



Clarence "Tee" Titterington 1951-1953

By: Edrie Vinson

Tee served with Alvah Schultz, Officer in Charge, Bill La Vergne and Bill Bellhorn. While he was on Patos, he married Elaine, and she was the only female company to Shultz's wife, Arlene.

When Tee first came to Patos there was lots of painting to do. He said, "If it didn't move, we painted it, and sometimes painted it even if it did move!" This seemed to be the way to "break" in newcomers, until it was determined what they were

good for. By the time he left he was second in command, so apparently he proved his worth.

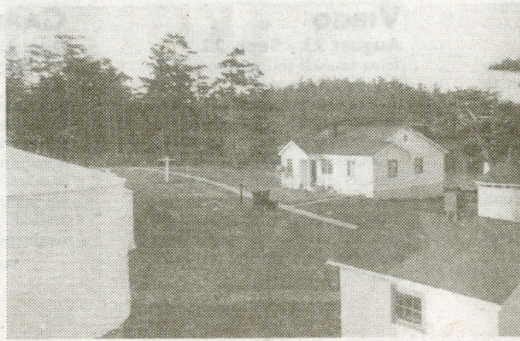
They used a 25' gasoline powered launch to go for supplies. They were very happy when they got a diesel, because at times waves washed over the boat and drowned out the gasoline powered engine. They would go to North Beach on Orcas Island, tie up at a buoy and then take a 12'skiff in. They bought groceries at Templin's and went to the Eastsound Post Office for the mail.

The light in the lighthouse had... "glass prisms, a 300 watt bulb, floating in mercury to keep it level, and producing 40,000 candle power, which could be seen 7 miles away. On sunny days we had to pull shades down around the light, because there was a reverse effect and the sun could blow the light, if we didn't." Tee thought it was one of only two lights like it, the other one on the east coast. It was a fourth order Fresnel lantern.

"It got very windy on the island. Once

Elaine was at the door and had the screen door ripped right off the hinges and thrown against another building. Another time the plank sidewalk, built in three 18" sections side

by side, had some sections ripped up and blown 15' away. When the radio was out, we would tie a rope to the railings, then to the flag pole, then to the lighthouse and then hook our arms around the rope to be able to get to the lighthouse without being blown away."



One Christmas Eve they were starting out for Orcas in the launch, Elaine watching from the porch. It was very rough seas. Just outside the cove they went into a deep trough, then into another trough outside the cove and waves came washing completely over them. Elaine said it looked like the boat had gone down. They came around Little Patos and came back into Active Cove, something they could only do at high tide. "Like surfing in a 25' boat. Quite a ride!" Thankfully, they were all alive and grateful for a Merry Christmas!

They found a body once, in 1952-53, which they thought had washed overboard somewhere around Nanaimo. Authorities from Bellingham came and got him, but they never learned who it was or how he came to be in the water. This, no doubt, served as an unpleasant reminder that living on an island, and traveling over the water could be dangerous, and demanded respect!

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