

11 October 2011 from Mike Wessel

Today marks the end of Carol and my boating as the Salty Quacker has reverted back to it's original owners family.

A few weeks ago I received an unsolicited e-mail from a lady who said that I had her dad's boat, the boat she grew up on in the 60's until their father sold it in 1971. Her father had passed away in March and for some reason she thought of the old boat and, not knowing if the boat still existed, she GOOGLED "Chanteyman" long enough to find the <chanteymantrawler-yachts.org> website run by Lin and Maryke Hines (WANDRIAN) then finding me and the boat nearly in her back yard. She asked if she and her older sister could come and look at the boat and after a brief visit and ride on it they said they had to have the boat back. We hadn't been actively advertising the boat but they asked if I would sell it to them - I told them they needed "adult supervision" but they were adults and said they knew what they were getting into, and they repeated that they wanted the boat back at any cost.

Although we had not been aggressively advertising the boat we had been ready to let her go for the past two years but there just hadn't been much of a market what with the recession. Their offer took us by surprise but after sleeping on it one night we decided they wanted it more than we did and they deserved to have the boat back in it's original family.

We had 23 wonderful years with the boat but we were ready to get off the water. We had taken a couple weeks this summer visiting some of our favorite spots including two nights in front of the Emperess Hotel in Victoria and one last trip to Slys Bakery in Poulsbo.

So today we consummated the sale of the boat and the boathouse as a package and the boat has now transferred back to it's original family. We are happy and the new (original ) owners are happy.

Carol and I have boated on Puget Sound for 40 years starting with a 18 foot "go-fast" and ending it with the slow, but enjoyably Quacker. Eating fresh crab (and drinking a little white wine) on the flybridge while watching the sun set in the San Juan's was cool, but the best part of boating was all the beautiful people we have met along the way.

So as the pirates say, we now be "**on the hard**".

Mike and Carol  
ex Skipper and First Mate of the M/V Salty Quacker

3 April 2011 from Mary Larson  
Here is a bit of the story then for you;

I was married for a while and living in Vancouver WA. I knew in my heart that I belong to the Sound and need the water and mountains that surround it having grown up in Olympia. The Sing Ton had been delivered in 1962, but was more than welcome as a part of our family. She was freedom and a chance to explore the waters up into Canada. The call of Secret Cove and McIntosh toffee was more than I could take as a child. We spent, as a family, eight or nine summers aboard the Sing Ton for at least a month. I used to beg my parents to leave me up in Desolation Sound nearly every time we went there. Squirrel Cove was a favorite destination and on one trip we were joined by another family and between the two boats there were six or seven girls along. We girls decided to camp on one of the small islands in the cove leaving the parents behind. It was such a splendid time. Once I moved back to Puget Sound and got a speed boat I pondered finding a bigger craft, one I could go somewhere on. Since 1970-1971 when my father sold the Sing Ton I've always been looking for her. It didn't matter what marina I came upon, I scanned the boats in the hope of catching just a glimpse of our old beloved boat. I guess I've been searching for her all along. Anyway, that one day last summer, after

my father had died and my friend and I putted around Harstene Island, I came home and got on the web, searching different yacht sites and finally did the Google search of images that brought me to your web site <chanteymantrawleryachts.org> I couldn't believe what I was reading as I scanned the list of existing boats and saw there, in the right column, "original owner, CW Reade MD, Olympia, Original name, "SING TON", now home port of Brownsville, forty minutes up the road from my home. I sent Mike an email and the wheels of the universe started to move. I'm a real believer that if you put 'it' (whatever 'it' might be) out to the universe, it will come to you. I have many examples of the truth in this reflected in my life.

In October of last year, I received a distribution from my father's estate and I believed the very best thing to do with that money was to re-buy the Sing Ton back into the READE family. She represents for my sister and I the best times of our family. I do believe that the Grand Banks he bought was his attempt to replace the Sing Ton as I know how much he too loved that boat.

What better way for me to have a bigger vessel to explore the waters of BC and Washington but on a boat I know so well. She's had some changes, but have any of us passed through 40 without any? It is now my turn. What has been so interesting has been that the curtain has been drawn back from the mystique my father claimed about the boat. My kids are excited to come along as is my eldest sister and her two daughters, one of whom has a significant other from a huge boating family.

One other thing that I think was written in the universe, I am the fifth of the family Reade and now am the fifth master of the Sing Ton. I continue to pinch myself at the entire story and it usually brings tears to my eyes. My Michigan cousins have watched on FaceBook as this story has unfolded and remember the times when they visited with us out on the waters of Puget Sound. A full circle, forty years in the making as my eldest sister Susan would say.

Thank you again for your generous hospitality aboard the Wandrian.  
Mary