



A Tribute To Twin Anchors' Dave Stead

By daughter, Georgina Kylo

Dave Stead came to work for Twin Anchors Marine Manufacturing in 1993. With his love for construction and being able to build anything he set his mind to, it wasn't long before building houseboats became his new love. He worked for many years in the shake block business and when the bottom fell out of cedar roof shingles and shakes, it was the perfect time for him to step in and help with the new design of the Cruisecraft that Greg Kylo, owner Twin Anchors, had envisioned. Drawn on a piece of paper on the kitchen table, *Moonfleet* was designed and later became reality.

Dad was knowledgeable on every trade. Having his own company in England before living his dream and moving back to Canada in 1978, he knew how to do everything from electrical, plumbing, roofing, ceiling designs to brick-laying. My uncles, who hired Dad to work for their building company when he was only 18 years old, said he only had to watch how to do something once and then he could do it. He showed his talent over many years around the Shuswap. He worked as a foreman at the Revelstoke Dam, added on to the motel at Three Valley Gap for Gordon Bell, built beautiful cabins with his friend Mario Gerlach at Totem Pole Resort on Shuswap Lake, and did many of his sculptured ceilings in private homes and local businesses like Moose Mulligan's Pub and the Brew Pub in Salmon Arm. Now that he is gone, it is amazing that no matter where I go, his work is there and people remember him. I was always proud to be the daughter of my Dad and now that he is no longer here, I find it comforting to see the things that my Dad's hands touched and built.

Moonfleet was the first Cruisecraft ever built, and Dad was essential to this boat being built and would later be the way of building the many Cruisecraft to date (400-plus currently). He and Greg not only worked well together, but also were great friends who truly had a deep respect for each other. When talking to Mom, she reminded me how Dad enjoyed working with Twin Anchors and Greg and that houseboats were his passion too. He truly enjoyed the work for the years that he spent at Twin Anchors Marine. He was so proud to be able to put his knowledge of construction into building a quality houseboat. Twin

Anchors' unwavering standards are still in place today for every boat built for a Twin Anchors houseboat vacation and many other houseboat vacations in the U.S. Along with Greg, Dad and his crew proudly named the first Cruisecraft *Moonfleet* after one of Dad's favorite books from England.

In 1997, Dad suffered a massive stroke and was unable to work as the supervisor and he missed it terribly.



Grandpa's Boat. Georgina Kylo's youngest daughter Samantha loved being around granddad and his houseboat. This photo was taken in 1997 in front of *Moonfleet*, the first Cruisecraft to be built on Shuswap Lake in Canada.

Daddy Daughter Date. This photo of Georgina and Dave Stead was taken in Lake Powell in Utah in the summer of 1996 while visiting Jon Maris to obtain future houseboat builds. This was the first vacation for the father/daughter team.



But it didn't stop him from writing ideas down and going to Greg's office to share the ideas that he came up with. He got a kick out of walking in the plant and giving the guys a hard time with his dry sense of humor and telling Greg what could be done better.

Greg had men in his office saying that Dad had gone up and shaken their hand and said, "Nice knowing you, good luck," and then walked away. Greg then had to explain that it is just his sense of humor and nothing to worry about.

He was married to my mother, Gwyneth Stead, for 45 years and lived in the Sicamous and Malakwa area since we came to Canada in 1978. He was a loving and giving father to my brothers, Jonathan, David and me. He had 11 grandchildren who adored him and many friends in the community who

never fail to tell me what a wonderful man he was and that he is so dearly missed. Dad passed away in July 2008, at the young age of 62 after courageously battling complications from open-heart surgery. He had his sense of humor to the end, telling me to get his golf clubs the day before he peacefully passed away with Mom, Greg and me by his side.

Moonfleet still is sailing to this day and I have asked Greg to always keep *Moonfleet* for us to go on and remember Dad. The book *Moonfleet* is still on the fireplace with my Dad's signature in it. He is missed, but we hold him in our hearts and he will always be remembered by everyone who knew him well and by the many achievements he left us to be in awe of. We sadly say farewell to Dave Stead, but he will never be forgotten.

