

OUR FIRST CAR FERRY

("The Bold Lady")

She was named *Atrevida* (Spanish for "bold or adventurous lady") and was built in New Westminster in 1932 (72 feet long; 21 foot beam). Captain Bert Davis sailed her here in 1955 from her ferry route on Gabriola Island. Chuck McCallum took over command in 1961.



The *Atrevida* carried five cars (two parked forward, two aft and one straight across). Smaller cars were sometimes bounced over to make more space. Access to the "car deck" was through a wharf shed and down a steep ramp.



She operated six days a week connecting Van Anda, Blubber Bay and Westview and cost \$5 each way (car and driver). People making important connections often parked in the line the night before to ensure a spot.

Texadans were thrilled. Previous car transport was expensive and inconvenient (either by barge or hoisted onto a steamer's deck as cargo). Daily ferry service meant daily delivery of mail and supplies. It also "...enables [residents] to leave the island and holiday in all parts of the country. Summer visitors can reach such spots as Gillies Bay intact with children and dogs and household goods in one move ..." wrote an observer.

Ted Ross recalls that passengers sat in the stuffy bow cabin and often vomited when the ship rolled and pitched. "With Captain Gus Liebich at the wheel, we sailed through everything." Pete Stiles laughingly remembers how the toilet might flush automatically on stormy days, affording one a chilly surprise!

The *Atrevida* retired in 1969 when the *Texada Queen* began service and languished derelict in Maple Bay (near Duncan) until Art and Lena Gibbs renovated her into their floating home (1980's).



Where is she now? *Atrevida's* last reported sighting was in Montague Harbour (Galiano Island). Painted green and burgundy and festooned with signs, Judy and Lee Griffin have created a floating bakery (the "bunboat")! The early morning flotilla of small boats enticed by the odour of fresh cinnamon buns shows that the "Bold Lady" is still popular at eighty-one!