

OUR HERITAGE

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

High seas adventure for cedar dugout canoe

In May 1901 the dugout canoe Tilikum with a crew of two men, Captain John C. Voss and Norman K. Luxton, left Oak Bay on a trip crossing the Pacific and later the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. The Tilikum followed a course which took her from Vancouver Island to Tahiti, Samora and Fiji, then to Australia and New Zealand, then to Cape Town, across the Atlantic to Pernambuco, to the Azores and finally to the Thames River, England. The Tilikum arrived at the Thames estuary in September 1904.

Voss and Luxton were partners for the first leg of this journey around the world. Lux-

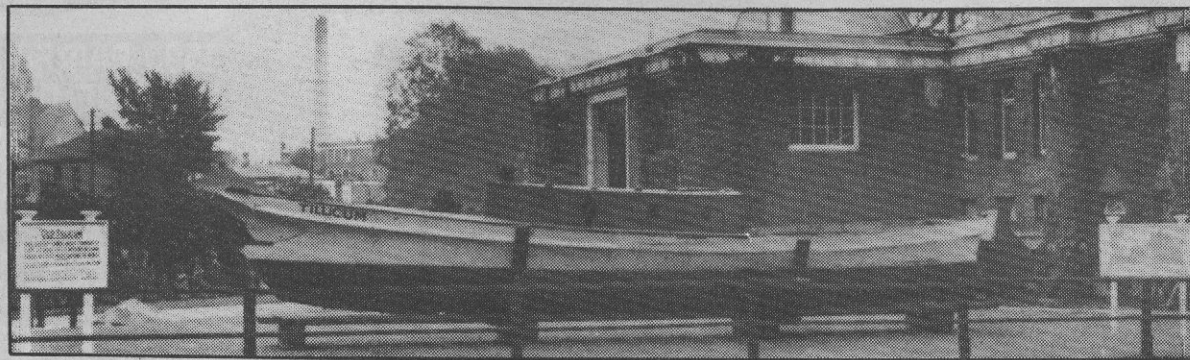
ton bought the Tilikum from its Indian owner and paid for the expenses incurred to make her seaworthy. In her purchased state, the Tilikum was built of a

canoe measured 30 feet in length. To prepare her for the voyage, the hull was built up, a keel and water-tight bulkhead added, and a cabin constructed

lons of water. Three masts were erected for a jib sail, foresail, mainsail and spinnaker. Some 600 pounds of ballast lay beneath the floor boards.

to the saga of the small sailing ship. Captain Voss first published his account, *The Venturesome Voyages of Captain Voss* describing the entire voyage. Luxton's own account, *Luxton's Pacific Crossing*, describes the voyage from Victoria to Fiji and was based on his daily diaries. It was not published until 1971.

In 1930 the Tilikum returned to Victoria and was displayed outside the Crystal Gardens. She was later moved to Thunderbird Park and finally to the Maritime Museum where she rests today. For further information on the voyage of the Tilikum or photographs, visit the B.C. Archives and Records Service, 655 Belleville Street, Victoria (387-1952).



THE TILIKUM on display outside the Crystal Gardens circa 1930.

BCARS Photo #HP44139

single red cedar log hollowed out in the centre, in traditional northwest coast style. This

measuring eight feet in length. Two galvanized water tanks were also added to hold 80 gal-

The voyage of the Tilikum has been counted among the most notable Canadian contributions