

# Log Of Rainbow Seeker

7/15/1988

7:00pm

We set sail for Muskegon in down winds and choppy waters. I got a little seasick just nausea from being below too long. Later that evening, I managed to lie down on side of cockpit. Al said try it, you probably won't be able to sleep but you could relax. Well, 5 minutes after I lay down, I was snoring, so Al had to harness me in so I wouldn't fall off boat.

4:30AM

7/16 Saturday 1988

I awakened; I was looking for the other boat that was with us, Leon Harris. One of the y young guys sailing with him was going around in circles.

The water was calm and by 11:00 AM, all the wind was gone so we started up our motors. Al and I took 2-hour breaks sleeping and sailing alternating. I woke up from one around 4:00PM, it was dark. I asked if I had overslept because it was so dark. Al said it is not suppose to be dark! A terrible storm was on the way.

I got out the foul weather gear, made sandwiches and in general prepared myself as best I could for the storm to come.

Well the storm came, it was something. We stayed below we dropped all sails following, the worse of the storm that we could sail hull speed with only a handkerchief amount of sail. I though the worse is over!

Night fell and we still hadn't reached a harbor, we could barely see land. We sailed southeast winds to Saugatuck but that harbor was too difficult to get into at night. The coast guard advised us to go to Holland just u p the shoreline a bit!

We went to Holland. Leon found his way in (He had a Loran so that helped). We had lots of trouble. Then we saw we were in 4-feet of water. We made a decision to sail out to deep water and sail back and forth all night long until day break, so we could see how to get into the harbor. As tired as we were, this was going to be a real chore! Luckily we did see a boat going in and they waited for us and we followed them into the dark harbor. Safe at last and ready to sleep at 1:30 AM.

7/17/88

A great day! Took bike rides so far, I had to be given a ride back.

Monday 7/18

I caught Greyhound back to Chicago to work 2 weeks and then try to catch up with Al and Leon.

7/29/88 Friday

I got paid, was taken to lunch and had lots of work to finish before leaving for Petoskey. When I spoke to Al, I told him I need one more day, he said too bad—nothing shaken, so I went back to work until midnight. My clothes were packed and over to my mothers. I still had to pack all the other stuff.

7/30 Sat

I had stayed up all night and mom took me to the bus station at 95th and State 8:30 AM. She almost got a ticket, but we did get out of it. I thought I had to take one bus to Petoskey, but I soon found out I had to transfer at Grand Rapids and had no rest stops. The transfer was 5 mins. break, not enough time to eat, etc. Finally 6:45 Chicago time and 7:45 Michigan time I arrived in Petoskey. I unpacked. We ate, I slept.

Sun 7/31

We walked into town from the boat and had breakfast. I shopped at K-Mart and went back to the boat and 3 of us motored over to Harbor Springs, a much more picturesque and fun town than Petoskey. We shopped/had a fabulous dinner.

Mon 8/1

Happy Birthday Al! Sunday night had been a terrible windstorm and I thought the boat was leaving several times. Monday the forecast was thunderstorms. Both Leon and I wanted to stay. Al was hell-bent on sailing to Beaver Island, however, for his birthday! Well, since there were 2 against it, we stayed. We did, however, give up our slip at Petoskey to anchor out at Harbor Springs. We swam and had dinner on a boat with champagne, 'smoke' from Jamaica and birthday cake.

8/28 Tues

We sailed for Mackinaw Island. We sailed at 7:30 am and went under the bridge at 3:30 AM! By 4:30 we were secure (anchored) in the harbor.

6:00 we rowed into town (Mac Island). We had excellent Mexican dinner and a pitcher of Margarita. A great place to be.

8/3/88 Wed

A.M. troubles 2:30 Am - Leon's anchor not holding. We work for several hours to get it to hold. 8:30, again, Leon's anchor not holding. This time Al didn't wake me he did all the work both times and the second time eh dove into the lake to get another anchor and chain that was just lying on the bottom of the lake. This was a big chain and anchor—one that would hold!!

By 11:00 am, we had breakfast at a pancake house, then road all over the island on our bikes, stopping here and there for short swims what a great day we elected to spend one more day at the Mac.

