

Robert Hobbs collection [graphic materials, textual records] / Robert Hobbs

SUPPLIED TITLE NOTE

Title is based on the creator of the records.

COLLECTION NUMBER

VMM64

DATE(S)

1934-1957

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

12.5 cm of textual records

6 photographs : b&w ; 7 cm x 12 cm - 23 cm x 17.5 cm

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY / BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Captain Robert "Bob" Hobbs was born in 1884 in Bird Island Cove (now called Elliston), Newfoundland. In the early 1900s, Hobbs moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, where he worked as a commercial fisherman. Hobbs married pianist Edna Louise Hoover, and in 1929 they had a son named Robert Randall. In 1928, Hobbs bought the *Western Fisher*, a 60 ft seiner that was built in 1927 by W. R. Menchions and Company. Hobbs was captain of the *Western Fisher* for the remainder of his career, sailing in Puget Sound and the Coastal waters of British Columbia. Hobbs joined the Fishermen's Reserve section of the Royal Canadian Navy in 1938, the same year that the section was formed to protect the Pacific coast in anticipation of World War II. In the Fishermen's Reserve, Hobbs worked as a coxswain, which was the Reserve's title for skipper. He was never mobilized for World War II service, although he did work with the Reserve until its dissolution in 1944. Hobbs continued his work as a fisherman until his death in 1957.

SCOPE & CONTENT

Records in this collection are related to the personal activities and maritime career of Captain Robert Hobbs. Hobbs' collection includes records that span from 1934 until 1937, and primarily pertains to Vancouver, Victoria, Puget Sound, and the Coastal waters of British Columbia. The first series of Hobbs' collection contains six black and white photographs which depict Hobbs, his wife, the *Western Fisher*, his crew, and the Fishermen's Reserve in Esquimalt. The second series contains Hobbs' maritime certificates, correspondence, ration books, poetry, landing permits, a *Search and Rescue BC* handbook, and seven logbooks.

ARRANGEMENT

Original arrangement of logbooks reconstructed according to their dates of creation. All other graphic materials were donated in an envelope, and photographs, with the exception of the Fishermen's Reserve photograph, were donated in a second envelope. This arrangement has been kept. Photograph of Fishermen's reserve (1939) was originally donated in a frame which has been removed.

LANGUAGES

English

RELATED MATERIALS

See also Fishermen's Reserve collection (VMM09).

RELATED VESSELS

Western Fisher

LC SUBJECT HEADINGS

Canada. Royal Canadian Navy. Fishermen's Reserve

Series 1 - Photographs

Series documents Hobbs' career as a fisherman in British Columbia from approximately the 1930s until the 1950s. Divided into two files (File 1: Personal photographs and File 2: Fishermen's Reserve), this series primarily contains photographs that capture Hobbs' maritime career: depicting Hobbs, his crew, his boat (the *Western Fisher*), and the Fishermen's Reserve. Also included in File 1: Personal photographs is a photograph of Hobbs and his wife, Edna Hobbs. Files within the series are arranged according to the way that they were donated: personal photographs in one file, and the professional photograph of the Fishermen's Reserve in a second file.

File 1 - Personal photographs (5 records)

File contains five photographs taken, approximately, between the 1930s and 1950s in British Columbia. Photographs depict: Hobbs and his crew aboard the *Western Fisher*; Hobbs and his wife, Edna; the *Western Fisher*; the *Western Fisher*; Hobbs aboard a boat (the *Western Fisher*?).

- Taken on his boat - Bob + his crew of men working on boat
- Photograph of Robert and Edna Hobbs
- The *Western Fisher*
- The *Western Fisher*
- Robert Hobbs on boat

File 2 - Fishermen's Reserve (1 record)

File contains one photograph of the Fishermen's Reserve taken in 1939, in Esquimalt, British Columbia.

- Fishermen's Reserve - R.C.N. Barracks, Esquimalt B.C.

Series 2 - Career documentation

Series contains written documentation of Hobbs' career as a fisherman in British Columbia from 1934 until 1957. Divided into two files (File 1: Maritime certificates and other material and File 2: Logbooks), this series contains Hobbs' maritime certificates, landing permits, ration books, correspondence, a *Search and Rescue BC* handbook, his logbooks, and his personal poetry. Files within the series are arranged according to the way they were donated: loose maritime documents in one file, and Hobbs' *Western Fisher* logbooks in a second file.

File 1 - Maritime certificates and other material (15 records)

File contains both professional and personal documents pertaining to Hobbs' maritime career from 1937-1957 in British Columbia. Documents include a variety of maritime certifications, landing permits, ration books, a *Search and Rescue BC* handbook, correspondence, and a few poems written by Hobbs. Additionally, the file contains a Canadian National Registration Certificate which belonged to Hobbs' wife, Edna.

- Royal Canadian Naval Reserve Officer's Training Certificate Book - N. R. 2 C.
- Ration book 1
- National registration regulations, 1940 - Registration certificate
- The voyage of the M. V. *Western Fisher*
- Handwritten letter
- Search and rescue in B.C.
- Ration book 2
- No. TM/ 2748 - Robert Hobbs
- No. TM/ 2854 - Robert Hobbs
- Fishermen's Reserve telegraph
- Crewman's landing permit
- Envelope addressed to Captain Robert Hobbs
- A new year resolution
- Coasting licence
- Certificate of service

File 2 - Logbooks (7 records)

File contains 7 logbooks documenting Hobbs' career between 1 November 1934 and 17 October 1956, while he was sailing through Puget Sound and the Coastal waters of British Columbia.

Western Fisher logbook 1
Western Fisher logbook 2
Western Fisher logbook 3
Western Fisher logbook 4
Western Fisher
Western Fisher
Western Fisher 1954