

NAUTICAL MEDIA

In conjunction with business leaders Bob Thorstenson, founder of Icicle Seafoods Corporation, and Cary Swasand, principal at Aleutian Spray Fisheries Corporation, and with the support of regional museums and historical societies, John Sabella's media production firm has embarked on a decade-long effort to chronicle and preserve the maritime histories of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

The project has now yielded nine broadcast-quality

documentaries, with additional programs in the pipeline. From commercial fishing to boatbuilding to yacht design, the firm has created classic vignettes of bygone eras. Along with the edited documentaries, the collection includes a substantial archive of historic film and photography transferred to professional videotape stock. In the case of the brittle old film, some of which dates to the early 1920s, the project has preserved priceless glimpses of maritime and regional life. The third component of the effort are dozens of professionally recorded on-camera interviews with the pioneers who lived the

bygone age. These individuals, whose frontier experiences seem almost inconceivable in the sanitized atmosphere of the 21st Century, are a diminishing resource. More than one of the old salts who has faced our cameras has *crossed the bar* since he or she told us their tales, and we are working with some urgency to record as many more interviews as possible. Only a

fraction of the interview content has survived the editing process so that it appears in the documentary programs. The remainder represents a substantial audio-visual

chronicle of the maritime realm in this corner of the globe.

Production of the two most recent titles, *Centuries of Fish: Seattle's Distant Water Fishing Fleet* and *Throwbacks to a Golden Age of Northwest Boats* has added significantly to all three components of the historic record. The programs were created by Seattle writer-producer John Sabella, with video photography and editorial by Seattleite Paul Sharpe. Like the others, they will serve as important tools for educating the public about maritime and regional history.

Throwbacks to a Golden Age of Northwest Boats

Centuries of Fish

Sockeye and the Age of Sail

The Great Age of Salmon

The Days of Salmon Traps & Fish Pirates

The Longline Pioneers

Pots of Gold: The Profit & The Sorrow

The Salmon Capital of the World

Petersburg: The Town that Fish Built



Captions, from top. Virginia V, last steam-powered remnant of the Puget Sound Mosquito Fleet, and Lake Union Dreamboat Winifred, resplendant for opening day of yachting season. Alaska Packers Association sailing ship Shetland bound for Bristol Bay. Bering Sea factory vessel American Triumph on the hunt for Alaska Pollock. Classic motoryacht Westward carrying guests to Alaska in the 1920s. King crabber turned groundfish trawler Starfish in the mist. Salmon gillnetters on Bristol Bay during the age of working sail.

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NAUTICAL MEDIA

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