

Fast Facts

Twas the night before Herring
and all through the Plant,
not a creature was working
except my 80 year old Aunt.

I'd hired her dirt cheap
because she's down on her luck;
she does all of the heavy work-
my Aunt "the-low-lease-lift truck."

But of the Herring?
none could be found;
and my Aunt?
running low on 300 lb. Halibut to carry around.

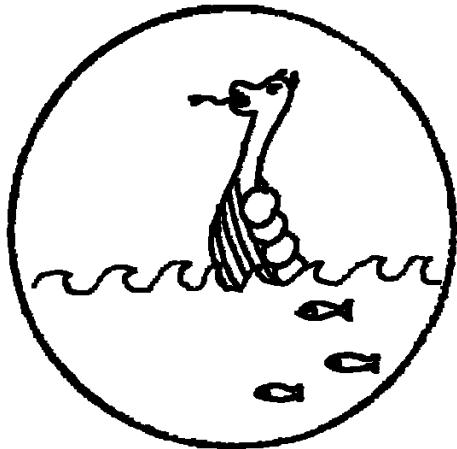
So quick to the phone
I sprang,
and a call to the Bering Star....
S.O.S. the message rang....

My Aunt is fast running
out of work here,
send a skiff, a dingy, a canoe, anything
to conscript Auntie dear..

With a wink of an eye
and a twitch of the nose,
they slipped into Seward, and
at last Auntie is working with roe.

Last I heard she'd worked
her fingers to the bone,
working both day and night shifts,
she's at the end of the line, cold and alone.

I hope it's a good season
I hope there's plenty more Herring,
I hope Auntie's will is in order
and that she remembers me with caring.



The Dim View

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May 20, 1985

Seward, Alaska
A Parody Written Entirely
on Overtime

Current Outlook

The outlook couldn't be worse. On the phone to the Fish and Game, I learned that the Salmon won't be returning to Alaska waters this summer. Nobody is exactly sure why the fish aren't returning, and as for myself, I don't really have the time to care, because I sold my house last week when I heard the news- I'm out of here!

HALIBUT: I'm not really sure what the outlook for Halibut might be. Keep your eyes open. Last time I was in the office, about a week ago, I think they were unloading some Halibut on the front dock. I couldn't really tell; I was too busy emptying my desk drawers. If you want to find out more, try checking with Orlee; I think she's in charge of Halibut now.

"Most people say that they think they want to do a good job. That's why I like to get to know my crew ... I've got to know what they're thinking so I can expose the scammers and point out to the others that what they "think" is a good job, probably isn't."

Here, the quotes from this weeks Dim View Spotlight on Mike Dormody. ,We found Mike hard at work in the fish house where he's doing his pre-season and anxiously awaiting Salmon season when once again, he'll be at the helm . - - . SFI's infamous Chinkman.

When I asked Mike if he were serious about his seemingly dim view of what people think, he was quick to qualify.... "Ah hell Adim, people come in two packages. You're either born to slime, or you're not. That's all there is to it, nothin more, nothin less. And in the fish house I like to see the slimmers sliming; so when I get some yo yo from Minnesota who is born to slime and he begins to think otherwise, well, I gotta deal with it."

Mike also pointed out that the rigors of the fish house have become so extreme in recent years that his dim view of human nature has evolved from a set of sketchy hunches to a workable philosophy. Mike's philosophy? " Keep em guessing; that's what I do. I get to know my crew, but by no stretch of the imagination do they get to know me. In fact, with most of my people I've found it a benefit to send out false signals, let the person think one thing and just when he thinks he has it all figured out..... wham! I throw him a slider. 1'11 tell you, by the middle of the season most of my crew don't know up from down, whether they're coming or going. And if any of them are smart enough to realize that I'm messing with their minds, well, by that time the season's over and it's too late."

That's fine Mike; whatever works! I wasn't sure Mike had heard the comment made by one of his crew last season. So I asked him what he thought of one of his crew describing his behavior as being a cross between an omniscient god and a war lord. "I don't I think I like the god part," Mike snapped. "If there's a god, he's a Humpy; and don't ask me what I think of Pinks."

Mike's history here at SFI is a long one and I was kind of curious (you know me) about his activities during the off season. So out of the blue I asked Mike if he liked to go fishing. "Fishing!" Mike bellowed. "Why in the world would anyone want to do that? Although I admit to having a rod, I haven't had the old pole out in years.

