

The next afternoon we were at the Coast Guard float in Bull Harbor and filed a float plan. I got the distinct impression that the crew of their cutter preferred that we sail no further out toward Cape Scott, but we went over the Nahwitl Bar in a Force 3 breeze. Then the wind came up as the sun went down and we could feel the heave of the Pacific swell get heavier as we progressed westward. By the time we got to Experiment Bight just inside Cape Scott, we were under a single reef and the weather channel was talking about a southeast storm approaching. Anchoring for the night seemed prudent. The 40-pound plow anchor went over in four fathoms (24 feet) with 30 fathoms at the edge, and we snuggled down for the night as several trollers edged in. About 4 a.m. I heard the mizzen halyard (rigging on the after mast, used to raise the sail) begin to strum, which

The wind piped up to about 30 knots as we left the lee of Cape Scott, so we tied in the first reef in the main. Three hours later we tied in the second reef and about then the VHF started to crackle with a whole gale warning: southeast winds of 50 to 55 knots. I tried the engine several times and could not see oil droplets spilling out of the exhaust—a ruptured transmission oil cooler. We were committed now, so all we could do was to check our safety harnesses and see what kind of a sailboat we had. Tacking offshore to gain searoom, it became apparent that we could not make Winter Harbor because of the dark, and with wind and sea continuing to rise, it seemed prudent to seek some sort of shelter. San Josef Bay provided some wind protection, but the swell curled around us giving us an uncomfortable anchorage for the two days we holed up.



Fred and Peg Hoepfner

In the summer of '81 (sounds like a song title) Fred and Peg Hoepfner of San Juan Island circumnavigated Vancouver Island—a trip made by a growing number of hearty sailors, but not one to be taken lightly. They sailed in their CT-41 ketch, Mariana, and although she sailed beautifully, her engine caused them some agony. Fred has written his version of the trip, and gave me permission to use it (with a bit of editing). He and Peg title the story, "Round the Island" or "What's the Matter Now, Fred?"

Around the Island: a sailing saga "Cape Scott, Cape Scott, Peg turned to me and said, "I thought the wind had picked up a little." I shifted my VHF receiver back to channel 16 after receiving the weather report. Here it was again—a special gale warning. We looked around. Not a troller in sight—and they were tough sailors, fishing in 30-35 knots of wind every day. Our engine

Oct 6, 1982
Jo Bailey, Skipper of the Sea Witch

In the wake of the 'Witch'

was sick. We the lee short point of no our position. heavy swell rocks, show water 50 to like the white dogs. I thought they tell us. The reason our anchor Bight just to Scott was be eased to 30 and that was we had had destination, harbor, was Southeast on and let problem. Sh fully, just as intended. We had le after a ret Juan Island castle Island a fair cure passage thro rows the nex wind and sa sage throug Very please power, I s quick shut- below show on the salt pump. With fortunately made sail. There is a section of Jo we proceeded miles to the Alert Bay the 29, where a wind forced the last half-later, with installed and we departed where we m The next a at the Coast Harbor and got the dist the crew of