8th National Summit on Coastal & Estuarine Restoration and 25th Biennial Meeting of The Coastal Society
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
December 12, 2016
11:00 – 12:30
THE PISCINE GEOGRAPHY OF COASTAL AND ESTUARINE HABITATS
– Don Davis, Louisiana Sea Grant College Program
A *Working Coast* is a landscape of “Invisible” People, particularly from a historical perspective.
The Human Mosaic
“I enclose the receipts for advances to the oyster shuckers... I understand that advances to tenants come back out of the crops which the tenants make, and the advances to boats come back out of the oysters which the boats catch, and that this means that although we pay 40¢ or 45¢ or even 50¢ for oysters delivered at the factory, we take out of this money which we pay for the oysters the amounts due from the several boats respectively....”

Joseph S. Clark, Sr., Philadelphia, Pa., to E. A. McIlhenny, Avery Island, La., 26 December 1908, TLS.
Bohemians from Baltimore

Image courtesy of the McIlhenny Company Archives, Avery Island, La.
WOMEN WERE THE BACKBONE OF THE FISHERY’S LABOR FORCE
“Row houses” where families of Bohemian laborers from Baltimore stayed during the seafood seasons in Biloxi. The last of these camps disappeared in the 1950’s. (Photograph by Joe Scholtes)
Work in canneries was originally performed by women and children.
A Short List of the Economic Pillars of the Fishing Industry:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shrimp</th>
<th>Oysters</th>
<th>Blue and Dungeness Crab</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haddock</td>
<td>Cod</td>
<td>Lobster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clam</td>
<td>Salmon</td>
<td>Shark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sardines</td>
<td>Anchovies</td>
<td>Tuna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menhaden</td>
<td>Whales</td>
<td>Mullet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingfish</td>
<td>Bonito</td>
<td>Channel Bass,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barracuda</td>
<td>Abalone</td>
<td>Pollock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hake</td>
<td>Cusk</td>
<td>Ling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cod or Haddock
The Klondike of the North Atlantic: Iceland’s Siglufjörður, Golden Age of Herring from 1867 to 1968
“Floats” for soft shell crab, Oxford, Maryland

Packing hard shell crabs in barrels, Oxford, Maryland
Boiled lobsters were packed in ice and then shipped to market.
Tonight

Fried/Baked Haddock
Fried/Baked Shrimp
Fried/Baked Scallops
Crab Cakes
Florida’s mullet and clam fisheries
Landing, cleaning, washing and flanking fish at a sardine cannery, Eastport, Maine

Preparing caviar on the Columbia River
Preparing nets for the shad fishery
Seining at Kurluk, Alaska
Drying halibut at Gloucester, Massachusetts

Dressing and salting mackerel at Gloucester, Massachusetts
On the Gloucester Fisherman’s Memorial between 1716 through 2001 at least 500 fishermen are listed. But a mural in city hall indicates the number lost is greater than 5,000.
Steam whaling
The New Bedford

One of the two last whaling stations was active in San Francisco Bay until 1971
After the discovery of petroleum in 1859, some whaling entrepreneurs participated in the new oil boom. Businesses such as Macy's Department Stores and the Standard Oil Company, familiar household names today, trace their origins to whaling.
Oyster sloop, San Francisco Bay
TECHNOLOGY, THE BACK STORY

Boats

Chinese Shrimp Boat, San Francisco

Chesapeake Bay bug-eye

Squid skiffs, Monterey
Italian fishermen’s felucca,
San Francisco

San Francisco Bay
Chinese Junk
Louisiana Luggers

Double E canoe, Hawaii
Schooners
Fish Cars
TECHNOLOGY, THE BACK STORY

Sails

DOUGHERTY & CO.

SAIL MAKERS,
MANUFACTURERS OF
AWNINGS,
TENTS & TARPAILINS
No. 73 POYDRA-ST.
BETWEEN MAGAZINE AND CAMP STREETS.

SAIL WORK
Of every description, neatly done to order.

RIGGING WORK
Done in all its branches.

H. CASSIDY,
SAIL MAKER,

TENT AWNING & FLAG
MANUFACTORY.

No. 10 OLD LEVEE STREET, NEAR CANAL,
NEW ORLEANS,
[ESTABLISHED IN 1887.]
TECHNOLOGY, THE BACK STORY

Nets
Louisiana barge-mounted and camp-based *poupiers*
Making and mending nets
Seines and pound nets
TECHNOLOGY, THE BACK STORY

*Tongs*
TECHNOLOGY, THE BACK STORY

Dredges
TECHNOLOGY, THE BACK STORY
Trawl boards, introduced in 1917, revolutionized shrimping
These services facilitated a quick and efficient transition from sail power to gasoline power.
St. Bernard Parish made cars ---
Ford Motor Company 225,000 square-foot facility
in Arabi 1922-1932

In December 1913 the first Model T came off Ford’s assembly line – the 10-millionth Model T rolled off the line at Ford’s highland Park plant.
TECHNOLOGY, THE BACK STORY
– Distribution Network –
Railroads, Trucks, Boats Airplanes
Railroads expanded the industry’s geographic reach.