No, golf is my game. Give me some credit."

Certainly so! SFI gives mike plenty of credit. Each year the fish house recovery is strong, and we assume from the smooth running that all of the pulleys are well greased.

The interview took about 7 1/2 hours, and when it appeared that Mike was anxious to get on to his next project I asked him if he had any closing thoughts on this week's subject - - employee relations.

"I look at it like this," Mike began. "In this world there are far more questions than there are answers, so I don't ask. As far as employees, well, SFI is a business, and in a business money and production command a greater share of consideration than do truth and humanity. My motto: Keep em guessing. Now if you'll excuse me I want to go stencil something on my rain gear." '

And that concluded this weeks Dim View interview. And for those of you who might be wondering what it is that Mike will be displaying on his rain gear this~season, I think I heard him correctly, "Guess Who".

The cookhouse cook position has been eliminated this year. Due to the lateness in trying to hire to hire a new cook - informed sources say the position has been declared non-hirable seasonal. Rest assured however nutritional needs of the bunkhouse humans will be met. A weekly ration of 28 pieces of bread~ 4 cups rat infested rice bran (seized from the FDA) and a small tin of jelly and peanut butter will be issued to each human. After the canning season starts the ration will be increased by 3 1/2 lb. cans of grade 3 humpies. And for the Sunday nite special meal, frozen TV dinners will be served (Gas for the stove & oven has been cut as part of a continuing plant wide economy move).

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Adim not Adim any more. In a surprise move that caught Icicle Seafood holding the bag for a bunch of outdated business cards (and guess who is madder than a hungry seagull over that waste). Adim is now Adim Ortho Spray. This surprise move matches the new postings on the Post Office wall and the stationing of 3 extra State troopers to the area. Any connection to the 2 events has been vigorously denied.

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It was disclosed today that John Blockwill has over 6,000 dollars outstanding in the office petty-cash-"honor-system" jar. When asked to comment, Blockwill who is the Chief Quality Fanatic Officer here at SFI, said "Sure, I've been known to pound down a few cans of pop over the course of a day; but look, it's not easy being responsible for the Quality of a plant the likes of this; that's a lot of pressure. And as for the money, well, I'll be honest with you; the way I go through pop and candy bars there's no way absolutely no way, I could carry that amount of loose change around in my pant pockets no way." We believe you John.

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Also in the news, after having read a book on assertiveness Sam Fast told a fisherman to "Go to Hell" when the fisherman asked Sam for some dry ice. "We don't carry dry ice; all of our ice is wet; go to hell" Sam was reported to have said. The Fisherman promptly hauled Sam up in the air using the boom of his boat and repeatedly dunked him in the bay's frigid water. What did Sam think of all this? "I think I'll go back to reading Hustler.

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A quadruple over order delivery of Tin pushed us over the 1 million case mark of empty' cans. When ask by Seattle about this seemingly over order a very highly placed Senior Official in the office was reported to have said "Relax Big Bob its all in the master game plan."

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Bruce Tote Wash won the "Night Scam Floating Trophy- for the most consecutive trips down to the Alaska Shop to buy the new Hustler Magazine while punched in without getting caught by Wooddog.



The Know It All

In the past the suggestion system has only operated during salmon season. Rest assured we've discontinued it altogether - effective immediately. In the past 3 seasons there hasn't been one good suggestion. And frankly we're getting tired and bored with having to read through stack upon stack of inane scrawl. In a year when SFI is watching costs closely we can no longer sit back and watch all the dollars spent on paper and pencil wasted.

The last decent suggestion (submitted 3 years ago) suggested that we eliminate the evaluation system. Well, I'm finally getting around to that. Effective immediately there is no evaluation system. The system, like the suggestion system, is also a waste of paper and pencils. And to be honest with you, the only attention that the evaluations received was the attention payed to them by the extra office person we had to hire specifically to pay lip service to you, the employee. Rest assured, this extraneous, highly payed, office worker is down the road kicking cans, effective immediately!!

To offset the vacancy created by the discontinuation of those systems, and to make use of the suggestion box (we've been unable to sell it), I'm instituting the Question System. If you have any questions, write them (please print) out on a piece of paper and drop them in the "Question Box". Answers, or something coming close, will be published in the bi-monthly Dim View. Look for your answers where the KnowAll used to appear. That feature has been axed!! And remember, if you have any suggestions, keep them to yourself!!

