



Personal Project

Demystification of the Dead Dad




I was a month shy of 4 when a whole community of fishermen lost my father to the sea. Family extended beyond blood when anonymous gifts of necessities would find their way to our doorstep. Strangers returned the generosity they had found in my father. For the 28 years since, people have recognized my name and told me things like "he would have given a stranger the shirt off his back". The details of their inference were lost in that sentence. The question has always remained, "Who was this man and why did he touch so many people?"

Fishing Expedition




I am inspired to seek out the answers from a whole group of men and women who dedicated their lives to the sea, as their industry is lost to modernity. I feel a sense of urgency to capture their stories in the rich images, sounds and colors of a bygone era; to entrench myself in the details of my father in relationship to his community. These individuals deserve a dedication to their lives; I want to give it to them.

Enmeshed in a Net



I have started to reconnect with some the people on my father's list of friends through an online town forum. They write often asking for a progress report. I want to provide them with a place where they can not only see who I have spoken with, but can make their own reconnections by posting their stories, photos, and messages to one another. These added personalizations will enhance the content I will collect through interviews. I will use the interactive nature of the Internet to recreate the connections lost between individuals - to conjure a world gone by using images, story and sound. When I have collected enough stories to tell the tale, I will create a publishable artifact.

Making it possible



The monies from the Faculty Enrichment Grant will enable me to make this journey to the East Coast. Along the way, I have established interviews with family and friends of my father, the majority of whom are in New England. The interviews themselves are an integral part of this endeavor, providing me with my own context for who these people were to my father and how he affected them.