

1998 Windblown - Jan-Feb article by Lynne Vick?

News Along the Docks-

Whatever happened to the Vicks?

That's probably a question more than a few people have read about. Did they buy a fancy resort in the South Pacific as some rumors would have it? Sorry, nothing as glamorous as that. After spending a couple of years trying to find a way to get back into the boat business, we gave up and decided to enjoy boats instead, finding some other way to survive.

Snider, educated in electronics engineering, set about teaching himself about computers when they were still big and slow and used only in business applications. Both of us became born-again Christians and made some computer-oriented friends at our church with whom Snider made a close business association.

A Westsail owner who had become a close friend, Bruce Westwood from Toronto, invited us to enjoy his Westsail 42, **Balthazar**, in the British Virgin Islands when business was slow, and we spent many a long week cruising those fantastic waters, getting to know the locals, snorkeling, and meeting other cruising sailors.

Somehow the opportunity never came along to take a cruise that lasted years, probably because of economics, so sailing to Catalina aboard our Westsail 42, **Clea**, and enjoying Bruce's boat for a few weeks each year was all we were to realize of the Westsail dream.

We did prepare **Clea** for cruising and made a few modifications such as improved storage, a real navigation-electronics area, and a fold-away sail repair sewing machine. I will be happy to share the details if anyone is interested.

Then in 1984, we sailed **Clea** to Hawaii, having found the impossible: a slip in the islands! After three years of flying back and forth from LA to Honolulu, we finally packed everything up and moved to Kaneohe, a lush and lovely suburb of Honolulu situated on an enormous turquoise bay complete with its own pristine white sand bar in the center and ringed by volcanic mountains.

For several years, Snider continued as a computer consultant, until the price of computers plummeted and young men half his age charged half as much for their services, since they didn't have mortgages to pay. Faced with a real dilemma (our house was in the process of being remodeled, so moving back to the mainland wasn't an option), we tried to decide what to do.

While traveling on the mainland two years ago, visiting Lynne's family in Vancouver, Canada, we came across a new line of metal treatment products that, upon further examination and testing, turned out to be the cat's meow for marine engines as well as

land based ones. One of our first tests involved resurrecting an outboard engine that was destined for the dump - we'll tell that story another time.

Snider became a distributor and brought the products to Hawaii, where they are very popular in our salt water climate and have brought new life to Clea's inner parts. By the way, she has a 20 year old Ford Leighman engine, with a hydraulic pump for driving the anchor windlass, scuba compressor, and refrigeration system. In addition to enjoying our resurrected boat, we're in the process of expanding our business to the mainland US, Australia, New Zealand, and Taiwan.

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OCR by Jay Bietz 1/29/2011