

Interview with Ivan Olson

By: Roger Sherman

January 8, 2000

This interview was in reference to a ship's compass which Ivan donated to Roger Sherman on this date. It is 5 and 1/8th inch across the face, gimbaled and mounted in a 7 and 1/4 inch wood box. Although there is no alcohol in the bowl, the compass is in working order. The entire compass and gimbals is painted black. The wood box is a varnished wood color. The compass card has "Sold by Northwest Instrument Co., Seattle" on its face. A serial number is stamped in the compass ring (64671). The reason for this interview is to verify the authenticity of the compass and that it had been used on the trawler "Rainbow" which had been part of the early Deception Pass ferry run.

R-----It is January the 8th, in the year 2000 and we're again at Ivan and Marjorie Olson's home in Anacortes Washington and we're talking about two things. Let's talk about this compass first. You said it was off the "Rainbow"?

I-----Yes, the "Rainbow" was dad's trawler and trawled up in Alaska every season.

R-----Your dad's name was?

I-----Agaton and he trawled with the "Rainbow" and I don't know what year he went up there, probably 1914 or 1915.

R-----Do you know when the "Rainbow" was built and where?

I-----No I don't, in fact I don't know how long dad had it. It had a buffalo engine in it. In between times he lived around Everett or on Whidbey Island and he towed logs, beach combed and towed logs into the mill in Everett. He did that on a side line and this one year when he was up north, my mother put in a bid to have a regular ferry over to Whidbey Island from Dewey and then he came home from trawling and went to work building docks.

R-----Now, you said that-----Do you remember what year that was when the "Rainbow" took over that run with your mom and dad and---

I-----1920 they took over with Roy Neil. Now Roy Neil owned the "Favorite" launch and dad had the "Rainbow" launch and they had a scow, an open scow that they towed, with automobiles put on them, and they used that until 21 when they had the Deception Pass ferry built.

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R-----OK, now at that time were they still going in to Cornet Bay?

I-----No, they never went to Cornet Bay. They went from Yokeko Point over to Hoypus. The county built a road, after the bid was let, from Cornet Bay out to Hoypus Point.

R-----Do you know how long the "Rainbow" was, do you remember her length?

I-----No, ah, I suppose 35 to 40 feet or something like that. She wasn't a big launch.

R-----Do you remember what happened to her? How did she end her days.

I-----We had it on a big float and a big wind, down here at Dewey, broke loose and the float and the boat was all dismantled and it set up on the beach at Dewey for so long, I don't know if someone towed it away. It was just gone. It wasn't saved.

R-----And what year would that have been?

I-----I suppose that was around 1930, maybe 31 or 32.

R-----Ok, so you had the "Rainbow" maybe ten years after you got the "Deception Pass."

I-----Yeah, dad still had it, he used it once in awhile. You know, after the folks split up, he may have quit using it by that time and maybe he put it on the float and was going to tow it down the Longbranch but never got around to it. I think that was the deal and it broke up in the storm before it was towed away. The folks got divorced in either 35 or 36.

Signed by:

Ivan Olson _____ date _____

Roger Sherman Roger M. Sherman date Feb 2, 2001