8/4/88 Thurs

Started out dreary, rain and heavy winds and we were anchored out we missed breakfast at The Grand Hotel—got a late start out day turned out to be O.K.

I went to Fort Mackinaw. It was very interesting, just like the movies, to see where they lived, went to school, etc. There were also several pans of old snowshoes and an old wooden pair of skis. I met up with Al after the Fort and we went to The Grand Hotel. It wasn't that grand. Well- it was grand but it didn't live up to my expectations. But the row of mansions on the same street did.

8/5/88 Fri

Early to rise and set sail (motored most of the way) to Beaver island. Left at 8:20 AM arrived around 4:00 PM. had trouble getting anchor to hold. Had dinner in great place, Beaver Loge. Didn't sleep that good cause kept waking to check on anchors.

8'6/88 Sat

Several boats left marina so we were able to get a slip. They had a crazy system at Beaver. You look until you see a boat leaving, then you make a rush for the spot—if you get there first—it's yours. NO waiting list no civilized method. No civilized method. This was to permeate our stay —Not civilized. Mormons who broke away from #1 guy Brigham Young had settled Beaver

Island. He was later assassinated and the fleeing Irish people from persecution stormed the island and Beaver Island has been ruled by drunk, wild and crazy Irishmen ever since. We took a long bicycle ride and carload of drunks came down the road a guy fell off of the car (He was sitting on the hood) He rolled over on the concrete bloody and the people inside of the car laughed! We were not greatly impressed with Beaver, except for the crystal clear waters, which were also in Harbor Springs, Mackinaw, etc. One guy was snorkeling and saw a school of perch. Since it was my first day on the rag, I really didn't swim, I did walk a little in the water, though.

8/7/88 Sun

Even though we had planned to stay one more day at Beaver 6:30AM Leon said the weather was right for leaving, so we left around 9:15 AM and arrive in Manistee, Wisconsin By 4:30 PM. The sailing was good for about 3 hours of the trip and I sailed 2 hours of that. Al and I washed my hair on the boat while motoring.

I am presently in a Laundromat in Manistique. I decided to go right away since this is an industrial city and the water looks like mud—I knew I wouldn't stay long and there wouldn't be much to do so perfect time to hop on bike, wash clothes and catch up on travel journal.

PM—ate at Pizza Hut and —oops, just realized I'm not in Manistique, Wisconsin but upper Michigan. Al says we're not far from the Menomonee White Water Rafting River, where I finished the run on my ass in the water 2 years ago!

8/8/88 Monday

The sail to Fayette U.P. Michigan was rough, horrible clouds chased us. Big swells in the lake didn't make it better. We got to Fayette around 6:00 PM. It was so pretty, it reminded me of Colorado where they cut through the mountains. Fayette was just natural beauty, no showers—they had out house, but they had old settlements of iron minors and this settlement was preserved as a museum of old houses, opera house, hotel, etc., very interesting. We rafted off some white couple and ate leftovers. Took a walk to the phones and I called Ann—no one is home—to say I was OK.

Tues 8/9/88

Woke up. I finally fixed our buckwheat pancakes and bacon. We walked down (down-down) to the water and Al and I wanted some adventure. Leon went back to his boat. We walked along shoreline on rocks of all sizes. It was a little scary. I kept thinking a snake might be on the under side!! We found a campground and a sandy beach. There we frolicked in the water, met 2 other white couples and talked about camping, etc. and generally had a good time.

We walked back to the boat via the road—thank God, instead of on the rocks. Al took pictures and I went back to the boat, washed my hair, my body and cooked hot beef sandwiches.

Wed 8/10/88

Set sail for Washington Island. Arrived in the PM, anchored out in a bay a little way from the main island. Our first night we had chili and tamales. I melted pepper cheese on the tamales and we also had refried beans. It was really good. To bed early all were tired.

Thurs 8/11/88 AM

Al got up around 6:00 and caught a great big fish. Later some fishermen told us it was a bass. He threaded a small sailing line through his gills and let him swim under the boat. He came back to bed. We slept late 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM Michigan time.

