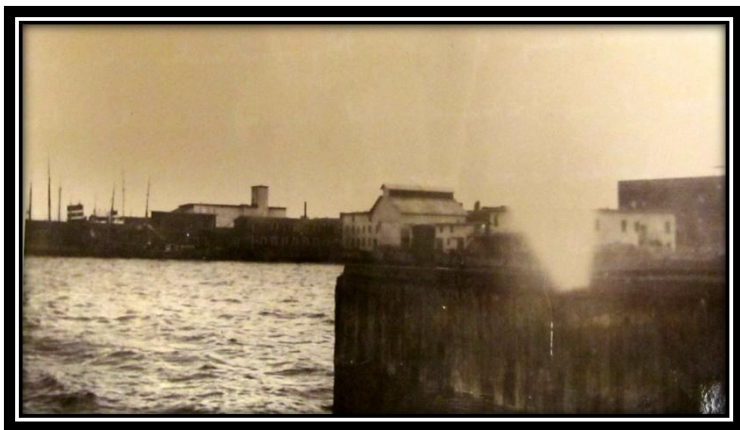


Newfoundland Travel in 1949:
Part 5
Aboard the S.S Kyle

Volume 38 – January 2012

The following bulletin is part of a mini-series based on a scrapbook from 1949. The scrapbook recounts a trip taken by three adventurous women from Boston who travel across Newfoundland and then up the coast of Labrador. I hope that you enjoy the read and will continue to follow along with us.

After arriving at the S.S Kyle, the girls found out that they would be sleeping in separate berths. Mabel would be staying in a room with four other people while Connie and Pat would be in a room close by with two roommates. Mabel described the rooms as shockingly small, "Our two rooms together could be put in most any kitchen." However, though the room was small, Mabel was



Leaving the dock at St. John's

satisfied with both its size and her roommates who were teachers from Indiana. After inspecting the rest of the



ship Mabel remarked, "small and by no means luxurious – still it should be fun." If their future antics are any indication, they would indeed enjoy themselves.

They set sail around 5PM but the waters were rough so Mabel had to take a pill to settle her stomach before sitting down to a supper of fried cod and vegetables. Around 8PM they hit their first port - Bay Roberts. Here the ladies went ashore and grabbed something to drink. Their time in Bay Roberts was short and the only observation Mabel made was that the "houses [are] small and square. Dirt Roads." Sounds like those Bostonians were a tough crowd to please! When they returned to the Kyle, Mabel, Connie and Pat sat down to eat and found out that they could move into a room together.

Waking up the next morning they found themselves only a short way from Bay Roberts. Engine trouble had kept the Kyle from moving until about 6AM. They spent the day watching the scenery and admiring the beautiful coast line.

Sometime in the afternoon, the ship pulled into Carbonear where they disembarked for a half hour and bought some cookies and then hustled back to

the boat. That night they sailed into Wesleyville but they were not able to go ashore. According to Mabel, the sea was too rough and foggy so they spent the evening on board.



Putting away their dresses. Sketch from the scrapbook.

On the morning of Sunday August 7th, the ship dropped anchor and picked up a passenger but ended up staying put for a while waiting for the fog to lift. Mabel mentioned that “soon after we got on board we put on slacks – so did everyone else – and until we got back to Newfoundland did not touch a dress.” This must have been a quite a change for the girls and a welcome one if the picture indicates anything! For the rest of the day, the ladies wandered the ship bundled against the cold and watched people jig for fish.

Around two o'clock, the Kyle arrived in Twillingate where Mabel, Pat and Connie got off to investigate. It was Sunday and all the stores were closed so instead of shopping they took some photos and picked flowers. Soon they were back on board to have lobster for supper and head to bed early. It was a “fairly long hop” to the next stop. By 2AM they had arrived in St. Anthony but the fog kept them from docking. The “water was too deep to anchor so went around in circles until it was clear enough to enter.”



Picked at Twillingate

So ended their first few days on board the S.S Kyle. Next month the girls head into St. Anthony and then head up to Labrador!

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR
STORIES!

The RCM wants to collect as many stories about the Railway AND Coastal Boats as possible! Please share your experiences with us whether it was the trip you took or the one you didn't quite make. We want to hear them all – from hiding under the trestle bridges to waiting for the S.S Nonia to pull into port!

Your stories are important and we want to hear them.

Email them to:

aobrien@railwaycoastalmuseum.ca