

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History
Finding Aids

Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History

2024

MF104 Whitewater Raft Guides Project / Ian Cameron Collection

Special Collections, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/ne_findingaids



Part of the [Folklore Commons](#), and the [Oral History Commons](#)

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

Whitewater Raft Guides Project/Ian Cameron Collection

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on September 03, 2024.
English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

Business Number: 207.581.1686

URL: <http://libguides.library.umaine.edu/c.php?g=718650>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6
MF 104, Collection Summary	6
Gary Michaud, interviewed by Ian Cameron	6
Joy Neilly, interviewed by Ian Cameron	7
Fred Martel, interviewed by Ian Cameron	8
Vicky Akins, interviewed by Ian Cameron	9

Summary Information

Repository:	Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History
Title:	Whitewater Raft Guides Project / Ian Cameron Collection
ID:	MF104
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/5/resources/3042
Date [inclusive]:	1970s-1980s
Physical Description:	4 items
Language of the Material:	English .
Material Specific Details:	Audio files are the primary source material. Transcriptions are the transcriber's best effort to convert audio to text, but should be considered secondary to the audio.
Note:	Open to Collaborate Notice



Our institution is committed to the development of new modes of collaboration, engagement, and partnership with Indigenous peoples for the care and stewardship of past and future heritage collections.

Preferred Citation

Interviewee last name, interviewee first name. Year. NA[unique series identification number], MF104, NAFOH. Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a series of interviews with whitewater rafting guides conducted by Ian H. Cameron in 1986 as part of an independent study class at the University of Maine. Cameron interviewed four whitewater rafting guides on the West Branch of the Penobscot river and some of the experiences they had.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

NA1933 Gary Michaud, interviewed by Ian Cameron, February 9 and April 14, 1986, Orono, Maine. Michaud talks about his experiences as a whitewater raft guide on the West Branch of the Penobscot River; how he discovered whitewater rafting; guide training; the worse incidents he saw on the water; explaining whitewater rafting to guests; getting guests through the first set of rapids; the responsibility of guiding; the craziest things he has done and seen; running the Crib; his feelings about corporations damming the river further; showing people the value of the river; Rootie Kazootie and Pamola, rafting myths; and his tale of terror.

Text: 36 pp. transcript, Cameron's background information, glossary, pamphlet, newspaper, song lyrics, and map Recording: mfc_na1933_c0422_01, mfc_na1933_c0422_02, mfc_na1935_na1933_c0426_01, mfc_na1935_na1933_c0426_02 1 hour 20 minutes Photos: P06356

NA1934 Joy Neilly, interviewed by Ian Cameron, February 29 and April 29, 1986, Orono, Maine. Neilly talks about her experiences as a whitewater raft guide on the West Branch of the Penobscot River; how she got involved in rafting; the licensing test; her first run guiding the Ripogenus Gorge; apprehension and responsibility; the joy of sharing the river with guests; flipping a raft; falling off the raft; Rootie Kazootie, the river imp; proposed Big A dam; speaking against the dam at a hearing and her feelings on the proposed dam; working in a male-dominated environment; and Wayne Hockmeyer.

Text: 35 pp. transcript Recording: mfc_na1934_c0423_01, mfc_na1934_c0423_02, mfc_na1934_c0424_01 1 hour 13 minutes Photos: P06357

NA1935 Fred Martel, interviewed by Ian Cameron, March 5 and April 24, 1986, Orono, Maine. Martel discusses his experiences as a whitewater rafting guide on the West Branch of the Penobscot River; his first whitewater experience; guide training; learning to read rivers; dealing with a "screamer"; various rapids, particularly the Crib; his feelings on the proposed Big A dam; fear and adrenaline; his wildest experience while guiding; dealing with

his responsibilities as a guide; guiding stories; entertaining guests; the lifestyle of a guide; and respect for the river drivers.

Text: 35 pp. transcript Recording: mfc_na1935_c0425_01, mfc_na1935_c0425_02, mfc_na1935_na1933_c0426_01, mfc_na1935_na1933_c0426_02 1 hour 21 minutes Photograph: P06355

NA1936 Vicky Akins, interviewed by Ian Cameron, February 21 and April 29, 1986, Indian Island, Maine. Aiken talks about her experiences as a whitewater rafting guide on the West Branch of the Penobscot River; how she got involved in raft guiding; safety concerns in high water; apprehension about the upcoming season; going through a rapid out of the raft; her favorite rapid; dealing with frightened guests; rafting injuries; a dead moose in the river; Wayne Hockmeyer; John Connally, her boss; her perspective as a native Penobscot; spiritual connections to the land; her thoughts on the proposed Big A dam and environmental destruction; working as a woman in a male-dominated field; and explanation of her photo.

Text: 39 pp. transcript Recording: mfc_na1936_c0427_01, mfc_na1936_c0427_02, mfc_na1936_c0428_01 1 hour 18 minutes Photo: P06358

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04469-5729

Business Number: 207.581.1686

URL: <http://libguides.library.umaine.edu/c.php?g=718650>

Conditions Governing Access

For digitized items free from access restrictions, we are working to upload this material (pdfs, mp3s, jpgs) for public access, but it is an ongoing project. If you don't find what you are looking for here, contact Special Collections (um.library.spc@maine.edu).

Conditions Governing Use

Rights assessment remains the responsibility of the researcher. No known restrictions on material

Existence and Location of Originals

Located at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress: AFC 2012/047 <https://lccn.loc.gov/2013655211>.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Oral histories
- Folklore
- Penobscot River, West Branch (Me.)
- Rafting (Sports)

Collection Inventory

MF 104, Collection Summary

Title/Description	Instances
MF 104, Collection Summary, undated Digital Object: MF 104, Collection Summary	Text MF 104

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Gary Michaud, interviewed by Ian Cameron

Creator: Cameron, Ian

Source: Michaud, Gary

Abstract: NA1933 Gary Michaud, interviewed by Ian Cameron, February 9 and April 14, 1986, Orono, Maine. Michaud talks about his experiences as a whitewater raft guide on the West Branch of the Penobscot River; how he discovered whitewater rafting; guide training; the worse incidents he saw on the water; explaining whitewater rafting to guests; getting guests through the first set of rapids; the responsibility of guiding; the craziest things he has done and seen; running the Crib; his feelings about corporations damming the river further; showing people the value of the river; Rootie Kazootie and Pamola, rafting myths; and his tale of terror. Text: 36 pp. transcript, Cameron's background information, glossary, pamphlet, newspaper, song lyrics, and map. Recording: mfc_na1933_c0422_01, mfc_na1933_c0422_02 (C 0422, C 0426.2). Time: 1.2 hours. Photos: p06356.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Folklore

- Penobscot River, West Branch (Me.)
- Rafting (Sports)
- Michaud, Gary

Title/Description	Instances
NA 1933, transcript, February 9, 1986-April 14, 1986 <u>Digital Object:</u> NA 1933, transcript	Audio NA 1933
NA 1933, audio, part 1, February 9, 1986-April 14, 1986 <u>Digital Object:</u> NA 1933, audio, part 1	Audio NA 1933
NA 1933, audio, part 2, February 9, 1986-April 14, 1986 <u>Digital Object:</u> NA 1933, audio, part 2	Audio NA 1933
NA 1933, photograph, p06356, June 1985 <u>Digital Object:</u> NA 1933, photograph, p06356 <u>Photo Description:</u> Black and white action photograph of a group of white-helmeted white men in a rubber raft going down steep pitch of white water on the Penobscot River. Written on back: "Gary Michaud, 2nd - 3rd week of June 1985. First commercial run in the cribwork through final chute west branch of the Penobscot."	Audio NA 1933

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Joy Neilly, interviewed by Ian Cameron

Creator: Cameron, Ian

Source: Neilly, Joy

Abstract: NA1934 Joy Neilly, interviewed by Ian Cameron, February 28 and April 29, 1986, Orono, Maine. Neilly talks about her experiences as a whitewater raft guide on the West Branch of the Penobscot River; how she got involved in rafting; the licensing test; her first run guiding the Ripogenus Gorge; apprehension and responsibility; the joy of sharing the river with guests; flipping a raft; falling off the raft; Rootie Kazootie, the river imp; proposed Big A dam; speaking against the dam at a hearing and her feelings on the proposed dam; working in a male-dominated environment; and Wayne Hockmeyer. Text: 35 pp. transcript. Recording: mfc_na1934_c0423_01, mfc_na1934_c0423_02, mfc_na1934_c0424_01 (C 0423 - C 0424) Time: 1.25 hours. Photos: p06357.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Folklore
- Penobscot River, West Branch (Me.)
- Rafting (Sports)
- Neilly, Joy
- Hockmeyer, Wayne Francis, August 31, 1938-September 28, 2021

Title/Description	Instances
NA 1934, transcript, February 28, 1986-April 29, 1986 <u>Digital Object:</u> NA 1934, transcript	Audio NA 1934
NA 1934, audio, part 1, February 28, 1986-April 29, 1986	

<u>Digital Object:</u> NA 1934, audio, part 1	Audio NA 1934
NA 1934, audio, part 2, February 28, 1986-April 29, 1986 <u>Digital Object:</u> NA 1934, audio, part 2	Audio NA 1934
NA 1934, photograph, p06357, August 1982 <u>Digital Object:</u> NA 1934, photograph, p06357	Audio NA 1934
<u>Photo Description:</u> Black and white photograph of a group of white men and women in rubber raft on brink of steep pitch of white water on the West Branch of the Penobscot River. Written in pencil on back: "Joy Neily August 1982 first chute of the cribwork on the west branch of the Penobscot first commercial run forgot helmets so she gave hers to woman 2nd from front. Joy had fallen out in staircase rapids after gorge."	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Fred Martel, interviewed by Ian Cameron

Creator: Cameron, Ian

Source: Martel, Fred

Abstract: NA1935 Fred Martel, interviewed by Ian Cameron, March 5 and April 24, 1986, Orono, Maine. Martel discusses his experiences as a whitewater rafting guide on the West Branch of the Penobscot River; his first whitewater experience; guide training; learning to read rivers; dealing with a "screamer"; various rapids, particularly the Crib; his feelings on the proposed Big A dam; fear and adrenaline; his wildest experience while guiding; dealing with his responsibilities as a guide; guiding stories; entertaining guests; the lifestyle of a guide; and respect for the river drivers. Text: 35 pp. transcript. Recording: mfc_na1935_c0425_01, mfc_na1935_c0425_02, mfc_na1935_na1933_c0426_01, mfc_na1935_na1933_c0426_02 (C 0425 – C 0426.1) Time: 1.2 hours. Photograph: p06355.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Folklore
- Penobscot River, West Branch (Me.)
- Rafting (Sports)
- Martel, Fred

Title/Description	Instances
NA 1935, transcript, March 5, 1986-April 24, 1986 <u>Digital Object:</u> NA 1935, transcript	Audio NA 1935
NA 1935, audio, part 1, March 5, 1986-April 24, 1986 <u>Digital Object:</u> NA 1935, audio, part 1	Audio NA 1935
NA 1935, audio, part 2, March 5, 1986-April 24, 1986 <u>Digital Object:</u> NA 1935, audio, part 2	Audio NA 1935
NA 1935, audio, part 3, March 5, 1986-April 24, 1986	Audio NA 1935

Digital Object: [NA 1935, audio, part 3](#)

NA 1935, audio, part 4, March 5, 1986-April 24, 1986

Audio NA

Digital Object: [NA 1935, audio, part 4](#)

1935

NA 1935, photograph, p06355, 1980-1986

Audio NA

Digital Object: [NA 1935, photograph, p06355](#)

1935

Photo Description: Black and white action photograph of a group of people in a rubber raft in white water. The raft is almost vertical in the river. Written in pencil on the back: "Fred Martel, Magic Falls on the Kennebec River Maine September first -- appeared on front page of Bangor Daily News. Nobody fell out."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Vicky Akins, interviewed by Ian Cameron

Creator: Cameron, Ian

Source: Akins, Vicky

Abstract: NA1936 Vicky Akins, interviewed by Ian Cameron, February 21 and April 29, 1986, Indian Island, Maine. Aiken talks about her experiences as a whitewater rafting guide on the West Branch of the Penobscot River; how she got involved in raft guiding; safety concerns in high water; apprehension about the upcoming season; going through a rapid out of the raft; her favorite rapid; dealing with frightened guests; rafting injuries; a dead moose in the river; Wayne Hockmeyer; John Connally, her boss; her perspective as a native Penobscot; spiritual connections to the land; her thoughts on the proposed Big A dam and environmental destruction; working as a woman in a male-dominated field; and explanation of her photo. Text: 39 pp. transcript. Recording: mfc_na1936_c0427_01, mfc_na1936_c0427_02, mfc_na1936_c0428_01 (C 0427 – C 0428) Time: 1.25 hours. Photo: p06358.

Restrictions:

Restrictions

Controlled Access Headings:

- Oral history
- Folklore
- Penobscot River, West Branch (Me.)
- Rafting (Sports)
- Akins, Vicky
- Hockmeyer, Wayne Francis, August 31, 1938-September 28, 2021
- Connally, John

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)