

Shige kazu was born in Japan in 1908 and came to Canada to settle.

Shige kazu always smiles. Everybody calls him "Smiley".

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I think I look pretty smart with my cooking and sleeping quarters in the aft cabin

and

The soul

of

a boat

Two watertight bulkheads help me stay afloat when I have a load of fish

I am made with cedar planks and I am that

I heard that Shige kazu Matsunaga is a very good fisherman. In Canada Matsunaga settled at Quathiaski Cove

SOYOKAZE

named after the Japanese fisherman

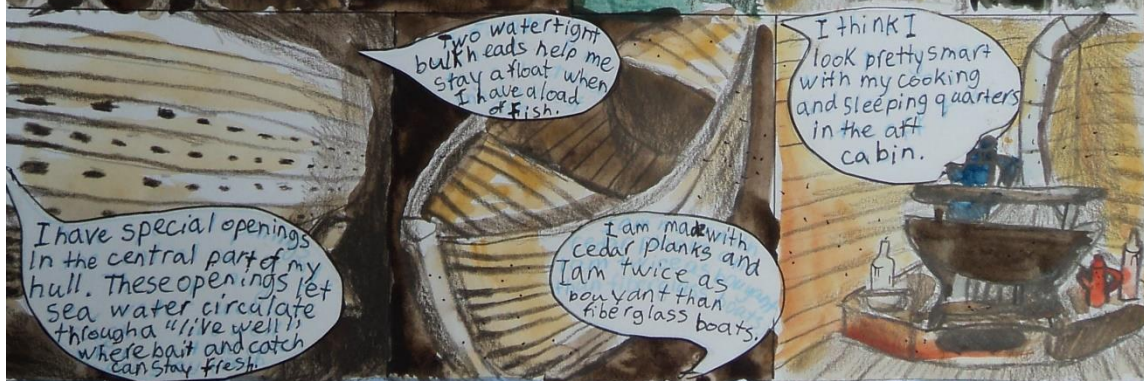
I have special openings in the central part of my hull. These openings let sea water circulate through a "line" where bait and catch can stay fresh.

North Star II



I am a fishing boat. I am standing in the Kishi boat works and Saeji Kishi is building me. Saeji Kishi is from Japan and he is a skilful boatbuilder.

The Kishi boatworks shop is in Steveston, Richmond, British Columbia. Mister Kishi can build four boats at a time. I am 37 feet long which is as big as a whale. Kishi boats last up to 60 years.



Two watertight bulkheads help me stay afloat when I have a load of fish.

I think I look pretty smart with my cooking and sleeping quarters in the aft cabin.


I have special openings in the central part of my hull. These openings let sea water circulate through a "live well" where bait and catch can stay fresh.

I am made with cedar planks and I am twice as buoyant than fiberglass boats.



A roll down canvas gives nice shade to the open deck space. My name is Soyo Kaze, and Mr. Kishi is building me for Shigekazu Matsunaga.





Before the Second World War, Japanese Canadians held the majority of fishing licences along the Coast of British Columbia. In December 1941 the American military base Pearl Harbour was bombed by Japanese fighters. As a result, all the licences were taken away. The Canadian Federal Government ordered Japanese Canadians who lived within 160 km. off the Coast of BC to be moved further inland to Internment camps. About 22000 Japanese-Canadians were labeled as "enemy aliens" despite many of them living in Canada for generations.

The family of my beloved captain Shigekazu was affected by this order. All their property and belongings were seized, including me. I was not only taken away, but also put in disguise.



I was given a new name and a British Flag. I was not Soyokaze anymore. My name was North Star II. I was sold for a very small price to a non-Japanese Canadian fisherman and continued working.

