

MARINE -

Capt. E.L. Janes,
202 - 10th Avenue,
New Westminster, B.C.

Interviewed: April 10, 1973.

Went on to lightship in December 1924 - stayed until 1955.

Lightship put out of commission in 1956 and taken to Victoria.

It was originally a 2-masted schooner, 86' overall, 18' beam, about 100 tons, built in 1870 in Brooklyn - used as cutter, sailing ship and coal-carrier. Was put in position in 1916, at mouth of river, about 5 miles from Steveston. Mostly manned by 2 men, occasionally 3 - poorly paid work, therefore difficult to get good men. Had coal oil lighting at first. During World War 2 electricity was installed - had red and white alternating lamp, and foghorn. Anchored by 1½" steel chain attached to cement block (about 5 tons). Broke chain 3 times, twice went towards Point Roberts, once towards Vancouver.

Lightship had lead ballast between ribs. Capt. Janes thinks present owner (McKenzie?) has her housed in False Creek. B.C. Packers had her for a while - talk of re-rigging her and sailing her to Brooklyn - nothing came of it.

Prior to going on lightship, had been on deep sea ships, since age of 14.

World War 1 - spent 7 months with Australian Navy, then 4 years in army.

Used launch to commute to and from lightship, occasionally went on pilot ship.

Alex Moir