

THE HOONAH

The boat Hoonah, was first built in 1919 in Bellingham, Washington. It was first owned by the Hoonah Packing Company in Hoonah. The picture on the next page was taken when the Hoonah was on a trial launch in 1919. When it first came up, Hoonah people were very attracted by it. And they stepped aboard to look it over. Even the children were excited when it first came into Hoonah. It was soon sold to Pacific American Fisheries (PAF). It was used as a cannery tender and captained by Tony Iverson until the late 40's. P. A. F. sold the Hoonah to Bob Welsh of Icy Straits Packing Company who sold it to a Pelican Fishing Company who sold it to Excursion Inlet Packing Company.

When the boat came up it had a 150 horsepower diesel engine in it. People talked about how fast it was. It towed big scows like it was running free. It went about eight and one-half to nine knots. Some people say that the boat was used to haul fish for the fish canneries but that is not true. It was only used as a tug boat and to set out traps.

The boat passed through a couple more hands after Excursion Inlet Packing Company's and now some guy from Ketchikan owns it and keeps it in Meyers Chuck.