Waterfront Whiffs

No Further Wreck Bodies Found—Canned Salmon Cleared Out of Skeena—Halibut Fisherman Are Worried

The Canadian Fisheries department patrol boat Sooke Post, which has been standing by the scene of the wreck of the American Army transport Clarkesdale Victory since Wednesday afternoon, reported late Friday that a continued search of the coast around Hippa Island on the west side of the Queen Charlottes has failed to reveal any more survivors or bodies than were spotted early Wednesday by the United States Coastguard. Three survivors and the bodies of four crew men were removed from the wreck by the Coastguard and taken to Ketchikan Thursday while the Sooke Post, Capt. Charles Stewart, and another Coastguard vessel scoured the rough coast line. The search continued Friday without success. Weather on Thursday was fairly favorable for inshore work by the 60-foot boat although how long that condition would continue Capt. Stewart would not predict. Even in calm weather, the sea is rough. The Sooke Post expected to stand by, at least until today. It patrolled an area about 15 miles north of the scene of the wreck, in the belief that any bodies which were in the sea would drift in a northerly direction with the prevailing current on the west coast of the Queen Charlottes. A land party, organized by Constable Fred Walker of the provincial police Queen Charlotte City detachment, failed to traverse the rough, heavily timbered country to Hippa Island. The area lacks trails. Distance from Queen Charlotte City to Hippa Island along the coast is about 54 miles.

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Despite the fact that salmon trolling was re-opened in District Two a couple of weeks ago, there are, apparently, no fishermen taking advantage of it. The weather, of course, is so rough and the season is so late that few are interested. However, there are a few boats out regularly fishing shrimp around nearby islands, and there is some crab fishing going on, too. Catches are being sold on the local market.

* * *

C.P.R. steamer Princess Norah, serving Alaska, docked here at 2:30 Friday morning, delayed 10 hours in her southbound passage by fog in Wrangell Narrows. Capt. Graham O. Huges, veteran north coast skipper, halted his vessel at the narrows rather than risk in the winding, treacherous channel. The Norah stopped here two hours, then speeded toward Vancouver, hoping to make up at least part of the time she had lost.

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The canneries on the Skeena River are now completely cleared of their 1947 packs of salmon, all of which has been sent to Vancouver. Vessels of the Frank Waterhouse line have made several trips to the canneries to load the packs for shipment south.

* * *

There has been no indication whatever of herring in the Prince Rupert area so far this fall. Some herring has been caught around Butedale but the quantity has been small. Sets by seiers have yielded only 10 to 12-ton catches and the herring are believed to be parts of a local population and not the migratory schools which make that type of fishery so profitable—on occasion.

* * *

HALIBUT FISHERMEN BECOMING ALARMED

Prospect of an even shorter halibut season in 1948 than the 42-day race to the Area Two banks this year has inspired the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union to take action to figure out a workable curtailment scheme for presentation to the International Fisheries Commission. This year, the halibut fishermen caught more fish in less time in Area Two than ever before in history. Prospect for next year is that, without some sort of control, the quota will be brought in before any fishermen can make a worthwhile number of trips.

* * *

To the regular halibut fishermen, who in past years have made their living at that type of fishery, it looks as though a fair opportunity to make a living is fast disappearing if some sort of curtailment scheme is not brought into effect soon. This year, despite the fact that about 200 American boats lay strikebound at Seattle, Tacoma and Portland during the entire Area Two season, the quota period was shorter than ever before. If those 200 vessels join the Canadian fleet in 1948, they fear the season will not last a month.

Also, an increasing number of small boats, mostly trollers, have been fishing from camps, where they can spend a day on the grounds then make quick delivery of their catches. A good portion of the 1947 quota was caught this way.

Depletion of the pilchard fishery, which has kept many of the larger boats busy in the spring, may also turn them to halibut fishing next year.

* * *

A 42-foot troller-halibutter is being built at the Cow Bay Boat Works for Harold Childs, who for the last few years has been beam trawling with Capt. Charles Haan on the Zenardi. The vessel, which is now being planked, is to have fir planking below the water line and cedar above. She will be powered by a 100 h.p. Buda engine.