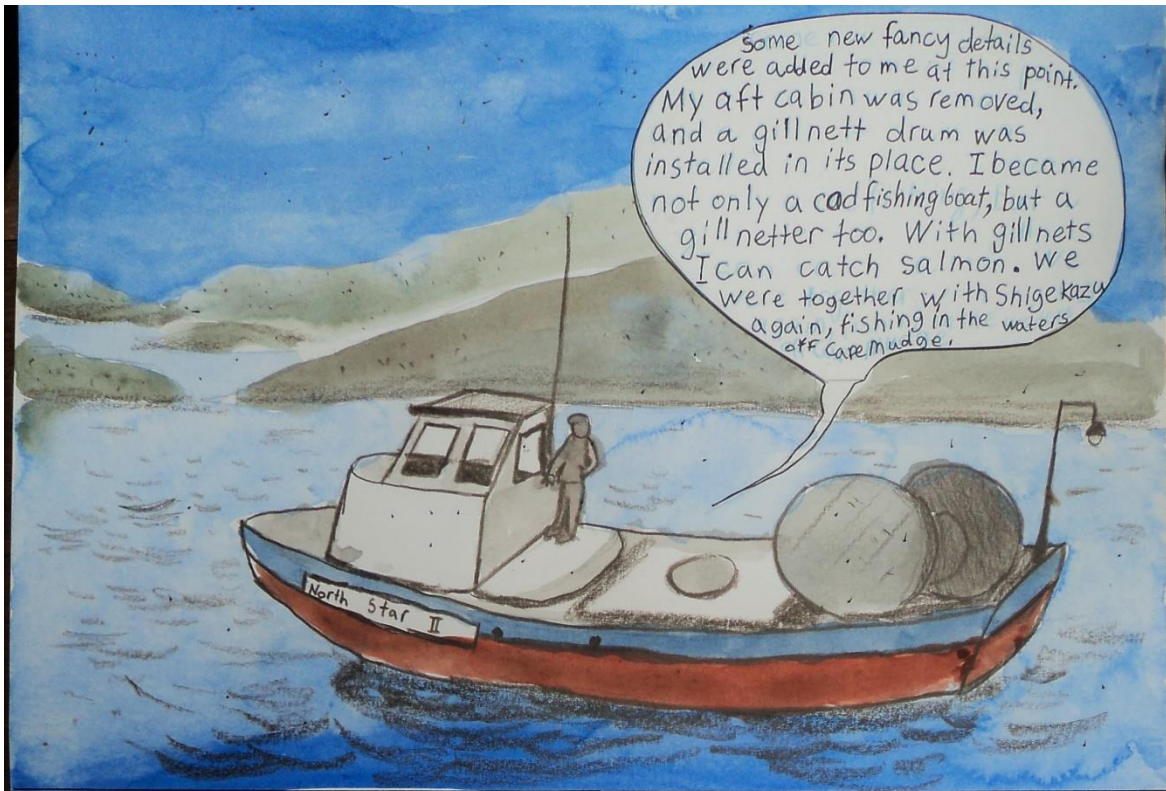


Along 8 years until 1949, Japanese families were living in internment camps, working on farms and facing repatriation to Japan. On April 1st 1948 Japanese families were granted permission to return.



I was North Star II until 1957, when Shigekazu found me even under my new name. I was bouncing on the waves with joy when I heard that my new owner was going to sell me back to Shigekazu, since he knew that Shigekazu was my original owner.

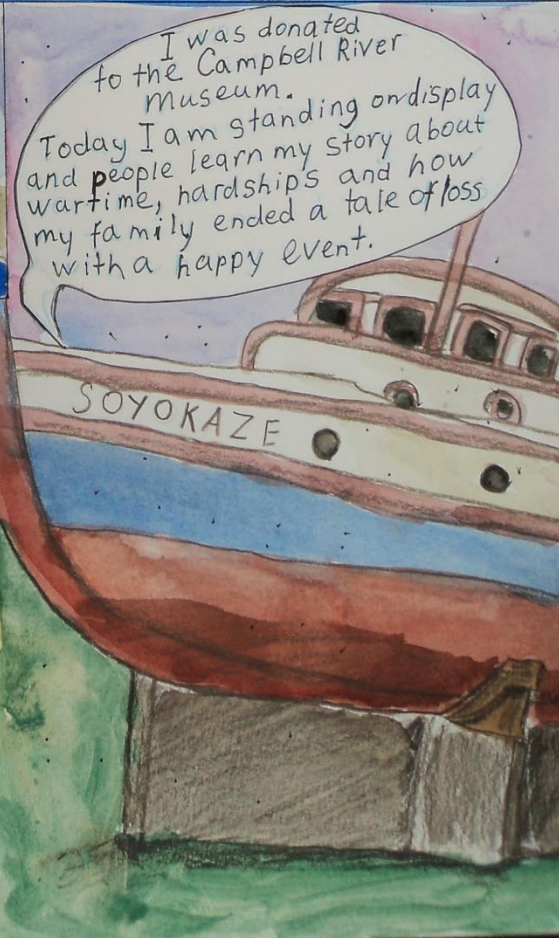




Some new fancy details were added to me at this point. My aft cabin was removed, and a gillnet drum was installed in its place. I became not only a cod fishing boat, but a gillnetter too. With gillnets I can catch salmon. We were together with Shige Kazu again, fishing in the waters off Cape Mudge.



I was getting old, and my beloved family decided to restore me. Before the restoration began, the name plate North Star II was removed to uncover the carved letters of my real name Soyokaze, underneath.



I was donated to the Campbell River Museum. Today I am standing on display and people learn my story about wartime, hardships and how my family ended a tale of loss with a happy event.