

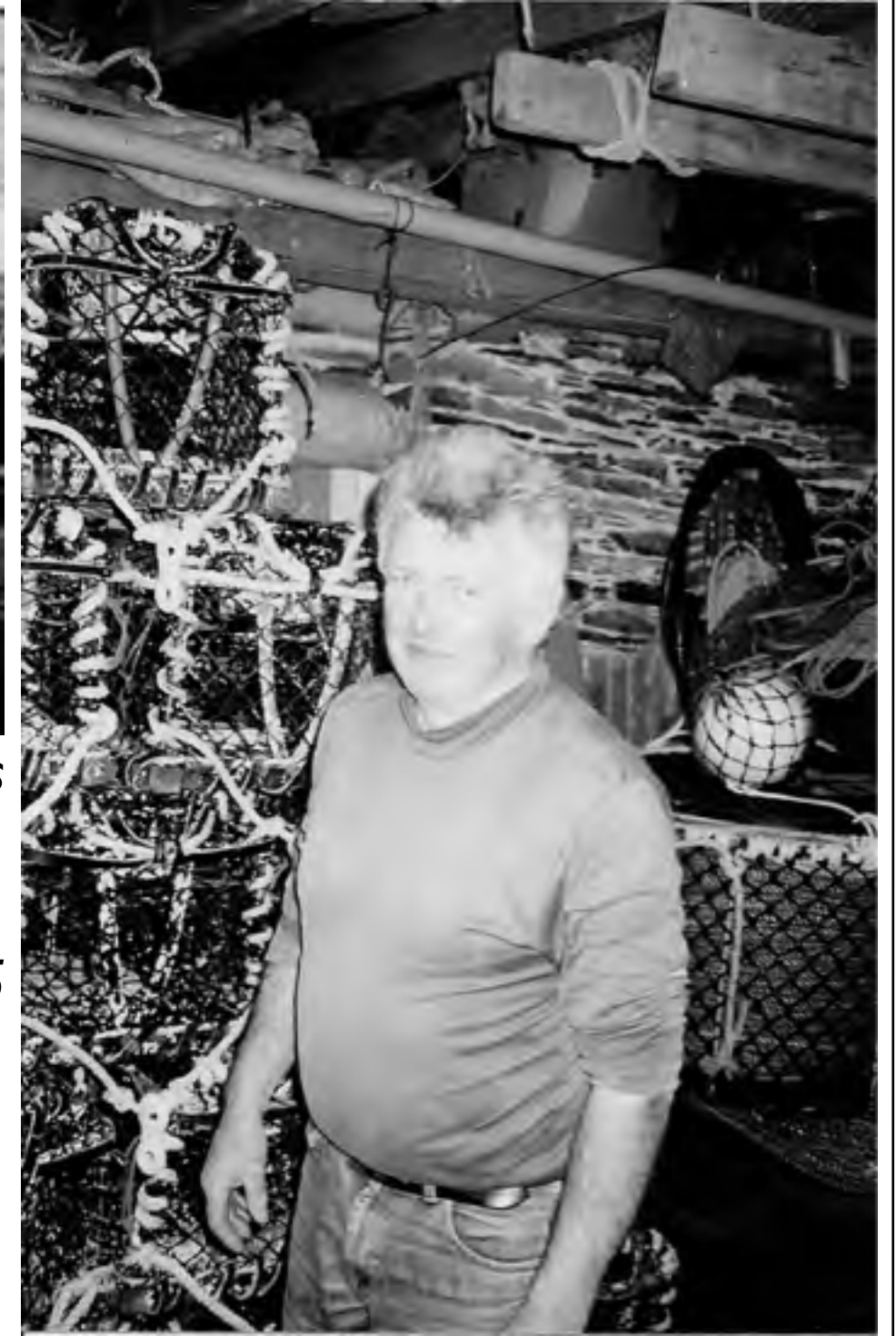


George 'Jordan' Honey preparing a 'back' of withy pots on Port Isaac Beach. He is putting bait onto the sticks of wood, 'skivvers', which hold the bait in the pot. He is wearing a pair of leather boots, and it is believed he was the last to do so at Port Isaac prior to the use of rubber ones.
Photo courtesy Stephen Found, c1930

