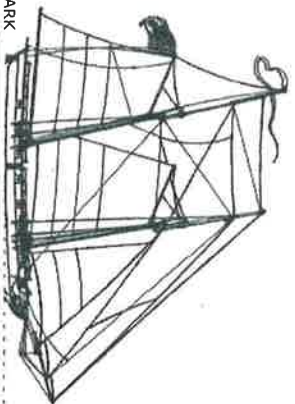


Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal

VOL. 13, NO. 3

SPRING 2003

USS SHARK



OFFICIAL QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE KEY WEST MARITIME HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Key West's First Marine Biologist

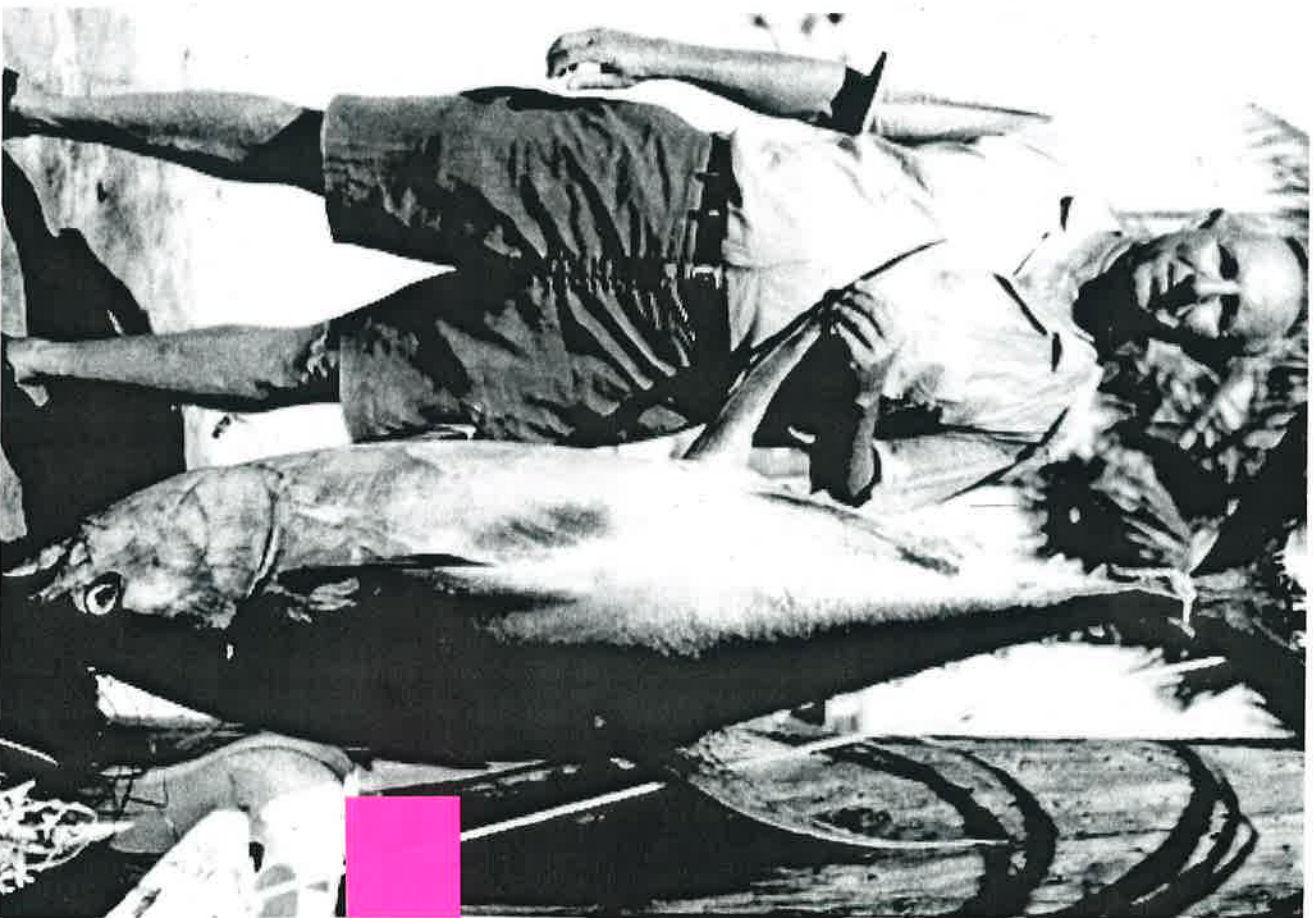
By Alan C. Pierce
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Raised in the house his grandfather built in the 1880s, on the street a family story says was named after his grandmother, E. Lowe Pierce was Key West's first marine biologist. Born on May 1, 1913, in Key West, E. Lowe was the first grandchild of Key West pioneer, Charles Richardson Pierce.

Charles Richardson Pierce's parents migrated to Key West from the Bahamas in the 1840s, and he was born in Key West on July 22, 1855. Charles Richardson married another local Key Wester, Miss Anne Elizabeth Lowe, in 1881, and produced several children, including Emory Lowe Pierce, the father of E. Lowe Pierce.

The house that Charles Richardson built, and E. Lowe grew up in, still stands at 417 Elizabeth Street The house sits on some of the higher island ground, being just below the crest of Solaris Hill. Though the house is in the center of the island, E. Lowe could see his future world from the widow's walk which used to grace the top of the house.

It is not known when E. Lowe got his first boat, but he did say one of his first adventures was throwing a



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Dr. E. Lowe Pierce with tuna caught in 1962. Photo credit: The Author.