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El pasajero

The Passinga (The Passenger)

Yo iba con el capitán James C. Howard rumbo a Cartagena como a eso de las seis de la tarde, y como a las ocho de la noche, la máquina se paró. Todo estaba muy oscuro y quedamos a la deriva. De pronto apareció Abrahams y preguntó al capi James C. qué le ocurría, y fue de regreso y nos consiguió el repuesto para que pudiéramos seguir rumbo a Cartagena.

Todo esto pasó de noche, estaba muy oscuro.

Esos barcos tenían una cabina. En los camarotes dormían los pasajeros.

Pero los marineros estaban de pie sobre la cubierta y tenían una pequeña cabinita que llamábamos *fox hole*; ese era su lugar. En otras palabras, los marineros y los pasajeros no se mezclaban... no eran iguales.

Y había una cabina especial para atender a los pasajeros porque en esos días (*se ríe, sin poderlo evitar*) se mareaban y vomitaban bastante. Cuando las mujeres y los niños trasbocaban, alguien tenía que echar eso por la borda.

Para ellos y ellas todo esto era muy difícil. Otra vez, después de ese recuerdo otro barco salió y se hundió porque se enfrentó con una tormenta. Esos viajes en alta mar eran realmente duros, bruscos. Tenías que traer y colocar todo en una pequeña escotilla de carga.

THE PASSINGA (THE PASSENGER)

Once I was traveling with Captain James C Howard. I was going to Cartagena and the boat's name was... I can't remember. We left from there around 6 o'clock. At around 8 o'clock the machine "gan out", which means, 'stopped working'. And the boat was uhm... "On the deriva", and Horvis Abrahams came out here and found out from Captain James C what was wrong... and then he came shore and brought out the spare part that was needed. Then we continued our journey to Cartagena. All this happened in the evening. It was very, very dark. Those boats had the "cabina" (cabin) and in the bunks and the 'passinga' (passengers) slept in them. But the sailors stood on deck and then had a next little cabin we call the fox. We the 'siela' (sailors) live. So the 'passinga' and the 'siela' (sailors) were not together. And they had a cabin to attend the 'passinga' because when in those 'dies' (days) people got seasick, so everybody would (laughing) vomit plenty, so they used to use it when they were in their own 'chiemba' (chamber). So when the woman and the children vomited; somebody had to take it and drop

it over 'board'. (board). Because fi (for) them is very hard. After that boat, the same one 'gan' (gone) out and 'lass' (was lost) because it 'tek' (took) a 'starm' (storm). The voyage on sea was very hard. The 'goletas' (Schooners) it were very hard at sea because out there in the open is only a little boat. You had to bring... (inaudible) and you put them in the hutch. 'Dong in thea and put them ova in the sea' (Down in there and put them over in the sea). 'Haize' (inaudible) them back out. Something you no (don't) welcome. The thing is very 'treasourous' (Dangerous). Cap Wellington, he was a man that had a boat and wanted it to carry to Panama to fix but the boat was in bad condition. So everybody said to Captain not to go since he was getting old. 'Him say' (He said), "I don't carry if I die in the sea because I barn in the sea" (I don't care if I die in the sea because I was born in the sea). And I don't know if this is true but that's the story, and you know what? He gan (left) and he never came back because the boat sank.

MH: Something else you remember about the schooners?

People say the Germans used to get fuel and other supplies from us. Nothing else.