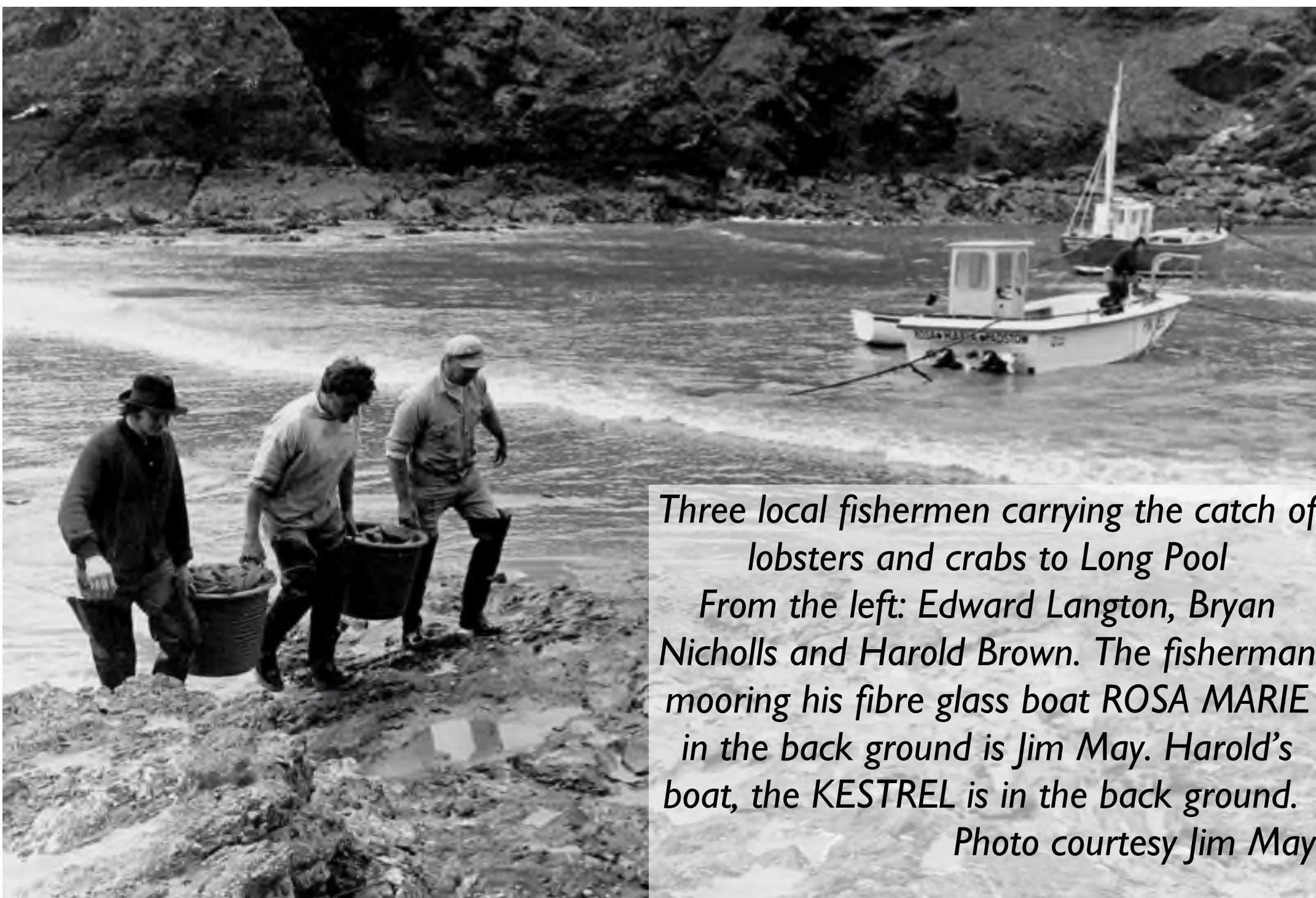


Frank 'Nibbs' Brown putting a catch of lobsters into a store pot at Long Pool, Port Isaac. Long Pool is below the Old School.
Photo courtesy Stephen Found, c1955

Nibbs was a real character who lived all his life at the bottom half of Port Isaac, and at sea. No-one ever saw him in the top half of the village.



Bruce Rowe was a modern day fisherman and he is pictured here standing in his cellar in front of his parlour pots. Bruce left school at 15 and fished with his brother Charlie and father Jack. He has had a number of boats including the HOPE, MCB, SRJ and his present one the OUR BELLE ANN (500 hp). Sadly Bruce and Charlie are no longer with us.
Photo courtesy Geoff Provis



Three local fishermen carrying the catch of lobsters and crabs to Long Pool
From the left: Edward Langton, Bryan Nicholls and Harold Brown. The fisherman mooring his fibre glass boat ROSA MARIE in the back ground is Jim May. Harold's boat, the KESTREL is in the back ground.
Photo courtesy Jim May



John Glover bringing ashore a single wire pot. His boat the SWIFT is also in the picture which was only 14' in length. John was very strong and an ex Cornish Wrestling champion. One year John lost many of his self made pots during a bad period of weather in the spring.
Photo courtesy Stephanie Berry (nee Brenton), c1965



Jim May speeding back to port with some store pots aboard, and holding a lobster. Jim's boat the ORCADES 11, boasts 620 hp. Compare this with the original sailing craft, and then the first engine powered boats using 3-7 hp Kelvins. Jim originally worked withy pots in a 12' dinghy named OUR WINNIE. Photo courtesy Jim May

All potting boats at Port Isaac are 'day boats'. This means they go out and back in the same day. Because they have tidal moorings in Port Isaac Harbour, they need to work the tides to their advantage.

Life as a Port Isaac fisherman was very seasonal; a little lining and trawling in winter if the weather permitted, potting plus some mackerel fishing during the summer, and herring fishing in October and November. From the 1930s on, men increasingly went away to work on the yachts of the rich and privileged to enable them to earn a wage. Poverty was very real in old Port Isaac.

It is good that some traditional fishing is still occurring locally, and this is due to the shellfish industry.