

Livingston:

Describe the weather and sea conditions that day.

Schmieder:

In retrospect it turns out to be rather typical. We were inexperienced at the time, so we couldn't really – this is partially why it cost us so many unsuccessful attempts. You go out of the harbor and there seems to be a fair amount of surface energy, you know, waves and things, sometimes big rollers right out of Bodega Bay.

If you're faint of heart you turn around and you say, "It's gonna be too rough." But what we learned eventually, and what happened on that particular day, October 22nd. We went out through that rough water and then it became clear and calm.

And from about 5 miles out all the way to Cordell Bank and all day long it was as flat calm as we ever saw it subsequently. It was one of these ripples-on-the-water day.

So we were blessed with that. It was a good time to have no problems. You know, I codified that into Bob's Law About Miracles of, "When you need a miracle, there's one available." There was one that day.

And now that I think about it I want to make sure that in the record it's correct that our first dive was October 22, not 20th. I often confuse that because it was George Davidson who discovered Cordell Bank on October 20, 1854. We were on October 22.