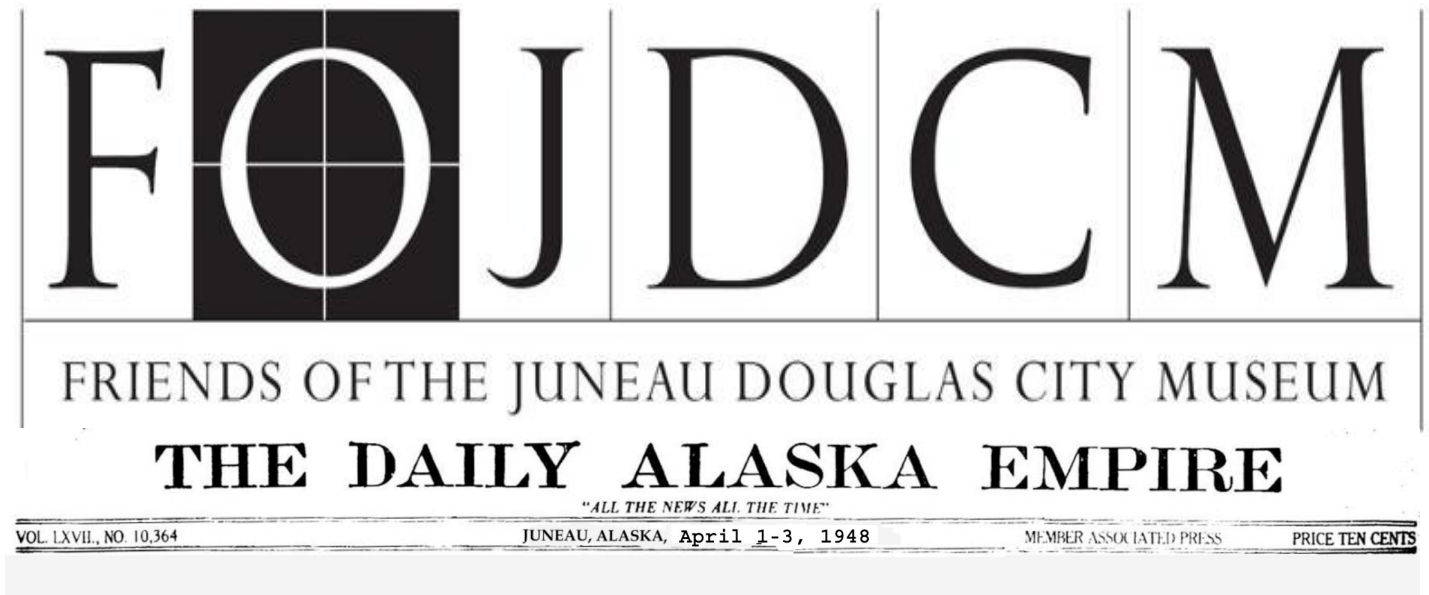


HISTORY ON THE CHANNEL
YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FLASH



ESTEBETH IS BURNED THIS A.M.

April 1, 1948---**Well-known craft destroyed by fire ---- Captain Davis, crew, passengers safe**

The 65-foot mail boat was completely burned to the keel on Couverden island abeam of Ansley island, 56 miles from Juneau early this morning. Pan American flight 3, out of Seattle to Fairbanks, sighted the burning craft about 9:00 this morning and immediately radioed the Coast Guard.

Coast Guard plane 800 was flown out but owing to rough seas could not land and then radioed the cutter Wachusett, which left for the scene shortly after 8:00 this morning, arriving there at 12:35 o'clock this afternoon.

Commander Carlson of the Wachusett put a boat ashore and took the crew of the Estebeth and her passengers aboard the coast guard cutter.

The Estebeth was completely destroyed by fire, which was caused by a flare back from the Arcola system, and which completely enveloped the engine room.

Captain Pat Davis of the Estebeth skillfully brought her to a safe anchorage, and all hands were safe. The crew fought a losing battle however. They managed to save all the first-class mail and a few blankets. The men were very tired when taken aboard the Wachusett at 1:40 this afternoon.

Crew aboard were as follows: Charles Hayes, Theodore Bayer, Starr Evans, Dan Tanner, and Herman Giel.

Passengers aboard were Alice Hillman for Hoonah and Thomas Jackson for Tenakee. Miss Hillman had just recently been discharged from the hospital and due to her convalescent condition will be taken to Hoonah by the Wachusett.

The Estebeth had left Juneau on her regular run to Sitka at 3:00 yesterday afternoon. The little vessel had left Funter Bay and was heading out when the fire was discovered.

The Estebeth, owned by Captain James V. Davis of Seattle, has been one of the best-known vessels plying the waters in this section of the country.

ESTEBETH'S CREW, ALSO PASSENGERS, ARRIVE IN JUNEAU

April 3, 1948---The cutter Wachusett arrived in Juneau at 2:30 yesterday afternoon with crew members and passengers taken from the Estebeth, which burned Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Crewmen were Captain T.H. Davis, Mate Charles Hayes, Purser Ted Beyer, cook Hermann Giel and deck hands Starr Evans and Dan Tanner. Passengers were Mrs. Hillman of Hoonah and Thomas Jackson for Tenakee.

Captain Davis said the Estebeth had caught fire about 1030 Wednesday night, apparently caused from a backfire in the back cabin heating plant. Wind at the time was estimated to be blowing at from 40 to 50 m.p.h.

When unable to get the fire under control, Captain Davis headed the ship for Couverden Island and got as far as Swanson Harbor when he headed into shore and put the passengers ashore with blankets and food. Captain Davis said the fire looked as though she was going to smother herself out when the glass in the back-cabin door blew out and permitted the fire, aided by the wind, to spread throughout the ship. First class mail and passengers were about all that came off the boat.

Captain Davis added that there was a great deal of sweating to be done at times when trying to save the ship. The tanks were on fire and feeding the explosion. The only near casualty was when Starr Evans was overcome by smoke in the fire area. He was rescued by Hermann Giel. The boat was almost completely in flames an hour after the fire was discovered.

Capt Davis wishes to commend both passengers and crew for their complete cooperation and assistance when fighting the fire and when later abandoning ship. He also wishes to thanks the officers and men of the Wachusett for their prompt and courteous rescue operation.*Daily Alaska Empire*



July 23, 1918. The new boat for the Sitka and Skagway mail routes, the Estebeth, arrived from Seattle with her owner, Dr.E.H. Kaser, on board. The new vessel was named for the owner's two daughters, Esther and Elizabeth. The skipper was Captain James V. Davis. The Estebeth was 65 feet in length with 18 feet of beam and was powered by an 80-horsepower Standard gas engine. She had a speed of 9 knots, carried a crew of 5, and was licensed to carry 35 passengers.





MAIL BOAT ESTEBETH

Leaves Mondays at 11 p. m. for Haines,
Skagway and way ports.

Leaves Thursdays at 11 p. m. for Sitka,
stopping at Tenakee Springs and other
way ports.

For information see Dave Housel,
Phone 444.