. I caught salmon out of April Harbor on the way up. We made a trip in a private yacht. Carol Dean who used to own a 7-Up bottling works, had this new boat built. He invited Howard, my husband, and me to take this maiden voyage trip. We flew up to Seattle and helped

him outfit the boat. We were there for a week or two before we set sail to go into Alaska. We had a marvelous trip through the inland passages. There were just the four of us on the boat. It was a beautiful boat, the Obrego.

RW: Apparently sport fishing will go on forever in San Diego as long as we have fish.

MM: As long as we have fish. I made a trip over there to the place behind Sea World where they are growing all these little white sea bass, little babies. That was a very interesting experience to keep the fish going.

RW: I understand they are doing the same thing with abalone. I remember when you used to be able to pick them right off the Sunset Cliffs. Thank you again, very, very much.

MM: Well, you are certainly welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW
