



Vessel History

Betty Lou – Lobster Boat

Built As: Betty Lou

Class: Lobster Boat

Hull: Wood

Designed By: Stanley – Ralph Warren Stanley (1929-) – built from Ralph's half-model.

Build Date: 1957

Launch Date: 1958

Built by: Ralph W. Stanley Inc.

Built at: Stanley 1st Shop - SWH – Main Street – 376

Built for: Sprague - Roland James Sprague (1929-1959)

Named for: Roland's wife

Brooks – Betty Lou (Brooks) Sprague (1931-2009)

Power: Chevrolet gas engine

Length: 28'

"The next boat I built was a twenty-eight-footer for Roland Sprague down to Isleford, on Cranberry Island, and we launched her in 1958. Fred Black helped me with that boat and for a while after that. He was related to me through the Robinsons, some kind of cousin." [Frederick E. Black (1944-) is the uncle of the daughter of the sister-in-law of a first cousin once removed of Ralph.]

1959 "was also the winter that Roland Sprague was lost in his boat. He and Fred Fernald went out lobstering in March of 1959, and they never came back. A tough snowstorm came up, and they didn't make it. We had put a Chevrolet engine in Roland's boat when we built her, but he had just switched to a new Palmer that burned a lot more gas than the old Chevrolet. The theory was that he and Fred ran out of gas outside of Baker's Island somewhere, and they drifted across the Bass Harbor bar. Their boat was found the next day, on Pond Island up in Blue Hill Bay. Both of them were in the cabin, and of course they were dead. They died of exposure, I guess. It was a hard job to get back to work after that, but I did. Even though it wasn't my fault, they were lost in my boat..." - "Ralph Stanley : Tales of a Maine Boatbuilder" by Craig S. Milner and Ralph W. Stanley, published by Down East Books, Camden, Maine 2004, p. 71-73.

Fernald – Frederick George Fernald (1919-1959)