Our ride over to the Island was really something. Water was coming into the boat and we were getting soaked! It got so bad, Al took (motored) dingy over to a little island and left Leon, while the 2 of us continued on to the main island. He went back and got Leon. We had breakfast (lunch) and tried to rent mopeds—no luck. The company wouldn't rent because of an insurance problem, so we rented bicycles and rode to the downtown area about 4 miles and bought groceries. Came back and Al could not get the scales off the fish, so he filleted it?? I fried it in seafood batter. Macaroni and cheese, broccoli with cheese and beer—WOW! What a meal it was great! It doesn't get any better than this!!!

Fri 8/12/88 AM

Al took me over to main island and wanted me to climb up on the wooden pier like yesterday, but just as I was reaching for the pier, a piece of it moved a snake! Someone on land said it was a rattler, then laughed and said just kidding—only water snake and they are not poisonous. Well, then I looked at the pier again and nestled in between all of the wood were snakes—everywhere—they were different shades of brown and gray and they blended in and wrapped and overlapped the wooden posts, etc of the pier. Al kept rowing one to another wooden pier and was screaming and crying to get me away from the wood and the snakes, finally he put the boat on some rocks and I walked ashore.

We rented mopeds, rode all over the island and had a good time, bought steaks, went back to the boat and I even jumped in the water for a little swim! AM I Crazy or what? We should sail tomorrow if the weather permits.

Sat 8/13/88 AM

The weather permitted. It was a great sail and I even read Part 1 of one of the books I brought! We pulled up in Fish Creek.

I tried to call Mom and Dad, no answer, so I called the Bells who told me that they had left for Dallas. I will try and call Toni or Aunt Betty tomorrow.

We pulled up on a wall that was O.K. as long as the wind did not shift. We didn't sleep well with that threat over our heads.

Sun 8/14/88 A.M.

We got up early, tired and went out to breakfast. When we returned the winds had shifted and the boat was climbing the walls!! So some other people helped us get away and we rushed off. When we got out of the harbor, the waves were 3 -5 feet and water was coming in. I was SCARED!! Thank God we didn't have far to go to the next port. We pulled in Egg Harbor. found a slip and I went below and slept!

It's 4:30 PM now and I have just gotten up. We were supposed to go out for pizza. Al is fishing, trying to catch another meal. I hope he doesn't catch another fish cause I don't feel like cooking. We had 2 fresh fishmeals. Bass in Washington Island and Northern Pike, yesterday!

The pizza was good. On the way there we saw some people, including a black couple. I found out they were from Chicago and had chartered a boat in Sturgeon Bay and were sailing for a week. We talked for an hour. They were very interesting. They worked at the National Reserve.

Mon 8/15/88 AM

Weather seems OK so I guess we will head out to Sturgeon Bay today. It is suppose to be about 18 miles.

We arrived in Sturgeon Bay at 2:00. They had showers and laundry at the Quarter Deck. They also had little tropical fish and different kinds of ducks.

We ordered dinner.

Tues 8/16/88 AM

Al caught another fish for me to cook. We left around 9:00 AM down the canal and out to Lake Michigan. The fog was so thick it was frightening! We only went as far as Algoma. Thank God for Leon's loran because we couldn't see shore and let alone harbor lights.

Algoma reminded me of the poor town in the movie the Waterfront. The people were mostly Belgian. We did not, however, sample the Belgian cooking. I fixed steaks and of course, Al's Northern Pike on the grill and the 3 of us walked into town and went to the show to see Coming To America. —It was a let down.

Wed 8/17/88

When we left, I was still sleep around 6:30 AM. There was some fog, I understand, by 9:00 when I came out of the cabin the fog had lifted. We had to stop at Two Rivers for gas. I tried to get Al to stay there, but everyone was anxious to get to Sheboygan, The radio and TV was full of dangerous storm warnings. Al and Leon felt we could out run the storms so on we went. Soon it was dark, lightening, thunder, hail you name it all hell broke out. We tied the tiller and waited out the storm below. How horrible was it?? Well, having been through several storms, I wasn't as scared as I thought I would be.

After the storm we let out a little jib and were doing hull speed. All of a sudden we looked up and saw the BIGGEST MOST PERFECT RAINBOW, I though damn, with a boat named Rainbow Seeker that means we have to go through hell every time we seek a Rainbow!