“We are shipping our oyster shells as rapidly as the Southern Pacific will take them, which is at the rate of about twelve cars a week.” E. A. McIlhenny, Avery Island, La. to Joseph S. Clark, Sr., Philadelphia, Pa., 22 January 1909.
New Orleans French Market
Wholesale Market, Boston

Oyster Market, Baltimore
Oyster and fish docks, Galveston

Fulton Street Market, Frank Leslie's German edition
TECHNOLOGY, THE BACK STORY

Rope
TECHNOLOGY, THE BACK STORY
Barrels, shook, boxes, baskets. bags, and casks became obsolete with the development of corrugated paper.
Texas Company Shook Mill at Norman-Breaux Lumber Company millsite.
(From the personal collection of Catherine B. Dilsaver)
For more than 2,000 years barrels have been used as bulk containers. Since their initial development, they have stored, transported and aged a diverse array of products and liquids. Stave yards, blacksmiths and cooperages were required to meet the demand for barrels – the nearly invisible back-story.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Catch in Barrels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1902-1903</td>
<td>435,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903-1904</td>
<td>570,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904-1905</td>
<td>674,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-1906</td>
<td>504,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906-1907</td>
<td>804,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907-1908</td>
<td>861,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908-1909</td>
<td>741,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909-1910</td>
<td>320,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,912,466</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using 100 lbs./barrel results in 245,623 tons
103 years after the establishment of New Orleans, and 18 years after the Louisiana Purchase

May 21, 1821
Courrier de la Louisiane

FOR SALE,
About 600 barrels Oyster Shells.

APPLY at Mr. Gonou’s, Rampart street, No. 48, between Toulouse and St. Louis, next to the widow Sendé Lavigne.

may 18
H. McMANUS & CO.

COOPERAGE
Sugar Barrels and Hogsheads, Molasses Barrels,
Halves and Kegs.
OFFICE, 203 South Peters Street, and 207 and 209 Fulton Street,
TELEPHONE 810,
FACTORY, South Pryer Street, bet. Palmyra and Cleveland Sts.,
Special Attention Paid to Trimming on the Sugar Landing.

JOHN B. MEYERS, Pres. E. W. ROBB, Sec. and Treas.

UNION STAVE CO.
MANUFACTURERS OF
SUGAR & RICE BARRELS
AND ALL KINDS OF
SLACK BARREL MATERIAL,
OFFICE: 414 CRAVIER STREET,
New Orleans, La.

COOPERAGE!
P. A. LeBLANC,
Nos. 507 and 509 Conti St.
BET. DECatur AND Chartres Streets,
SUGAR LANDING, NEW ORLEANS.
Has constantly on hand New and Second Hand Sugar Hogsheads, Molasses
Barrels, Half Barrels, Kegs, Hoop Poles, Etc.
Orders promptly attended to.
Particular Attention Paid to Trimmings.

Lumber Department

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President Vice-President Secretary

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Manufacturers and Dealers in All Kinds of
Rough and Dressed Lumber,
Brick, Lime, Cement & Slate
Office Poplar and Protection Levee, Phone Walnut 447

Planing Mill and Lumber Yards
Protection Levee, Between Plum and Poplar Sts.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

PHONE MAIN 1242

C. J. HAY
Exporter of Staves, Headings, Shooks,
Hardwood Lumber and Logs
Office 516 Hennen Bldg.
New Orleans, La.

W. L. Houlton, Pres. R. G. Lemen, Vice-Pres. F. A. Lewis, Secretary

Houlton Lumber Co.
MANUFACTURERS AND MERCHANTS

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Whitney Central Bldg.

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HOULTONVILLE, LA.

SALES OFFICE
105 WHITNEY BANK BLDG.
Phone Main 209

YELLOW PINE
Shipping Points for Export
Gulfport, Miss.
Ship Island, Miss.
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
Cable Address
Houlton, New Orleans.
By the late 1800s’, the Carondelet Canal (Old Basin Canal, filled in in 1938) was lined with a variety of lumber yards, planning mills, sash, door and blind companies, firewood yards, barrel makers, and a vast assortment of other ancillary businesses, including workers whose specialty was caulking leaking molasses barrels.
Washing cod

Packing Finnan Haddie

Packing mackerel
The boxes in which the canned salmon is packed in Alaska are mostly made in Puget Sound and carried up in shooks. The cannery at Metlakahtla turns out its own boxes, and the sawmill in Toiigass Narrows, operated by Metlakahtla Indians, supplies Loring and Wrangell. As lumber cannot legally be exported from Alaska, there is only a small local demand for the product of the sawmills.
Staves delivered to the Port of New Orleans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Staves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>4,647,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td>7,000,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>11,500,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>13,706,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>10,178,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>7,605,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>9,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>346,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>1,064,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preparing and handling dried cod at Gloucester

Salted cod ready for drying
Partial list of salt source includes: Louisiana salt mines, Bahamas, France, Portugal, Liverpool, Bonaire, Italy, St. Martin, and San Francisco Bay
San Francisco Bay Salt Evaporation Ponds
* A shipwreck off the coast of Unalaska, in December 2004, spilled over 40,000 gallons of oil, prompting some at NOAA to rethink the importance of “Human Dimensions.”
ICE! ICE!!

