

Uncle John A Total Wreck

Lumber Vessel Goes Ashore
Between Carmanah and
Beale Lighthouses.

Two Sealing Schooners Return
From Their Cruises in
Behring Sea.

The American barkentine Uncle John is a total wreck on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, eight miles west of the Carmanah lighthouse, within a stone's throw of the shore where the lumber schooner Vista was wrecked a few years ago. The crew of the Uncle John reached shore safely and are camped on the beach. It was on Saturday last that the barkentine ran ashore, having, evidently mistaken the Cape Beale light for the Carmanah light, and thinking that she had a clean run up the Straits. This is the mistake often made by strangers to the waters of the entrance to the Straits of Juan de Fuca. She was bound for the Sound from Honolulu, which port she left fourteen days ago, having taken a cargo of lumber from Eureka, Cal., to the Hawaiian capital. Details of the accident have not yet been received, the news of her wreck being received here yesterday in the following brief telegram from a member of the crew of the C. P. N. Co's steamer Willapa, which left here on Sunday night and passed the scene of the wreck early yesterday morning:

Barkentine Uncle John ashore eight miles westward of Carmanah lighthouse close to remarkable waterfall. Fourteen days from Honolulu. Went ashore Saturday night. Crew eaten on the beach. Considerable sea running. I believe the vessel will be a total loss.

The Uncle John is a barkentine of 273 tons register and commonly called the "Murchison." She left Eureka on August 27 with a lumber cargo, and arrived at Honolulu on September 15. The fact that she had sailed from the latter port was not known until news was received of her wreck. It is rather remarkable that the information did not reach here earlier, as the vessel lies between two telegraph stations, Cape Beale and Carmanah, and within a few miles of either. It is probable that the Willapa, bringing the captain and crew to Victoria on her return trip. The coast where the Uncle John ran ashore is very rocky and exposed to the full force of the ocean storms. It will be remembered that when the Vista struck she was not seriously damaged, but was driven so far up that it was impossible to get her off.

FIRST SEALERS HOME.

Schooners Dora Siewerd and Ocean Belle Reach Port With Good Catches.

Before a piping wind the schooners Dora Siewerd, Captain H. P. Siewerd, and Ocean Belle, Captain R. O. Laverne, returned to port from the Behring sea sealing grounds on Sunday with catches of 1,233 and 766 seals respectively. Captain Siewerd's vessel was the first of a local class of sealers that have lost their lives in Behring sea this year, two being whites and the others Indians. The schooner Borealis was the unfortunate vessel losing the white men, the missing men being known to Captain Siewerd as "Gus" and "Lith Frank." The latter worked on the schooner Siewerd last year. The fate of those men has been the fate of scores of others, who leaving their vessel in the morning and are caught in a storm which comes up too quickly to allow them opportunity to return to the vessel. The men are lost and they lose their bearings. This it seems was the case with the Borealis men. The schooners Penelope and Favorite, both of the same type as the Siewerd, returned from the latter port with good catches. The Dora Siewerd reports the following catches: May 17, 1899, 15; August 1, 1899, 25; August 12, 1899, 32; August 22, 1899, 62; August 28, 1899, 84; August 28, 1899, 20; August 31, 1899, 20; September 1, 1899, 31; September 2, 1899, 60; September 3, 1899, 60; September 4, 1899, 60; September 5, 1899, 60; September 6, 1899, 60; September 7, 1899, 60; September 8, 1899, 60; September 9, 1899, 60; September 10, 1899, 60; September 11, 1899, 60; September 12, 1899, 60; September 13, 1899, 60; September 14, 1899, 60; September 15, 1899, 60; September 16, 1899, 60; September 17, 1899, 60; September 18, 1899, 60; September 19, 1899, 60; September 20, 1899, 60; September 21, 1899, 60; September 22, 1899, 60; September 23, 1899, 60; September 24, 1899, 60; September 25, 1899, 60; September 26, 1899, 60; September 27, 1899, 60; September 28, 1899, 60; September 29, 1899, 60; September 30, 1899, 60; October 1, 1899, 60; October 2, 1899, 60; October 3, 1899, 60; October 4, 1899, 60; October 5, 1899, 60; 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