We relaxed and enjoyed the beautiful rainbow, when suddenly FOG rolled in 1st we lost sight of half land then, I went below to check something on the charts and try and reach Leon on the radio, when I came back the fog was so thick, we could hardly see ourselves!!!

Having finally reached Leon, he gave us a heading and he was already inside of the breakwater, we were fast and blindly approaching. Leon said he was shinning/flashing his spot light at us we couldn't see it he also said that he was out of the fog and could see part of us all of a sudden we saw the top his mast. Thank God, we were in the clear, we sailed straight to him and tied up on the wall.

Al and I went out for dinner at a quaint wharf restaurant.

Thurs 8/18/99

We got up and walked into town. At the town square was a jazz (complete with an accordion) band and free lunch for the 1st 300 people! (They never got 300 people) We ate our ham sandwich with butter and listened to the music. Lots of people in this small town had real strange moles and

other skin growths. Nevertheless, we went shopping in thrift shops and found a teakettle, wheelchair cover for one of the bikes, omelete pan, rug and a new and improved range oven.

We noticed that Bull Durum was playing at the movie house across town. We also stopped and bought liquor.

After sufficiently drinking lucrative shots of sherry, we, along with Leon went to a restaurant and had ribs for \$3.00, caught a bus to the show and enjoyed Bull Durum.

Friday 8/19/88

Al got up early and called Pam in Racine. She was leaving for the city. I should have gotten up and called Mori and/or Sandy. We had a pretty good sail to Milwaukee. I tried to call Mori, no answer.

Sat 8/20/88

Early to rise and call Mom no answer. When I returned from the showers, Leon had left for Chicago. Al looked like he lost his best friend there might have even been a hint of tear in one eye!

We talked with the young black security guard at the harbor. He seemed shocked to see black people with boats! As we rode off on our bikes he said, 'You all 'shore' live just like white folks!

We had breakfast in a great place called Le Peeps. After breakfast we ventured out to ride forever across town to Mori's house. She wasn't there but I went through her mail and got Sandy's full name and address and phone number. So I called no answer. So we rode back to the boat, stopped for dinner and to bed early.

We really wanted to get in touch with someone in Wisconsin and drive to Gary to Dungy Park club meeting. But no go.

Sun 8/21/88

We jumped on our bikes and went back to Le Peeps, only to find out that there are 4 in the Chicago area. They have the greatest seafood egg dishes. After breakfast we sailed to Racine. We tied up in Pam's harbor The Fifth Street Harbor. Had dinner at the Chart Well great shrimp and hamburgers.

Mon 8/22/88

Al got up early and rode his bike over to Pam's and woke her up. When he returned to the boat we went to breakfast and then rode around Racine. After work, Pam came by; we went to tennis courts and then to Chi Chi's.

Tues 8/23/88

I fixed breakfast on the boat. After breakfast, we went riding, played a little tennis and returned to the boat to meet Pam, who needed to go into the city.

We couldn't even get home Al wanted to pull in the yacht club so we did. Our nautical neighbor, power boater, Ed was cooking and he entertained us in good style. We ate delicious chicken wings and catfish steaks. It was great! We ate on the lake during our late night cruise. It was a great, great, great time was had by all. We left the harbor and ran by the house to find 8 mice caught in the traps. We left the house minutes after and stopped by Keith's to say 'Hi' and continued on to Racine. Back to the boat to go to sleep. Finally. Whew!!

Wed 8/24/88

Pam took off from work and we took her little Hummingbird, 22 foot Southcoast out. Al showed he how to use the downhaul. The wind was high and the Hummingbird was really humming. Afterwards Al and Pam played tennis. I walked over to the courts to join them, just as they were leaving, we went to a great Chinese Restaurant and then went to Pam's to watch video's from Park City 1985 Summit. We said our good byes and back to the boat. (She left her boat in the water next to us.

Thursday 8/25/99

We left early around 6:20. We sailed full speed between 6 1/4 - 8 1/2 all the way to Jackson Park. Home! Home! Oh God it feels so good to be hone! Our first stop J&J's fish, 2nd stop Home!

— END —