* * *

Union steamer Catala, Capt. Ernest Sheppard, arriving later than had been at first reported, reached port at 5:45 this morning from Vancouver, Ocean Falls and numerous coastal waypoints. The vessel sailed later in the morning on her return south.

* * *

C.P.R. steamer Princess Louise, coming north in place of the Princess Adelaide, will arrive from Vancouver Monday afternoon to be the first vessel of her line to resume berthing at the government wharf following the wartime interruption during which C.P.R. ships docked at the C.N.R. wharf. The Princess Louise has been placed on the Vancouver-Ocean Falls-Prince Rupert route while the regular boat, Princess Adelaide, goes on the Vancouver-Victoria-Seattle run of the Princess Kathleen which had a stranding a few days ago in the fog at the entrance of Vancouver Harbor.

* * *

Dr. Neal Carter, formerly director of the Pacific Experimental Station at Prince Rupert and for the past seven years located in Vancouver, after spending six months in Japan where he made a survey of the Japanese fishing industry, found that, as a result of the war, the Japanese lost their former northern salmon and crab fishing grounds around Karafuto and the Kurile Islands as well as the use of shore canneries on the Kamchatka Peninsula. The fisheries that remain are today largely confined to Hokkaido, the northern main island of Japan proper.

* * *

A seventy five pound salmon, caught by troll off the west coast of Vancouver Island was recently bought by Edmunds & Walker Ltd. This is said to have been the largest salmon caught in B. C. waters in recent times by a troll fisherman.

* * *

An automatic fish hook baiting machine invented by the brothers John and David Andrist, is reported to be working smoothly. The claim is made that the device can take care of a hundred hooks a minute. Most fishermen bait their hooks the night before or even a day ahead, but this contrivance puts the bait in the water fresh, it is asserted.

* * *

Reported to be the largest trawler ever built in the United Kingdom, the Neptunus has been built in Aberdeen for the Icelandic kingdom. It is 200 feet long overall, has 30 foot beam and depth of 16 feet. General equipment includes central heating, hot and cold showers, loudspeakers for music and news service and air conditioning.

WINDSORS MAY VISIT ALBERTA RANCH — The Duke and Duchess of Windsor, shown aboard the liner Queen Mary, told reporters on their arrival in New York after a six months trip to Britain and France that they may visit the Duke's E. P. Ranch south of Calgary, Alta. The Duke termed his ranch a "great link with Canada" and it is a piece of property which "is an assurance I shall return there some day." The Windsors, who were omitted from the invitation list for the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Lieut. Philip Mountbatten on November 20, declined to discuss the royal wedding, terming it "purely a personal and family matter."

TIMBER SALE X42793

Sealed Tenders will be received by the Minister of Forests at Victoria, B.C., not later than 11 a.m. on the 29th day of December, 1947, for the purchase of Licence X42793, to cut 3,775,000 f.b.m. of spruce, cedar, and hemlock, on an area situated on Mosquito Lake, Cumshewa Inlet, Queen Charlotte Islands Land District.

Two (2) years will be allowed for removal of timber.

Further particulars of the Chief Forester, Victoria, B.C., or District Forester, Prince Rupert, B.C.

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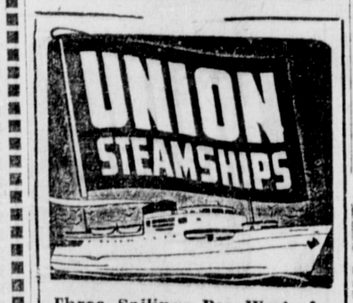

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NOTICE TO VETERANS
INTERESTED IN TRAINING

If you are planning on taking vocational training under the Veterans Rehabilitation Act, you should apply immediately, as the right to apply, with very few exceptions*, ends December 31, 1947. Applications may be made to the nearest district of the Department of Veterans Affairs in person or by mail, or to the Veterans' Officer at the nearest office of the National Employment Service.

*The exceptions referred to above are veterans discharged subsequent to January 1, 1947, pensioners and veterans whose entry into training was delayed by the necessity for medical treatment under authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Published under the authority of
The Right Honourable Ian A. Mackenzie, Minister of Veterans Affairs.

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