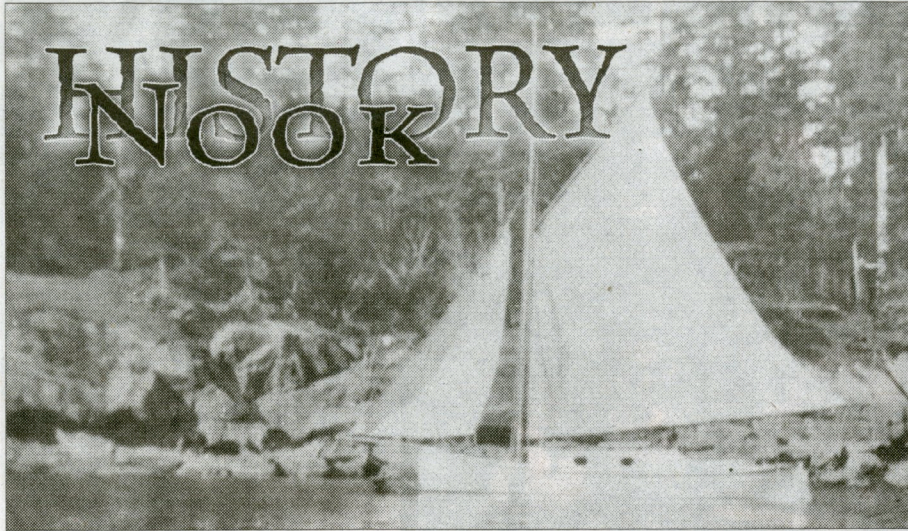


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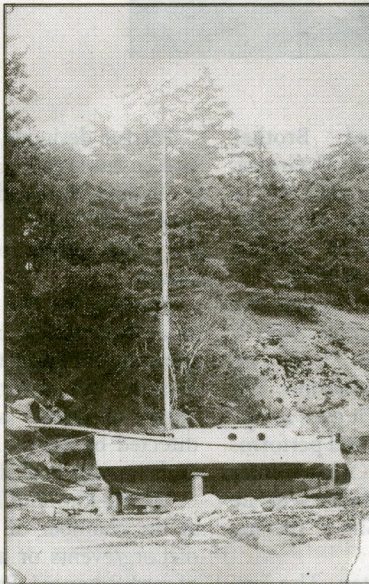
Albert A. Morgan 2ND KEEPER OF THE PATOS LIGHT

By: EDRIE AND TERRI VINSON

When he first arrived at the Patos Island Fog Signal Station in April of 1900, Albert A. Morgan was the assistant to head keeper Harry D. Mahler. He came with his wife Bertha Trahair, 2 sons Clarence and Francis, and daughter Lucile Bertha. Another son, Osmore, was born in 1905. Like those before him, Morgan was employed taking care of the pole light and the fog horn, and keeping things in order on the island, while making weekly trips to Orcas for mail and groceries. When Mahler decided to leave to get his son Howard into school, Morgan was promoted to head keeper without having to move. He remained there until December 1905.

Morgan was a body builder, following the Indian Club Exercise program. He was also a boat builder. First he drew up plans for a yacht, then, he built the boat on the rocks by Active Cove. The newspaper reported that he was taking off for two weeks to sail around the islands once he finished building the 21 foot Doris. John Whiteley of Eastsound filled in as

keeper during his absence. Shown here is the work in progress, and again with sails ready to catch the wind. While at Patos, Morgan also drew up plans for a 30 foot ketch. Whether he built it there is not known, but build it he did.



In fact, after leaving the island, according to his family, he installed a motor on the Doris, and won races with her.

One race he failed to win, however, was the one against influenza. In the outbreak of 1918, he, like many others nation-wide, contracted the virus and died. He left 5 children. The oldest three had grown to adulthood, but Osmore and John were just 13 and 11.

Morgan's father was a light keeper. It seems that little children growing up in and around lights or lighthouses learned all that needed to be done, and from an early age helped with the chores.

It was a like on-the-job training. And Morgan's sister Nettie was also a keeper. She took over when her father, Osmore H. Morgan, became ill at Marrowstone Point Lighthouse, and carried on after he died.

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