Mr. CHARLES WIECK having received a large stock of

PURE LAKE ICE

is now prepared to furnish the same to coast trade, and supply all local demands at reasonable rates.

All orders from Plaquemine, Bayou Goula, Port Hudson, Bayou Sara, Woodville, Jackson and Clinton promptly attended to.

CITY ICE HOUSE.

Open from 5:30 A.M., to 8 P.M. Feb 22
The introduction of ice factories in the postbellum era and proliferation of the industry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries made ice an essential commodity in urban and small-town Louisiana.

Louisiana Ice Manufacturing Co. (1868) appears to have been New Orleans’ first major ice house to operate regularly.
Freezing using ammonium, Boston
Cannery at Klawak, Alaska  
Cannery at Loring, Alaska
Each camp shipping an estimated $100,000 worth of dried products annually, conceivably the collective total could approach a million dollars—a noteworthy figure in 1890 dollars.

Shrimp drying in Louisiana also was found along San Francisco Bay.
San Francisco Bay shrimp drying began in the 1870s.
In 1819, the first cannery opened in New York City for canning oysters and codfish, providing another way to trade New York oysters over long distances. The first shrimp were canned in Louisiana by the Dunbar family in 1865 – 43 years before the fish major cannery was established in Montray.
In 1901, the Biloxi–based Lopez, Dunbar’s Sons Company, shipped 525 carloads of shrimp and oysters — 26 trainloads of 20 cars each.

Human Issues
The tin can was patented in 1810 and in 1901 the American Can Company was founded. In New Orleans the Company built this building between 1907 and 1927. The manufacturing plant closed in 1988.
The body of nearly all cans is made by hand, but there are a few machines in use that solder the long body seams. In nearly, if not quite, all the canneries, after the cans are filled the bottoms and tops are soldered by machinery. To pack 50,000 cases requires 2,400,000 cans, and the Alaska pack in 1887 took about 43,600,000 cans.

This requires about 100,000 boxes of tin plate, weighing 10,000,000 pounds (5,000 tons roughly) and costing about $400,000.
The Dunbar name has been associated with the canning industry since 1865, when George H. Dunbar began the business of canning semi-tropical products. The Dunbar Molasses and Syrup Company Factory at 333 Chartres Street has been repurposed as the headquarters for Turn Services.
G. W. Dunbar
G. W. DUNBAR'S SONS,
NEW ORLEANS, La., U. S. A.,
The Original Packers of Fresh
BARATARIA SHRIMP,
IN LINED CANS,
Have Obtained a
SILVER MEDAL,
The only Award for Shrimp granted by the
INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES EXHIBITION,
Note the term “Cove” Oysters
LITTLE COVE BRAND
COVE OYSTERS

BALTIMORE PACKING COMPANY
PACKED AT
AVERY ISLAND, LA.

LAST ISLAND
COVE OYSTERS

THE BALTIMORE PACKING CO.
PACKED AT
AVERY ISLAND, LA.
Cove Street, Baltimore
DUNBAR'S SHRIMP

Fifty Southern Recipes for Serving Canned Shrimp

Packed by DUNBAR-DUKATE CO.
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
Oyster Cans with Price Guide

Jim & Vivian Karsnitz
Shrimp and oyster cans are highly coveted by collectors. For example, in July 2009, a Louisiana oyster can sold at auction for $2,275. These objects were thrown away, but in today’s market are more valuable than an 1.5 ounces of gold.
The H-5B visa for foreign workers to enter and fill available jobs.
Recreation
The Breakers, Newport
Splendid Isolation and southern haven with millionaire accommodations

Purdey and Holland and Holland are premium shotguns for the very wealthy
The Tally-Ho Club at Chef Menteur Pass
April 20, 2010 – BP Drilling Rig Explodes off Louisiana’s Coast

Exxon Valdez March 24, 1989
This landscape is, and always has been, a working coast – the “coast” is not a place but a process – it only becomes a place when people live there.
THIRD COAST SERIES

University Press of Mississippi
Patrolman McCrimmon tells of another case that was tried in Antioch:

“Here the prisoners admitted everything and denied nothing still the jury acquitted them on the ground that by fining the accused it would take just that much money out of the town. One of the jurymen told me that and said we ought to be shot on sight, that we were nothing but informers, and in Ireland they killed such men.

“In Contra Coasta County a case of illegal fishing is acquitted before it is tried. The accused demand a jury trial, and the constable takes pains to summon only those engaged in fishing as jurymen. We, being strangers in the town, do not know these men, and are powerless to prevent a packed jury.”